

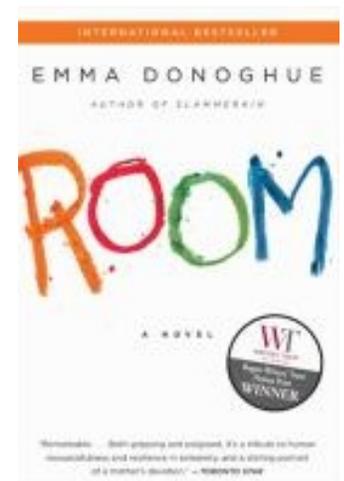


Room

Emma Donoghue

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the entire book is told in Jack's voice? Do you think it is effective?
2. What are some of the ways in which Jack's development has been stunted by growing up in Room? How has he benefited?
3. If you were Ma, what would you miss most about the outside world?
4. What would you do differently if you were Jack's parent? Would you tell Jack about the outside world from the start?
5. If Ma had never given birth to Jack, what would her situation in Room be like?
6. What would you ask for, for Sundaytreat, if you were Jack? If you were Ma?
7. Describe the dynamic between Old Nick and Ma. Why does the author choose not to tell us Old Nick's story?
8. What does joining the outside world do to Jack? To Ma?
9. What role do you think the media play in the novel?
10. In a similar situation, how would you teach a child the difference between the real world and what they watch on television?
11. Why are we so fascinated by stories of long-term confinement?
12. What were you most affected by in the novel?





About the Author

Emma Donoghue was born in Dublin, Ireland, the youngest of eight children. She earned a first-class honours BA from the University College Dublin in English and French. Donoghue went on to receive her PhD in English from Girton College at Cambridge University. At Cambridge, she met her future life partner Christine Roulston, a Canadian, who is now professor of French and Women's Studies at the University of Western Ontario. They moved permanently to Canada in 1998, and Donoghue became a Canadian citizen in 2004. She lives in London, Ontario, with Roulston and their two children, Finn and Una.

In 1994, at only 25, Emma published her first novel, *Stir Fry*, a contemporary coming of age novel about a young Irish woman discovering her sexuality. *Slammerkin*, out in 2000, is a historical novel set in London and Wales. Inspired by an 18th-century newspaper story about a young servant who killed her employer and was executed, the protagonist is a prostitute who longs for fine clothes. *The Sealed Letter*, another work of historical fiction, came next, in 2008. This third novel is based on the Codrington Affair, a scandalous divorce case that gripped Britain in 1864.

Room, Donoghue's fourth novel, released in 2010, practically made her a household name. The book spent months on bestseller lists and won the Irish Book Award. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Orange prize, and the Governor General's Awards (Canada), the novel was adapted to film in 2015 with Donoghue writing the screenplay. That effort earned her a nomination for an Academy Award, Golden Globe, and Bafta Award.

Donoghue's fifth novel *Frog Music* was published in 2014. Another work of historical fiction, it is based on the true story of a murdered 19th century cross-dressing frog catcher. *The Wonder* came out in 2016. Her sixth novel (and fourth work of historical fiction), it centers on a devout 11-year-old Catholic girl in Ireland who has not eaten in four months yet remains mostly healthy.

This book is available for download as an eBook. For more information, please visit lpl.overdrive.com or call 519-661-4600.