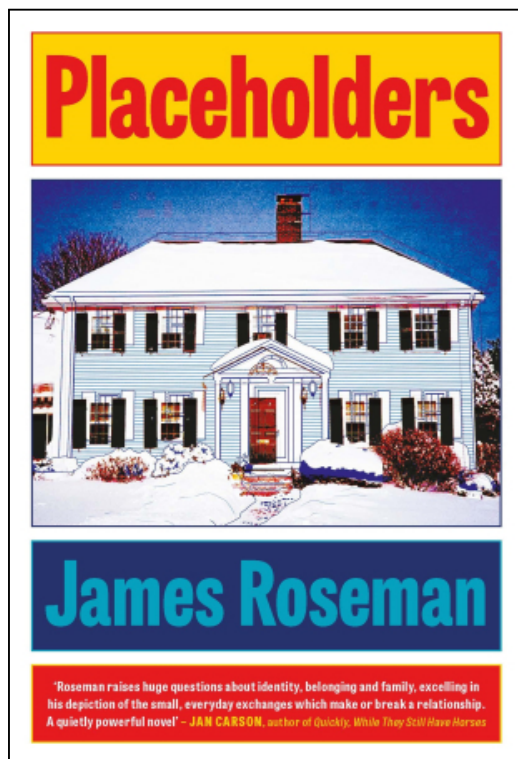




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PLACEHOLDERS

by JAMES ROSEMAN

THE BOOK

An unflinching and emotionally insightful debut about cultural identity, homesickness, love and loss.

In the five years following his brother's death, Aaron has built himself a life of solitary routines. After moving from Dublin to Boston, and illegally overstaying her visa, Róisín has done the same.

When the two meet on a night out, they each find in the other something missing in their lives. A semblance of home.

Their relationship is complicated by their disparate religious backgrounds - Aaron is Jewish; Róisín is atheist - and by the harsh realities of everyday life. Just as they're pushed to their breaking point, Róisín realises she is pregnant.

***Placeholders* is a poignant story of loneliness corrected and the transformative power of love.**

JAMES ROSEMAN (Location: Dublin, Ireland)

JAMES ROSEMAN is an American author born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and raised outside of Boston. He's lived in Dublin, Ireland, since 2019. He received his MFA in Creative Writing and Literature from the Bennington Writing Seminars at Bennington College, Vermont. *Placeholders* is his debut novel.

You can find James at jamesroseman.com and @jsrwrites



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

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Shortlisted for the First Novel Prize 2024

Roseman is American and Jewish, raised outside of Boston and now permanently living in Dublin. VERVE have secured a two-book deal on his first standalone novels (with book 2 to follow in autumn 2025)

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PRAISE FOR PLACEHOLDERS

'Humane, heartfelt and beautifully observed. Roseman raises huge questions about identity, belonging and family, excelling in his depiction of the small, everyday exchanges which make or break a relationship. A quietly, powerful novel, from a writer I'm keen to keep my eye on' - **JAN CARSON, author of *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses***

'There's no way around it: James Roseman writes beautifully. Confident, complex, moving, funny, *Placeholders* is a novel that makes a beeline to the heart. Time and again, I didn't want it to end' - **DECLAN TOOHEY, author of *Perpetual Comedown***

'A beautiful debut. A quietly moving reminder that people, not ideas, are what make or break a home or a heart' - **SHEILA ARMSTRONG, author of *Falling Animals***

'A subtle, beautifully written story of two young people trying to make a life – together and as individuals – under the pressures of late capitalism... written with an unflinching tenderness' - **LARISSA PHAM, author of *Pop Song***
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Second Floor, Crown House
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