

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MATT DE LA PEÑA is the author of critically acclaimed young adult novels including *Ball Don't Lie*, *Mexican WhiteBoy*, *We Were Here*, and *I Will Save You*. Matt received his MFA in creative writing from San Diego State University and his BA from the University of the Pacific where he attended school on a full basketball scholarship. He teaches creative writing and visits high schools and colleges throughout the country.

To learn more about the author, visit
MattdelaPena.com



Photo by Heather Waraksa.

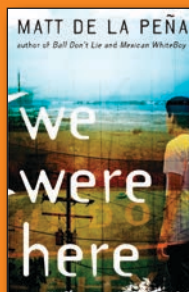
INTERNET RESOURCES

Infectious Diseases and How They Spread
NLM.nih.gov/medlineplus/infectiousdiseases.html

Working Life on a Cruise Ship
CruiseLinesJobs.com/what-is-working-on-a-cruise-ship-like

Tsunami Awareness
OceanToday.noaa.gov/tsunamiawareness

ALSO BY MATT DE LA PEÑA:





MATT DE LA PEÑA

"THERE'S NO WAY TO CLASSIFY *THE LIVING*. IT'S EVERYTHING I LOVE MIXED INTO ONE FANTASTIC, RELENTLESS, ACTION-PACKED STORY. AS ALWAYS WITH MATT, THE CHARACTERS ARE THE BEST PART. SO REAL. I LOVED THIS BOOK."

—JAMES DASHNER, *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE MAZE RUNNER SERIES AND *THE EYE OF MINDS*

THE LIVING

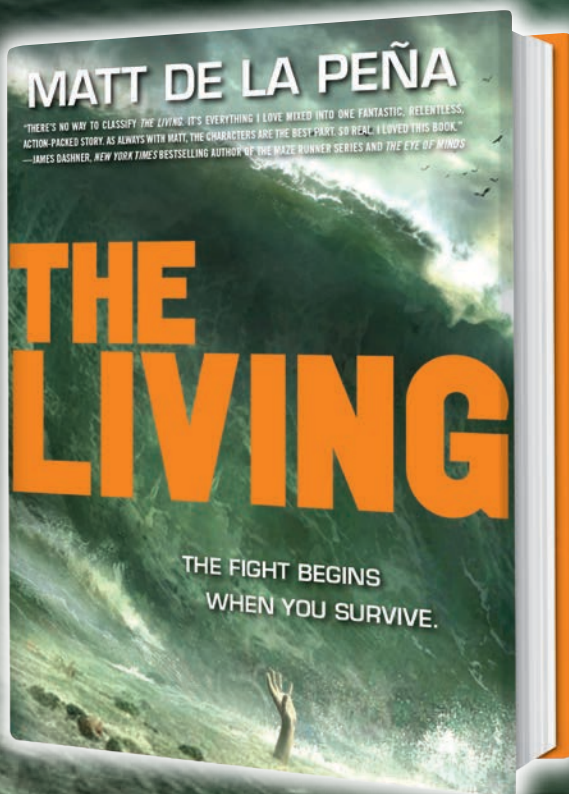
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and easily makes friends with the crew. On his first trip out, a passenger jumps overboard, and Shy is unable to stop him. On his second trip, an earthquake hits California, and the tsunami that follows capsizes the ship. Shy is faced with the aftermath of dead and wounded passengers and crew. The survivors board lifeboats, but are soon swamped by huge waves and attacked by sharks; many more people die. But Shy survives and rescues Addie, the beautiful daughter of the president of a pharmaceutical company. After days at sea, fighting off sharks and eating raw fish, Shy and Addie are found by Shoeshine, a former Navy Seal, who leads them to an island where Shy is reunited with Carmen. Soon, though, Shy discovers the survivors on the island are becoming sick, and the pharmaceutical company has infected thousands more people on the West Coast with a deadly disease. What will become of Shy and the survivors?

ABOUT THE BOOK

Working on a cruise ship is an ideal job for Shy until a tsunami capsizes the ship, and he finds himself stranded in a lifeboat with a girl he doesn't even like. Worse yet, they're headed for an island owned by a pharmaceutical company determined to destroy the island and the survivors.


Shy takes a summer job on a luxury cruise ship hoping for a fun summer. He meets Carmen who could be the love of his life

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION


 The following questions correlate to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details: RL.9-10.1 and RL.9-10.3; Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration: SL.9-10.1; Language: Conventions of Standard English: L.9-10.1

- Shy's plans for his future are simple: earn money to help his mom, buy some new gear, and take a girl out to dinner. How does working on the cruise ship change the way Shy sees himself? How does it change what he wants to do with his life?
- How do the crew members demonstrate to each other that they are friends to be trusted? What do they do to help one another during the storm and on the island?
- When Shy first learns about Romero's Disease, he has no idea of the impact the disease will have on others. What is Carmen's viewpoint on the disease and whom it affects? How does Carmen change Shy's perspective?
- Shy knows that Carmen is out of his league, but it doesn't change his feelings for her. What do Shy and Carmen have in common that helps them bond? How does their relationship evolve throughout the book?
- In the aftermath of the earthquake, before the tsunami hits, how does Shy help others? How does he react to the death and destruction around him? What does this say about his character?
- Addie and Shy are an unlikely pair because of their upbringing and social status. What do they have in common? How does Addie come to rely on Shy? How do they form an equal partnership?
- How do Addie and Shy respond when the oilman throws himself overboard? What does this act say about the oilman's character? Why does he give the engagement ring to Shy instead of Addie?


- How is the suicide victim connected to Romero's Disease? What role does Addie's father play in the investigation of the suicide? Why does he have a picture of Shy?
- When Addie learns that her father is involved in the spreading of Romero's Disease and the death of the scientists on the boat, how does she react? Why does she think her father is dead?
- What evidence does Shy have that would either prove or disprove that Addie knew about her father's involvement in the murders and the disease?

 The following question correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Craft and Structure: RL.9-10.5.

- How does the author build suspense throughout the book? What specific scenes demonstrate the building of suspense?

 The following question correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details: RL.9-10.2.

- What is the theme or central idea in the book? How does the author develop the theme throughout the text? What contribution do the characters make to the theme?

 The following question correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details: RL.9-10.3.

- How do the main characters help move the plot forward? What techniques does the author use to make an almost-impossible story seem plausible?

