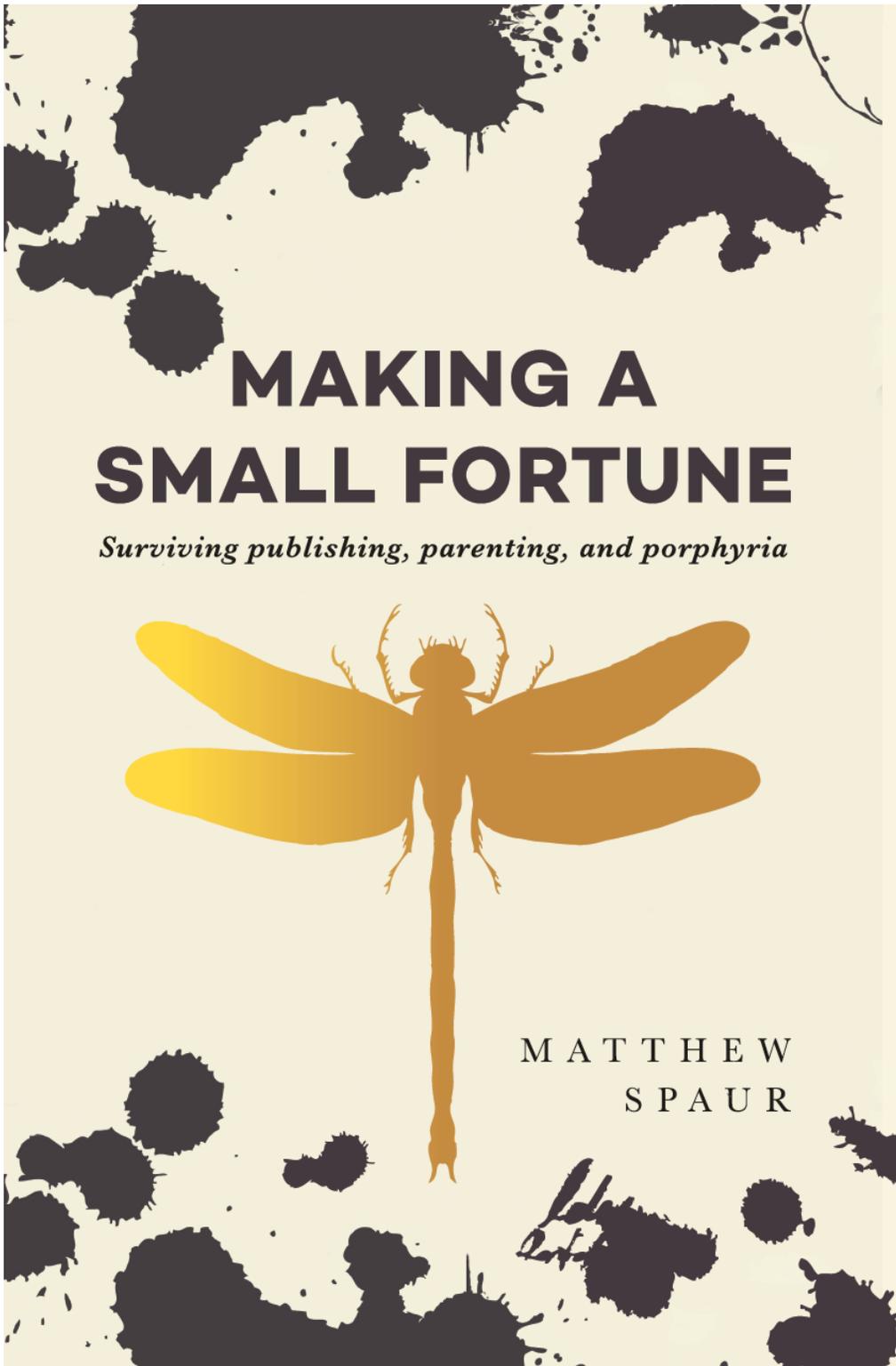


Book Club Discussion Guide



MAKING A SMALL FORTUNE

Surviving publishing, parenting, and porphyria



MATTHEW
SPAUR

Introduction

Dear Reader,

I'm truly honored and amazed that you'll be discussing *Making a Small Fortune* with those around you. As a writer, it's a privilege to have an audience, especially an engaged one.

Probably I'm biased, but I think this memoir explores important parts of all our lives such as love, family, work, health, and community.

I hope that by reflecting on this story, you develop some new and useful insights into your life and life around you.



Purchasing the book

In keeping with the spirit of this book, shopping with small and independent businesses is a great way to get your copies.

I've published this book through BookBaby.com, an independent publisher and a fair trade company. You can purchase the print and eBook versions directly from them. And to be transparent, this option pays me the most per copy.

To support your local independent bookstore, you can shop through Bookshop.org for the print version.

Of course, you can purchase through Amazon for the convenience and also for their unique formats such as Kindle eBooks and Audible audiobooks. (Yes, I'm also a trained narrator and perform the audio version of the book.)

You'll also find various versions of the book at other favorite book shopping places like Barnes & Noble and Powell's.

A book talk with your group

For groups that purchase ten or more books—thank you! I'm happy to do a virtual book talk with you over Zoom.

To get started, email me at matthew.spaur@gmail.com.

Again, it's an honor to have engaged readers like you. Have a great time with your book discussion.

Matt

About Memoirs

How do you think that the book's events from 2000 - 2003 relate to life today?

How did this memoir compare to others you've read or watched as movies?

How did the memoir make you reflect on your own life?

Are there any areas you wished the author had elaborated upon further? Any information you thought was missing?

Are there any people in the book whose perspective you wanted?

Do you think the author was honest?

Did you find any parts funny or amusing?

What would you apply from this book if you wrote a memoir of your own life?

About Parenting

What do you think the author learned about being a stepparent?

How would you feel if your child had the author as a stepparent?

Are there any lessons from this book that you'd apply in your own parenting?

If you had a stepparent while growing up, did this book give you any new perspective on their experience?

About Media and Politics

How does the author's insider description of owning a media business match with your experience as a media consumer?

Does this story make you view the media differently?
In what ways?

How do you think the media has changed since the events in this memoir?

After reading this memoir, are you more or less likely to read a local newspaper? Why?

Part of this story covers a mayoral election. Have you worked on an election campaign? If so, how does your experience compare with events in the book?

Did this story make you more or less likely to be involved in local politics and issues?

How do you think your community's politics compare to those in the book?

About Business

What did the author do well in running a business? What could have been improved or done differently?

If you were to start a new business tomorrow, what lessons would you take from this memoir?

After reading about the struggles of a small business, do you look at the small businesses in your community differently?

How do you think your local business climate compares to that described in the book?

About Healthcare

Have you or your family struggled with a medical mystery?

If you work with patients as part of your job, how did the medical aspects of this story strike you?

How do you think the healthcare system could be more responsive to people with rare diseases?

About Grief

Do you think the author was honest about their grief and the grieving process?

How does this book's portrayal of grief compare with your personal experiences?