

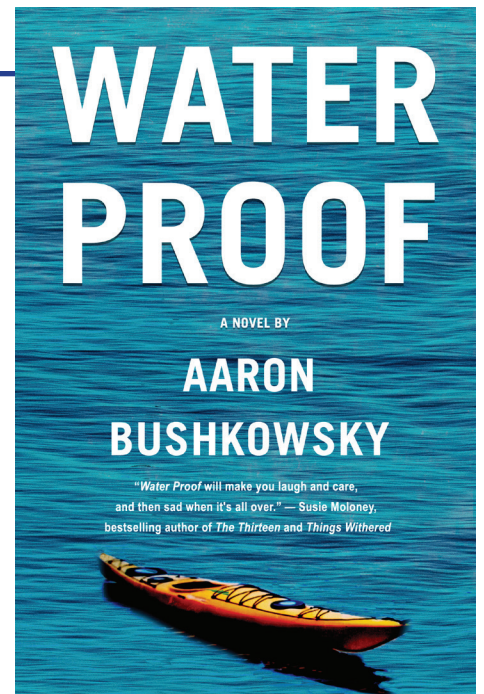
READERS' GUIDE

Water Proof by Aaron Bushkowsky

INTRODUCING *Water Proof*

When a self-driving car hits an extra on set and a lawsuit is filed, Andy sets out to bankrupt his own production company by making a movie about his weird and romantic life of infidelity. With his wife, Anna, and her best friend, he embarks on a location-scouting trip to Desolation Sound, but the trip takes a disastrous turn when the friend goes missing and they have to call in search and rescue.

Suddenly a suspect in the disappearance, Andy enlists the astonishingly incompetent help of his best friend Will. Together, they make a series of embarrassingly bad decisions as they try to cover up the many missteps and failings that got Andy in this predicament. As the blunders pile up, Andy wonders if he can stay out of jail and save his crumbling marriage.



IMPORTANT THEMES

Nature – A lot of the novel takes place in Desolation Sound and we get to experience the natural wonder of Canada's west coast. From the waterways to the forests, the reader is taken on a journey through some of southwestern British Columbia and gets to see how humans have affected it.

Human Nature – Humans are innately flawed and have a tendency to dismantle their own happiness. Characters like Andy and Will, and even Holly and Gili, among others, have made choices in their lives that might have terrible consequences.

Connection – *Water Proof* explores how humans might find and connect with one another — through their inner circle, through their jobs, through being in the right place at the right time — and how those connections might break or cause other connections to break.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does the title of the book mean to you?
2. The author chose not to put dialogue in quotation marks and the narrator sometimes isn't sure if he's said something out loud. What do you think of that choice?
3. "I've been called that asshole! And sometimes I think: I'm going to change. You watch. And then I don't. Because I'm that kind of asshole" (p. 23). Does Andy change by the end of the book?
4. How does Anna's cancer diagnosis affect her relationship with Andy?
5. What do you think of the author's depiction of the commercial shoot? Is that how you imagined a set to be?
6. In chapter nine, Andy's production company is found to be 10% at fault for the accident and the car dealer is found "mostly responsible" for the accident at the shoot because they didn't check the brakes on the car; Gili, the actress driving the car, is found not to bear any responsibility. Do you agree with the outcome of the lawsuit?
7. On page 64, Andy says he's not a likable character. Do you agree?
8. Do you think this book is an accurate depiction of the culture in film and TV circles?
9. The plot of Andy and Will's movie is based on their lives. What comment is the author making about his novel by doing this? And then by having both Andy and Will abandon the project?
10. What role does nature play in the novel?



ABOUT AARON

Aaron Bushkowsky is an author, poet, playwright, and screenwriter. His first novel, *Curtains for Roy*, was shortlisted for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour and his first collection of poetry, *ed and mabel go to the moon*, was nominated for the Dorothy Livesay Award. Bushkowsky lives in Vancouver, where he teaches playwriting and screenwriting at Langara College, Studio 58, Kwantlen University, and at the Vancouver Film School. His plays have been professionally produced more than 30 times, and he has won the Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Playwriting twice.