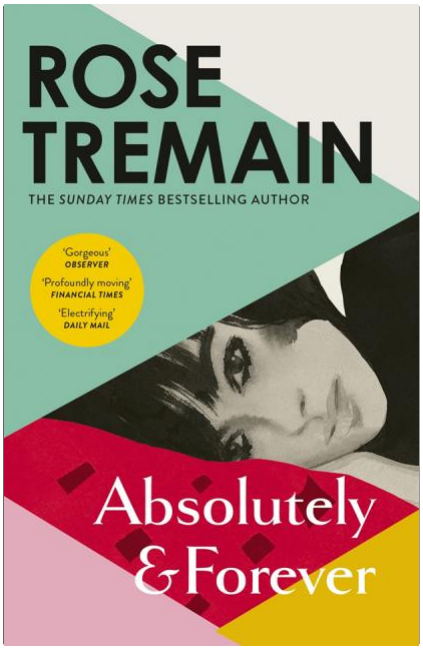
Prison Reading Groups
25 years
1999-2024

Book Talk

Absolutely and Forever
By Rose Tremain
Number of pages: 181



Marianne is fifteen when she falls helplessly and absolutely in love with Simon. Simon owns a Morris Minor, is in his final year at school and has a dazzling future ahead of him. Desperate to escape the stifling 1950s suburbs in which she has been raised, Marianne feels sure she will be able to find true happiness with him.

However, a twist of fate sees Simon's glittering future dashed and with it, Marianne's dreams. He flees the country, and Marianne, realising she will now have to make a life of her own, moves to London determined to reinvent herself. But Marianne cannot let go of that first all-encompassing love, and all the while, Simon is in Paris nursing a secret that will alter everything.

An electrifying novel about first love, growing up and, at its heart, identity, *Absolutely and Forever* tells the story of a schoolgirl crush that never went away.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed ***Love in A Cold Climate*** or ***The Pursuit of Love*** by Nancy Mitford, or ***Good Behaviour*** by Molly Keane.

Discussion Questions:

1. What effect do you think Marianne's age has on her actions throughout the novel?

2. What are the differences between Hugo and Simon? What are the differences in their respective relationships with Marianne?

3. Do you think Marianne truly loves Simon?

4. What do you think Marianne's personal relationships with people other than Simon reflect about her? How do you think they change throughout the novel?

5. Where do you imagine Marianne will end up?

Thank you to our volunteer Ruby for choosing this title and creating the resource.