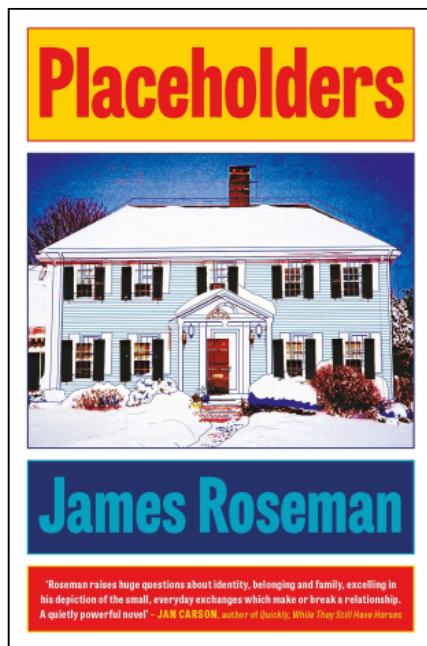


PLACEHOLDERS

JAMES ROSEMAN



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MARKETING & SALES POINTS

An emotionally insightful debut novel about a cross-cultural relationship, strained family dynamics, Jewish identity in the global West and the isolation of modern life: *Normal People* meets *Catastrophe*

An accessible literary (anti)romance with reading group appeal. The next fix for fans of Sally Rooney, Nick Hornby, David Nicholls, Louise Kennedy and Coco Mellors

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)

Extensive publicity and marketing campaign for VERVE's lead title. We plan to bring Roseman over for publication and for key literary festivals across the UK and expect widespread media coverage given the book's timely themes and the very personal angle

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.

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***

'An intimate, unflinching, and, above all, heartfelt novel, the best debut I've read this year. Buy your Roseman stock early. I loved this' - **RONAN RYAN, author of *The Fractured Life of Jimmy Dice***

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



OTHER TITLES BY JAMES ROSEMAN