

THE BIG PRICK

*Surgery, Surfing, and Survival
in 1980's San Diego*



Hello,

I sincerely hope you enjoyed reading *The Big Prick*. You could have picked any book, but you chose mine, and for that, I am grateful. I hope that by transporting you to the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, I will leave you with some idea of what doctors went through worldwide to survive to find emotional strength to heal their patients in the face of misanthropic supervisors and overwhelming odds.

As you gather a group of avid readers' friends, I hope the following questions will help spark the conversation, generating healthy discussions about how the book has impacted each reader.

I offer a 30-minute virtual call as a thank-you to the book club members. To schedule the call, please email mgodinwrites@gmail.com with the requested date and time. I encourage you to use the hashtag #TheBigPrick or tag @michaelgodinauthor on social media to share pictures of you, your group, or your favorite reading spot. I also appreciate your book review on your retailer of preference.

Enjoy your discussion!

Michael Godin



Michael Godin
Medical Fiction With A Twist

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The story is set against the backdrop of the emerging HIV pandemic in the 1980s. How did the author effectively convey the fear and uncertainty surrounding this new and incurable disease? In what ways did the pandemic influence the characters' decisions and interactions?
2. Nick Jordan is faced with the challenges of his surgical internship in a time of immense stress and danger. How did his perspective on medicine and patient care evolve throughout the story? What were some pivotal moments that contributed to this evolution?
3. The book portrays a diverse cast of characters, each with their own quirks and struggles. Who was your favorite character, and why? How did their individual experiences add depth to the overall narrative?
4. The interns' camaraderie and support play a significant role in their journey. How did their friendships and connections help them cope with the pressures of medical training and the pandemic? Which friendships stood out to you the most?
5. The author weaves elements of romance and humor into the story. How did these lighter moments balance the heavier themes, such as illness and death? Were there specific instances that made you laugh or touched your heart?
6. Nick's desire to become a head and neck surgeon is central to his character. How did his passion for this specialty influence his decisions and patient interactions? In what ways did his career aspirations mirror his personal growth?
7. The title, "The Big Prick," carries multiple meanings within the story. How does it symbolize various aspects of the characters' experiences, challenges, and relationships? Discuss the significance of the title and its relevance to the narrative.
8. The book is set in the 1980s, vividly portraying the period through cultural references and historical events. How did the author create an authentic sense of time and place? Did these details enhance your reading experience?
9. Nick faces misanthropic supervisors and overwhelming odds during his internship. How did these challenges shape his resilience and determination? Were there moments when he was close to giving up? How did he find the strength to persevere?
10. Surfing is introduced as an element of the story. How does the sport of surfing serve as a metaphor for the characters' experiences and personal growth? How did the theme of surfing contribute to the book's overall message?

