

A LIFE TRANSPARENT



- DISCUSSION GUIDE -

A Note From Todd Keisling:

I'm not exactly sure what to say here as I've never personally had any interaction with a book club of any sort, so please bear with me as I fumble my way through this.

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude to you all for purchasing and reading my book. I truly hope you enjoyed it.

I looked into the website Book Movement and the services they offer to authors such as myself. When I saw they wanted \$100 for one of their own staff to write a guide about my book, I decided I'd do it myself. Being an independent author isn't easy, nor is it glamorous. I work a day job just like everyone else. And, in this economy, I try to be as frugal as possible. The prospect of paying a hundred bucks for something I can do on my own wasn't very appealing. So, I feel I must apologize for delivering this guide to you in a manner to which you are not accustomed.

Since I've never done this before, I opted to query a few readers on my website about what questions they'd like to see asked in the span of this guide. I'm not sure if this is up to standard lengths, nor am I sure if these questions are as thought-provoking or conversation-fodder enough for your liking, but I suppose that's for you to decide, yes?

Again, thank you for putting down your money and reading my book. Now, the questions:

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- 1) Donovan Candle is a kind of "everyman" figure. What are his faults and virtues, and how much (or how little) do you identify with him?
- 2) How much does Donovan's plight apply to your current situation? How much does the strength of this connection affect your appreciation of the story? Would the adventure still make for an entertaining tale if this connection was absent?
- 3) With the advent of the financial crisis, do you think that unhappy office workers reading this book would feel motivated to quit and live their life? In other words, how do you think our recent economic turmoil has affected the motivational effectiveness of the message to do what you love?
- 4) Would you say the novel is, in one way or another, an indictment of corporate America?
- 5) Discuss the relationships between Donovan and his wife, Donna, and his brother, Michael.
- 6) Aleister Dullington appears as a very sinister figure in the book; however, toward the end, Donovan seems to view him in a more neutral light. What is your impression of this enigmatic character? Do you think his intentions are nefarious or genuine?

7) The novel touches upon the notion that most homeless people are those simply forgotten by society. Did you get this impression from the “Missing” characters such as George Guffin or Alice Walenta?

8) Dr. Albert Sparrow appears as a rather snide and conceited person. Do you think his plight justifies his disposition? Do you think he deserves his fate?

9) What is the Monochrome? Do you think it's more of a state of mind than an alternate reality?

10) Did the novel make you reconsider your own life and daily routines?