

***NORMAL  
PEOPLE  
Sally Rooney***



'Being alone with her is  
like opening a door away  
from normal life and then  
closing it behind him.'  
Normal People  
Sally Rooney

1. <i>January 2011</i>	7. Three months later ( <i>November 2011</i> )	13. Six months later ( <i>July 2013</i> )
2. Three weeks later ( <i>February 2011</i> )	8. Three months later ( <i>February 2012</i> )	14. Five months later ( <i>December 2013</i> )
3. One month later ( <i>March 2011</i> )	9. Two months later ( <i>April 2012</i> )	15. Three months later ( <i>March 2014</i> )
4. Six weeks later ( <i>April 2011</i> )	10. Three months later ( <i>July 2012</i> )	16. Four months later ( <i>July 2014</i> )
5. Two days later ( <i>April 2011</i> )	11. Six weeks later ( <i>September 2012</i> )	17. Five minutes later ( <i>July 2014</i> )
6. Four months later ( <i>August 2011</i> )	12. Four months later ( <i>January 2013</i> )	18. Seven months later ( <i>February 2014</i> )

## JANUARY 2011:

- introduction of the two main characters: Marianne and Connell
- general idea of the story of the novel
- characters' problems and weaknesses
- setting: Irland, Carricklea
- conversation between Marianne, Connell, and his mother:  
Lorraine's role in the house

## FEBRUARY 2011:

- descriptions of the protagonists' body language and attitudes
- books: issues use for conversation
- first episode of domestic violence: forced to bear violence from her brother, Alan (violence hidden to her mother), who is a submissive brother = expression of Marianne's submission and Connell's fear of his peers' judgement
- Marianne's attitude and personality

## MARCH 2011:

- explain the two protagonists' choice of collage (Connell chooses English at Trinity Collage)
- Marianne has the control on Connell (tries to change his point of view);
- Connell has the total control of Marianne's body but he's not independent (=affected by his mother's overprotection)
- they're sexually and physically attracted (every time they see each other they had sex)

## APRIL 2011:

- Connell has fear for what Marianne thinks about him
- Connell wants to have a physical contact and her attention during the party because he's jealous of her when she stays with other boys
- Connell wants to receive attentions but when he does not want to have an open relationship and weak person = he's a close

## APRIL 2011: (five minutes later)

- When they are alone, he expresses all his feelings for her (his love) but secondly he feels guilty and rejects = indecision
- Connell has fear of his peers' judgement
- differences between protagonists' social class

## AUGUST 2011:

- Marianne feels alone
- Marianne feels rejected, abandoned and excluded by him: tries to have a confront and support by Lorraine (Connell's mother)
- underlines Marianne's relation with Lorraine

## NOVEMBER 2011:

- Connell expresses always his personal point of view but when he's with Marianne he becomes close and afraid of others' thoughts
- Connell is not independent and is not able to take decisions
- Marianne's changes: she feels at ease with herself and with others
- She felt abandoned because Connell hurt her feelings and he joined with her emotions and feelings for him



## FEBRUARY 2012:

- Marianne's friends: Joanna and Peggy
- Marianne is jealous for the relation between Connell and Teresa
- Even if she has a boyfriend, she's always jealous of Connell when he comes into contact with another girl
- their physical attract creates many problems: they have sex every time they see each other

## APRIL 2012:

- Connell always depends on Marianne, but she becomes independent to him
- Connell is always shy and weak in front of others but Marianne becomes more “self-conscious” and tries to protect Connell: he’s always afraid of what people think about him and his relationship
- Use of question tags to ask for agreement: Mariannes has to be support and accept even if she had passed a violence life

## JULY 2012:

- New boyfriend: Jamie
- she tries to change Jamie: Connell is better than her boyfriend
- She has a front with Connell about her new boyfriend: Connell is jealous of her but they still friends but their relation changed
- Marianne has to pass a bad period: her father's death

## SEPTEMBER 2012:

- she wants that Connell tries to know better her boyfriend: he's more in line with her social class (economic field)
- he talks only about Jamie's negative points: sadist, has a good self-esteem = she wants to have an help by Connell, to try to change Jamie's attitude
- Connell feels not still at ease with Marianne because he has no courage to tell her that he would stay with her
- sense of Marianne: submission =she wants to be submit by him

## **JANUARY 2013:**

- violence episode: she has a front with her brother because he wants to have a total control on her and he considers himself smarter than Marianne's one**
- they have a front always about Jamie: Connell expresses his personal view and jealousy because**
- their both unable to express their feelings and to try to have a solid relationship**

## JULY 2013:

- Connell has a new girlfriend: Helen
- Connell becomes more secure and stable
- they're the two smartest person on the college: have a scholarship but have always to different point of view and face on social class problems
- Connell compares Helen with Marianne, not on the social point of view but on the inner and physical point of view
- Contrast between Marianne and Jamie: she has the courage to tell her violence past to Connell= he has a protective instinct with her and tries to reassure her

## DECEMBER 2013:

- Sweden = New contact: Lukas
- She has bad memories: he takes her naked photos and she feels submitted by him = she remembered her passed violence life
- she feels uncomfortable because she's signed by her domestic violence, she has fear of all the world outside (only Connell helped her to get out from this fear)
- she has a bad relationship with her family, in particular with Alan

## MARCH 2014:

- Connell became more deprived because he does not have Marianne's help
- He still loves Marianne
- His mental state continues to deteriorate and his anxiety becomes more severe = he was signed by his friend's death
- He becomes more nervous, exhausted, has panic attacks: breaks with Helen because she becomes more attracted and jealous of his relation with Marianne



JULY 2014:

- Marianne wants to see if Connell is interested on her and if he feels something for her
- They try to make a balance on their relationship
- Connell tries to support and reassure her because he does not want Marianne to suffer again and to support violence
- They can't stay separated but they need a physical contact
- Domestic violence: Alan breaks Marianne's nose

JULY 2014: (five minutes later)

- Marianne tries to have an help by Connell to get out from the violence situation from her brother = he has a strong face with Alan

## FEBRUARY 2015:

- she becomes a “normal person”
- they can't have a stable relationship
- she tries to take distances from her family because she feels excluded and isolated
- she afraid of what Connell feels for her and she wants to be reassured and support
- they're dependent each other = “people can really change one another”, they can not stay separated