



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

1. Eleanor is one of the most unusual protagonists in recent fiction, and some of her opinions and actions are very funny. What were your favorite moments in the novel?
2. Knowing the truth about Eleanor's family, look back through the book to revisit her exchanges with her mother. Did you see what was ahead? How did the author lay the groundwork for the final plot twist?
3. What does Raymond find appealing about Eleanor? And why does Eleanor feel comfortable opening up to Raymond?
4. Is it possible to emerge from a traumatic childhood unscathed?
5. Eleanor says, "These days, loneliness is the new cancer—a shameful, embarrassing thing, brought upon yourself in some obscure way. A fearful, incurable thing, so horrifying that you dare not mention it; other people don't want to hear the word spoken aloud for fear that they might too be afflicted." Do you agree?
6. Eleanor is frightened that she may become like her mother. Is this a reasonable fear? What is the balance of nature and nurture?
7. Eleanor says, "If someone asks you how you are, you are meant to say FINE. You are not meant to say that you cried yourself to sleep last night because you hadn't spoken to another person for two consecutive days. FINE is what you say." Why is this the case?
8. Do you identify with any characters? Are you able to look at events in the book through their eyes—even if you don't like or approve of them? Do they remind you of people in your own life? Or yourself?
9. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?

The above questions were taken from
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/540586/eleanor-oliphant-is-completely-fine-by-gail-honeyman/9780735220690/readers-guide/>

And <https://www.litlovers.com/run-a-book-club/questions-for-fiction> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Gail Honeyman is a graduate of the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford. She lives in Glasgow Scotland. *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is her debut novel.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/2137880/gail-honeyman>

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