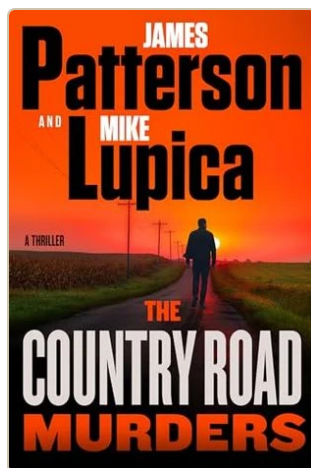


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



The Country Road Murders

James Patterson and Mike Lupica

🌙 COZY NIGHT

A former football player heads back to his hometown to face the shadow of his father's killing, blending small-town warmth with a hometown mystery. It's a quick, cinematic read tailor-made for a cozy night in.

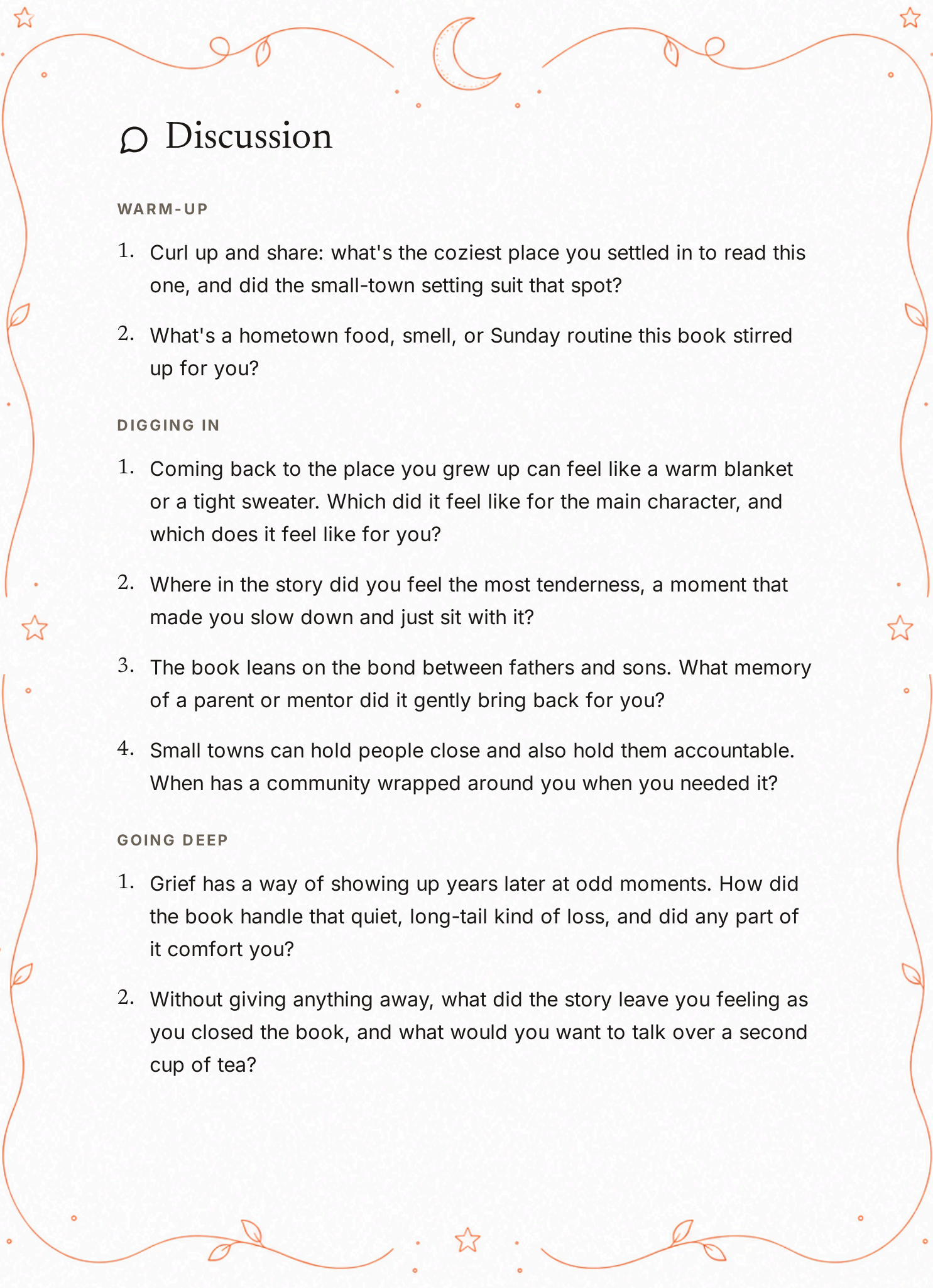
Country Roads and Comfort Food

Come home for the evening. We're gathering for slow supper, warm cider, and a gentle chat about The Country Road Murders. Wear your softest sweater.

Reading level: Easy

Best for: a laid-back club that loves page-turners with heart and a side of casserole





Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Curl up and share: what's the coziest place you settled in to read this one, and did the small-town setting suit that spot?
2. What's a hometown food, smell, or Sunday routine this book stirred up for you?

DIGGING IN

1. Coming back to the place you grew up can feel like a warm blanket or a tight sweater. Which did it feel like for the main character, and which does it feel like for you?
2. Where in the story did you feel the most tenderness, a moment that made you slow down and just sit with it?
3. The book leans on the bond between fathers and sons. What memory of a parent or mentor did it gently bring back for you?
4. Small towns can hold people close and also hold them accountable. When has a community wrapped around you when you needed it?

GOING DEEP

1. Grief has a way of showing up years later at odd moments. How did the book handle that quiet, long-tail kind of loss, and did any part of it comfort you?
2. Without giving anything away, what did the story leave you feeling as you closed the book, and what would you want to talk over a second cup of tea?



On the table & to sip

TO EAT

Slow-cooker pot roast with soft rolls

A Sunday-supper staple that fits a country road, coming-home mood

Loaded baked potato bar

Homey, hands-on comfort food that keeps the table relaxed and chatty

Warm apple crumble with vanilla ice cream

A gentle, nostalgic dessert that tastes like a porch swing in autumn

TO SIP

Hot spiced apple cider (non-alcoholic) (no alcohol)

Cinnamon-and-clove warmth for the small-town, back-roads feel

Bourbon toddy with honey and lemon

A quiet, front-porch pour that suits reflection and long conversation

Local craft lager or amber ale

The kind of easy pour you'd expect at a hometown gathering

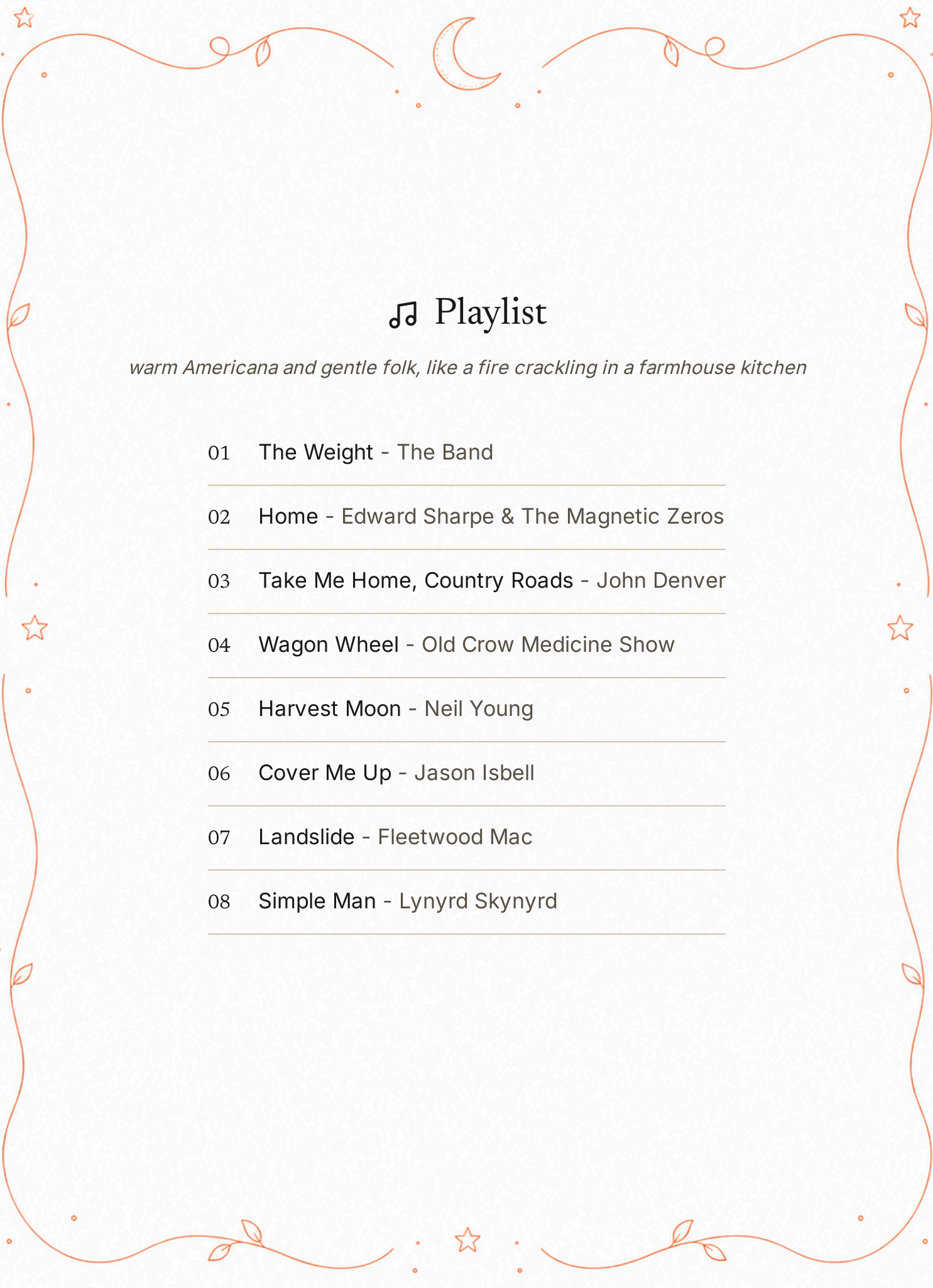


Run of show

7:00	Slow arrivals Greet guests with cider on the stove and soft music. No rush.
7:20	Settle in with supper Serve the pot roast and potato bar buffet-style so people can graze.
7:45	Warm-up questions Start with the two warmups while everyone eats. Keep it easy.
8:10	Theme talk Move through the theme questions. Let tangents happen; that's the whole point.
8:45	Dessert and deep dives Bring out the crumble, dim the lights, tackle the two deep questions.
9:15	Scorecards and send-off Fill out scorecards together, hand out bookmarks, pack leftovers to go.

HOST TIPS

- Keep a soft blanket or two on the couch. It signals 'stay a while.'
- Print questions on index cards so shy readers can pick one and read aloud.
- Have a to-go container per guest ready by the door; comfort food travels well.



🎵 Playlist

warm Americana and gentle folk, like a fire crackling in a farmhouse kitchen

- 01 The Weight - The Band

- 02 Home - Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros

- 03 Take Me Home, Country Roads - John Denver

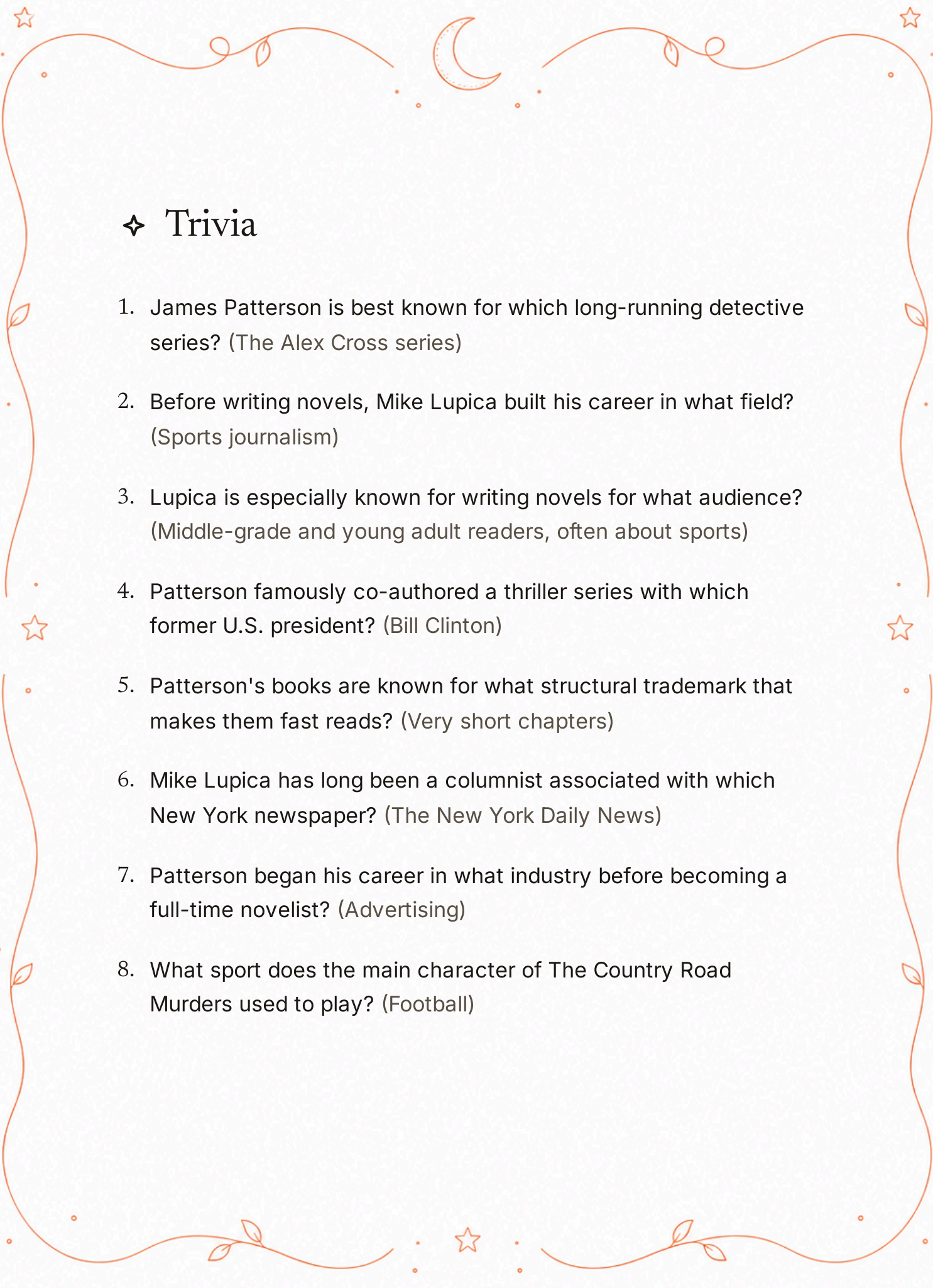
- 04 Wagon Wheel - Old Crow Medicine Show

- 05 Harvest Moon - Neil Young

- 06 Cover Me Up - Jason Isbell

- 07 Landslide - Fleetwood Mac

- 08 Simple Man - Lynyrd Skynyrd

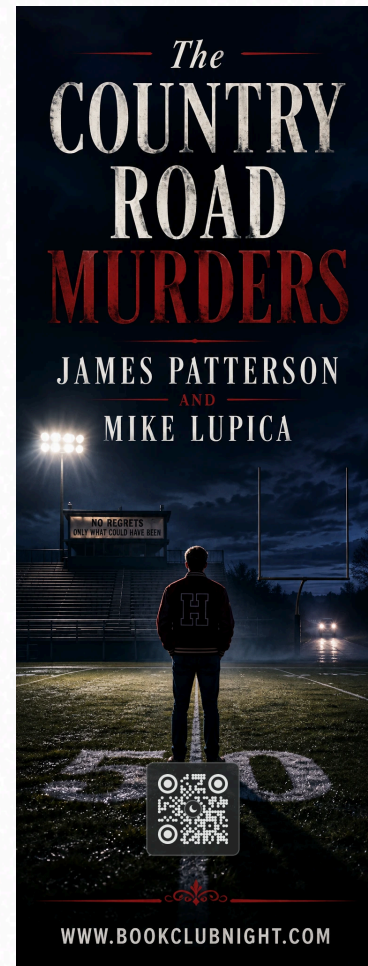
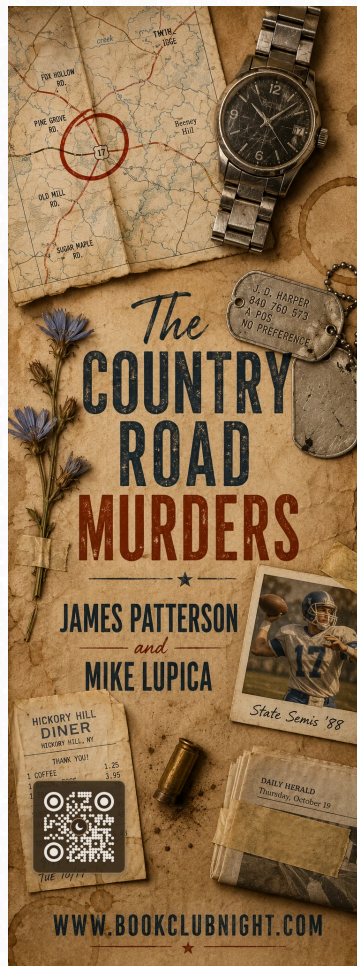
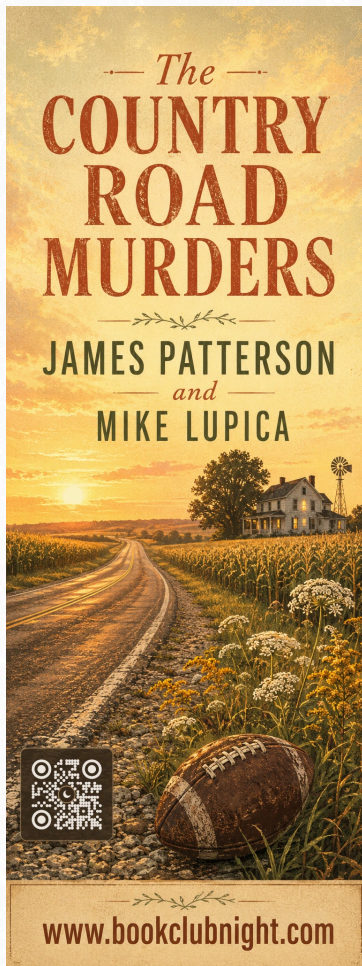


✧ Trivia

1. James Patterson is best known for which long-running detective series? (The Alex Cross series)
2. Before writing novels, Mike Lupica built his career in what field? (Sports journalism)
3. Lupica is especially known for writing novels for what audience? (Middle-grade and young adult readers, often about sports)
4. Patterson famously co-authored a thriller series with which former U.S. president? (Bill Clinton)
5. Patterson's books are known for what structural trademark that makes them fast reads? (Very short chapters)
6. Mike Lupica has long been a columnist associated with which New York newspaper? (The New York Daily News)
7. Patterson began his career in what industry before becoming a full-time novelist? (Advertising)
8. What sport does the main character of The Country Road Murders used to play? (Football)

📖 Bookmarks

Print, cut, and tuck one at every seat, a small keepsake from the night.



☆ Rate the book

Coziness factor ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Heart and feeling ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Small-town atmosphere ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Page-turner pull ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Would re-read on a rainy day ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for this book: _____

The moment I felt most at home in the story: _____

I'd hand this book to: _____

THAT'S A WRAP

Thank you for coming

We hope the company was good and the conversation even better. Until the next chapter.



Plan your own book club night

Scan the code or visit **bookclubnight.com**

Book Club Night