# *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion

## Synopsis

When he and Rosie moved to New York City, Don was willing to make a few adjustments to his rigidly structured lifestyle. But nothing could have prepared him for the arrival of Bud (baby under development).

Soon Rosie is overwhelmed by Don’s overzealous research and retreats into her thesis studies. Luckily, Gene moves in to provide his trademark advice, but not all goes according to plan. As Don evades arrest, joins a research project on lesbian mums, battles an intrusive social worker, and attempts to invent a soundproof crib, he completely loses track of the most important project of all: Rosie.

When Rosie threatens to move back to Australia without him, Don must enlist all of his exceptional brain capacity to win her and Bud back for good.

## Discussion questions

1. At the beginning of The Rosie Effect, we see that Don has made significant progress in allowing more flexibility in his life. What do you think is the most impressive change?
2. Don notes that Rosie is able to compartmentalise her organisation skills. She is completely in control of her thesis research materials, but can’t keep her bath towel in the same place. What do you compartmentalise in your life? How are you different at work versus home?
3. Don has multiple mechanisms in place to maintain order. He meticulously plans meals and knows exactly how to deploy his Gregory Peck impression for optimal results. Do you have any similar systems or habits that you rely on to help your life stay organised?
4. Gene tells Don not to fetishise parenthood; that children are just like little adults who don’t yet know the rules. Do you agree with this advice? Discuss the rules that children must learn and the rules that they shouldn’t.
5. Discuss the relationship between George and his son, who both abused drugs. How much can a parent blame themselves for their child’s shortcomings? At what point must that child be held responsible for their own actions?
6. Has Rosie changed in this book? Some readers have suggested that Rosie is unreasonably intolerant of Don: ‘She knew what she was getting herself into’. Do you agree?
7. Rosie tells Don that the things that she loves about him as a husband are precisely the things that will make him an incompetent father. Why do you think she changes her mind?

*Synopsis/Discussion questions from https://www.textpublishing.com.au/books/the-rosie-effect*