

Cover explorations

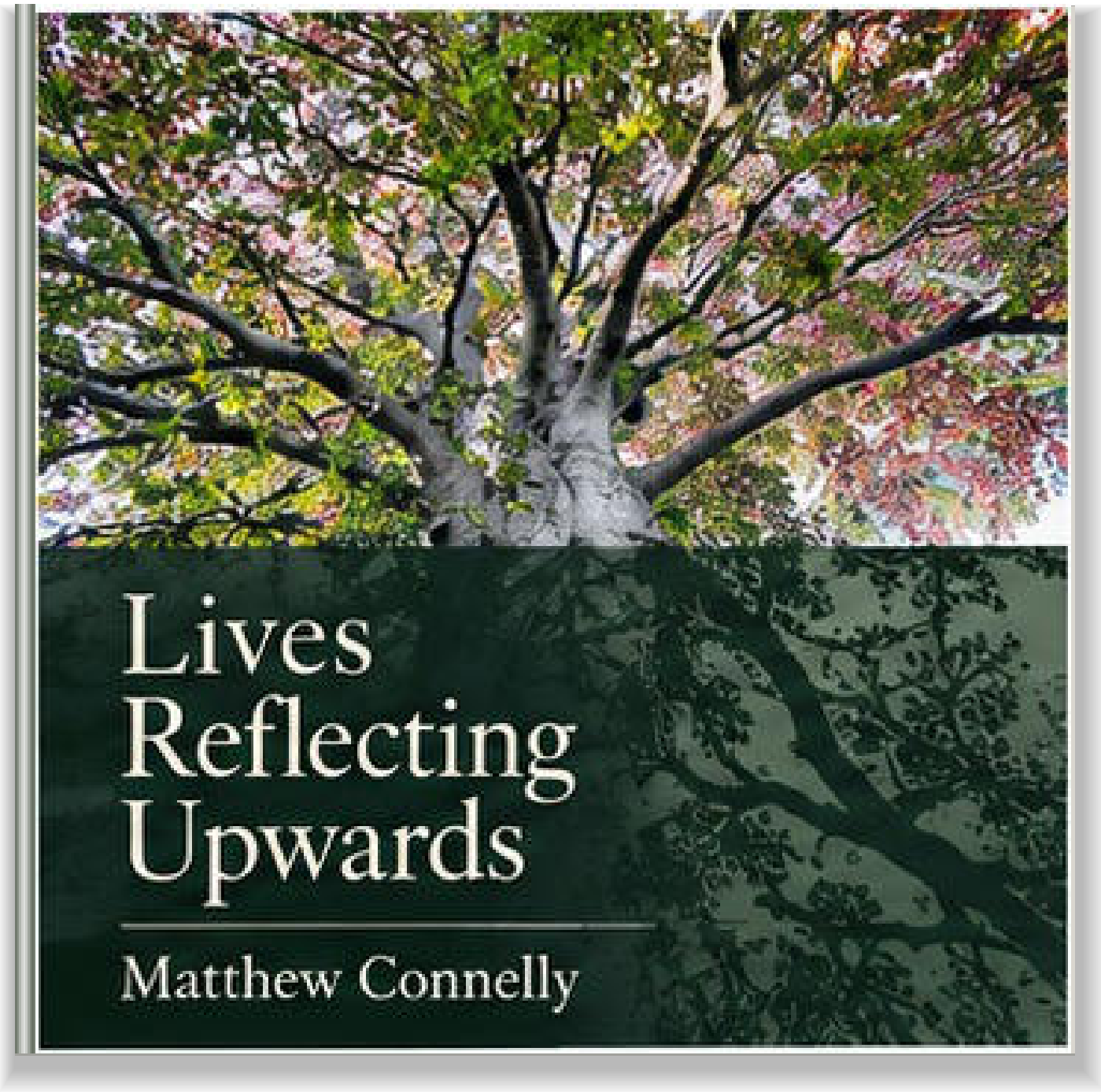
Matthew Connelly

40 existing cover options

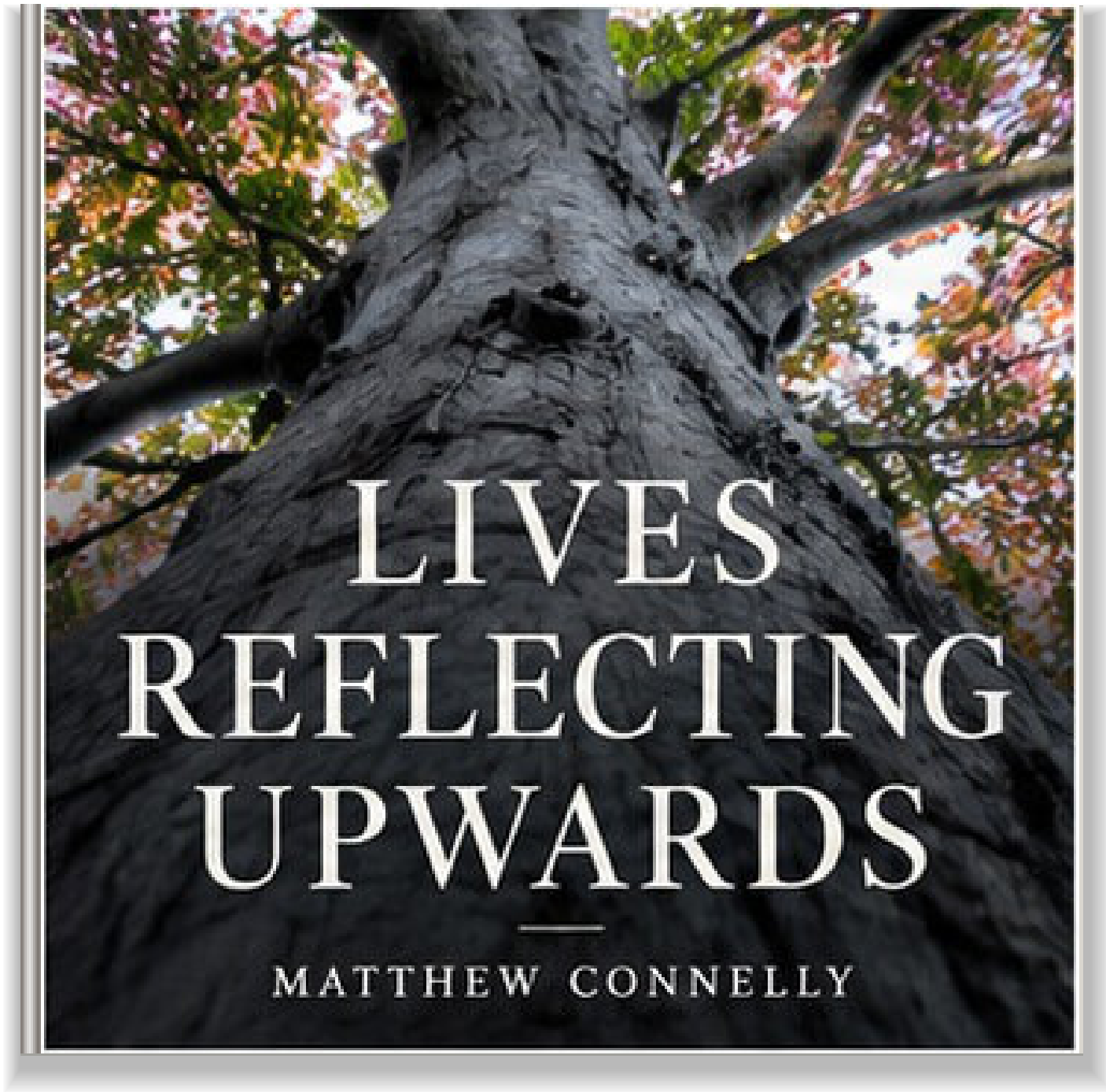
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For review

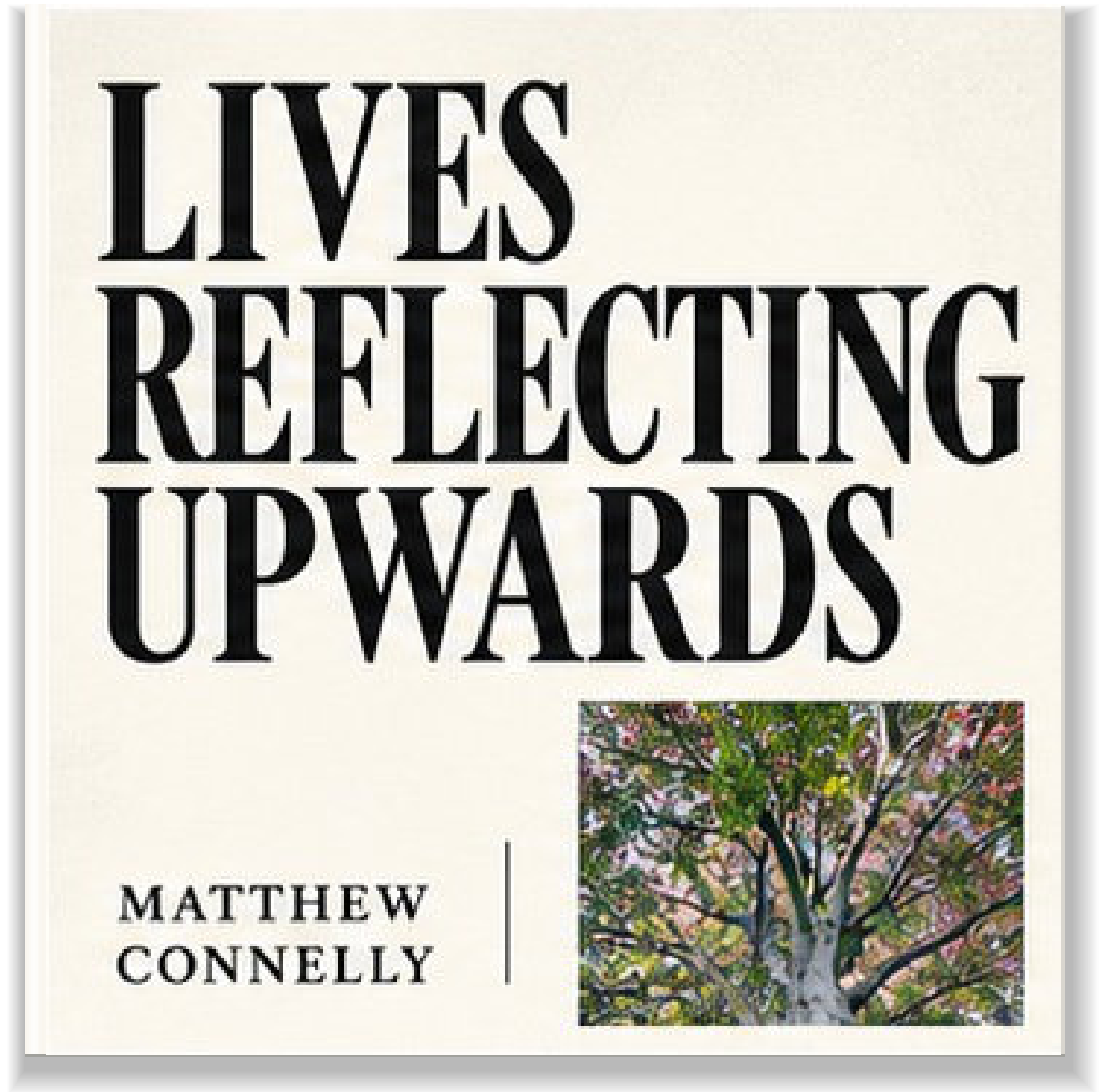
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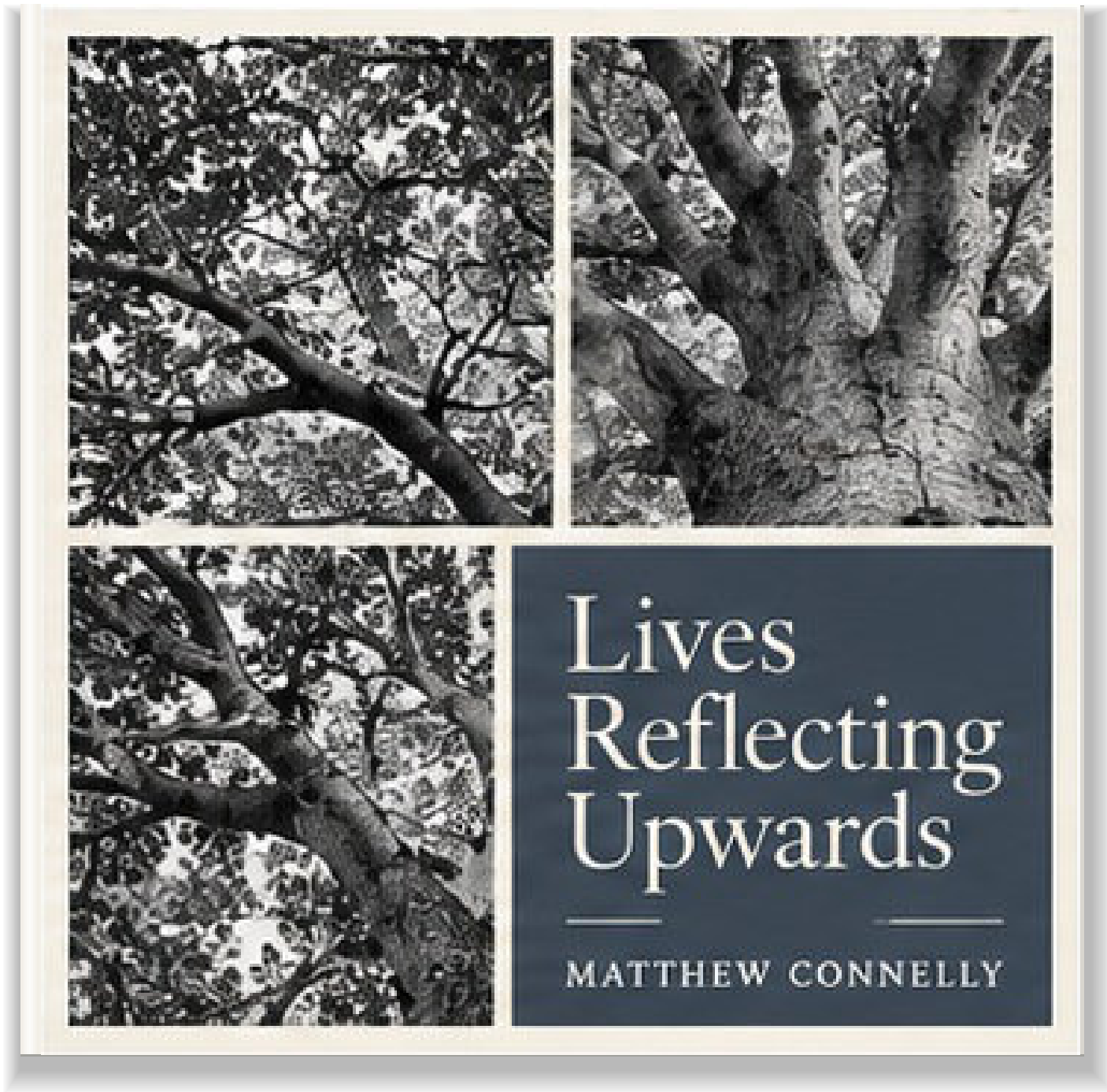
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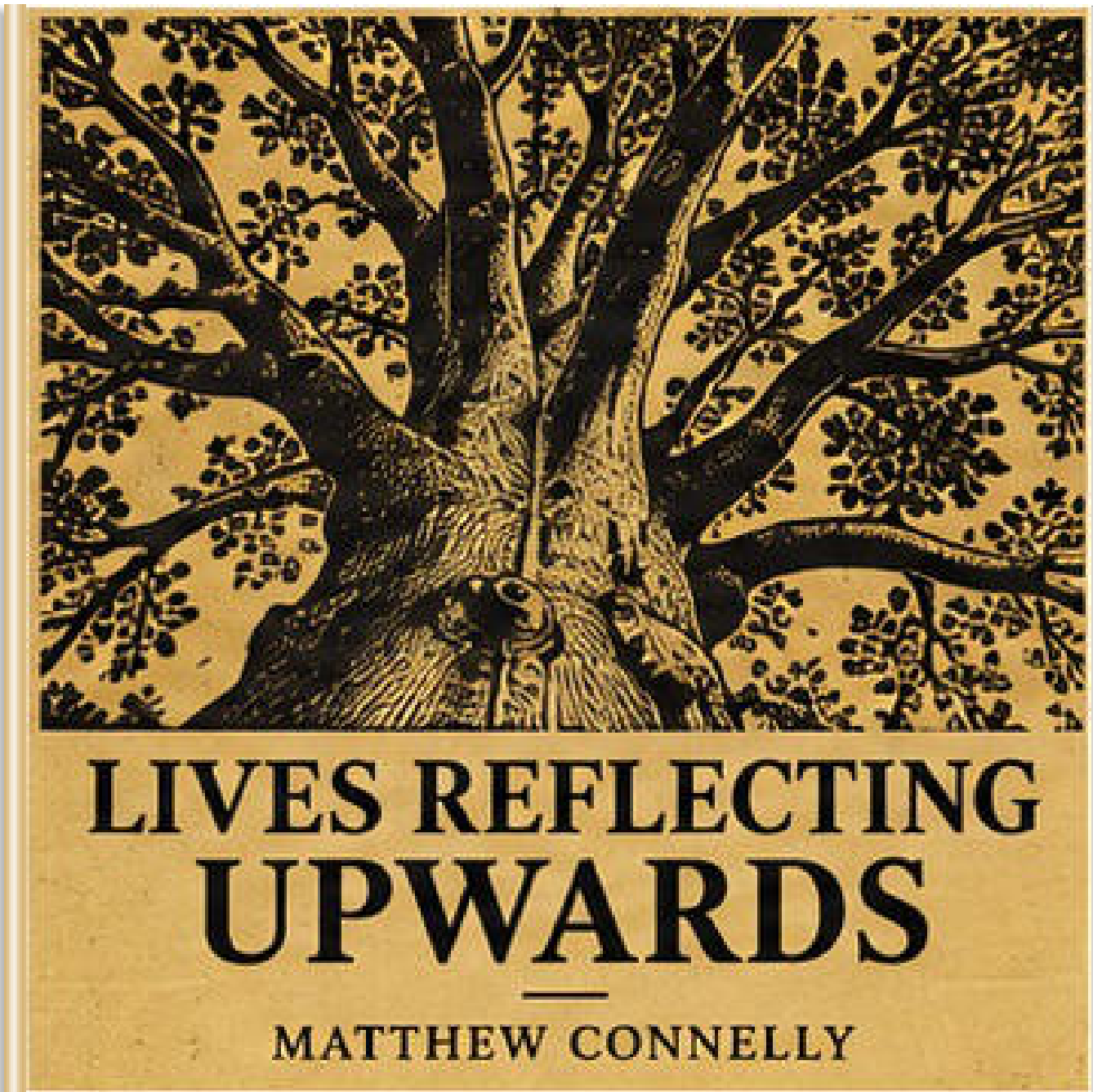


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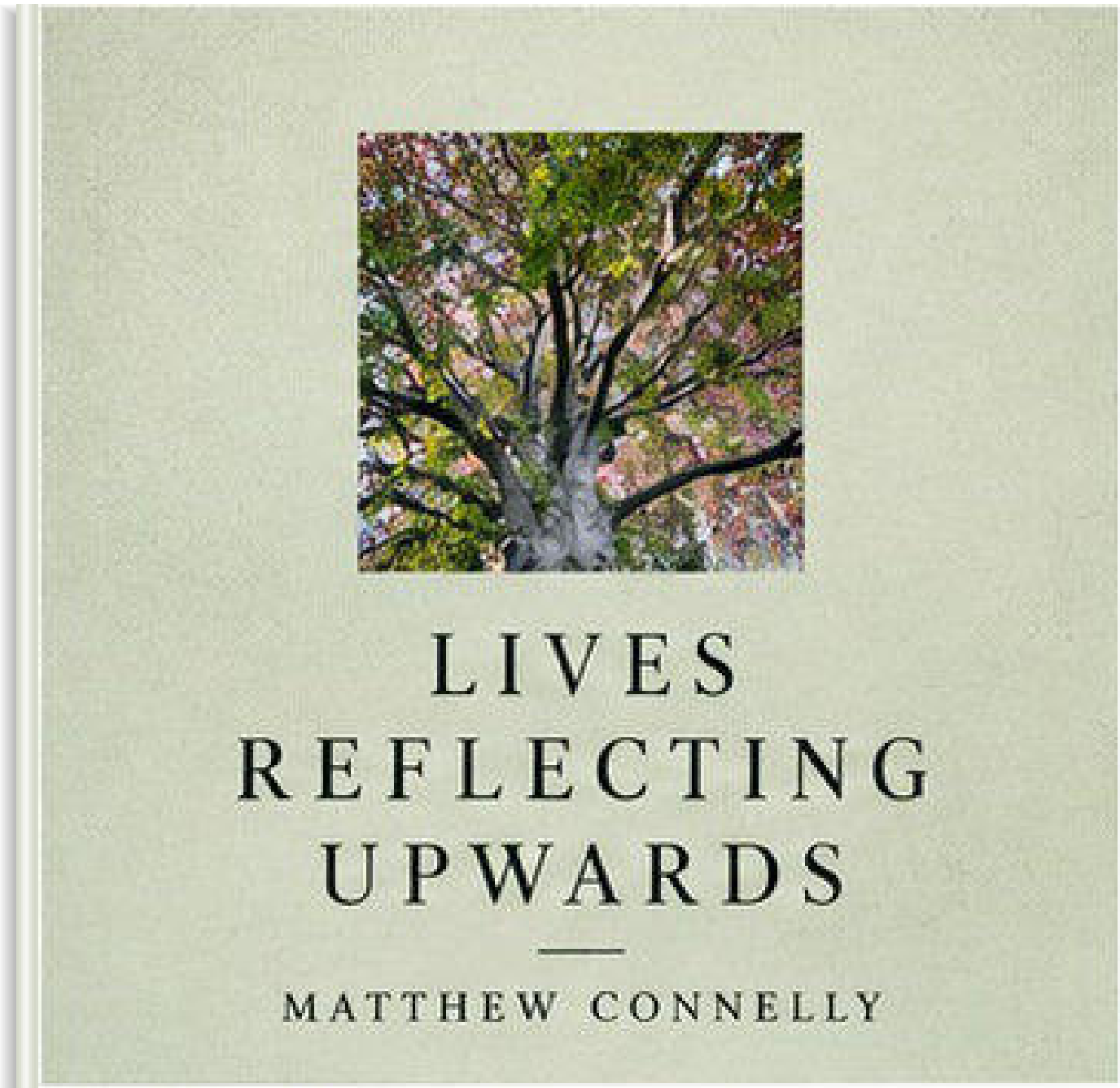


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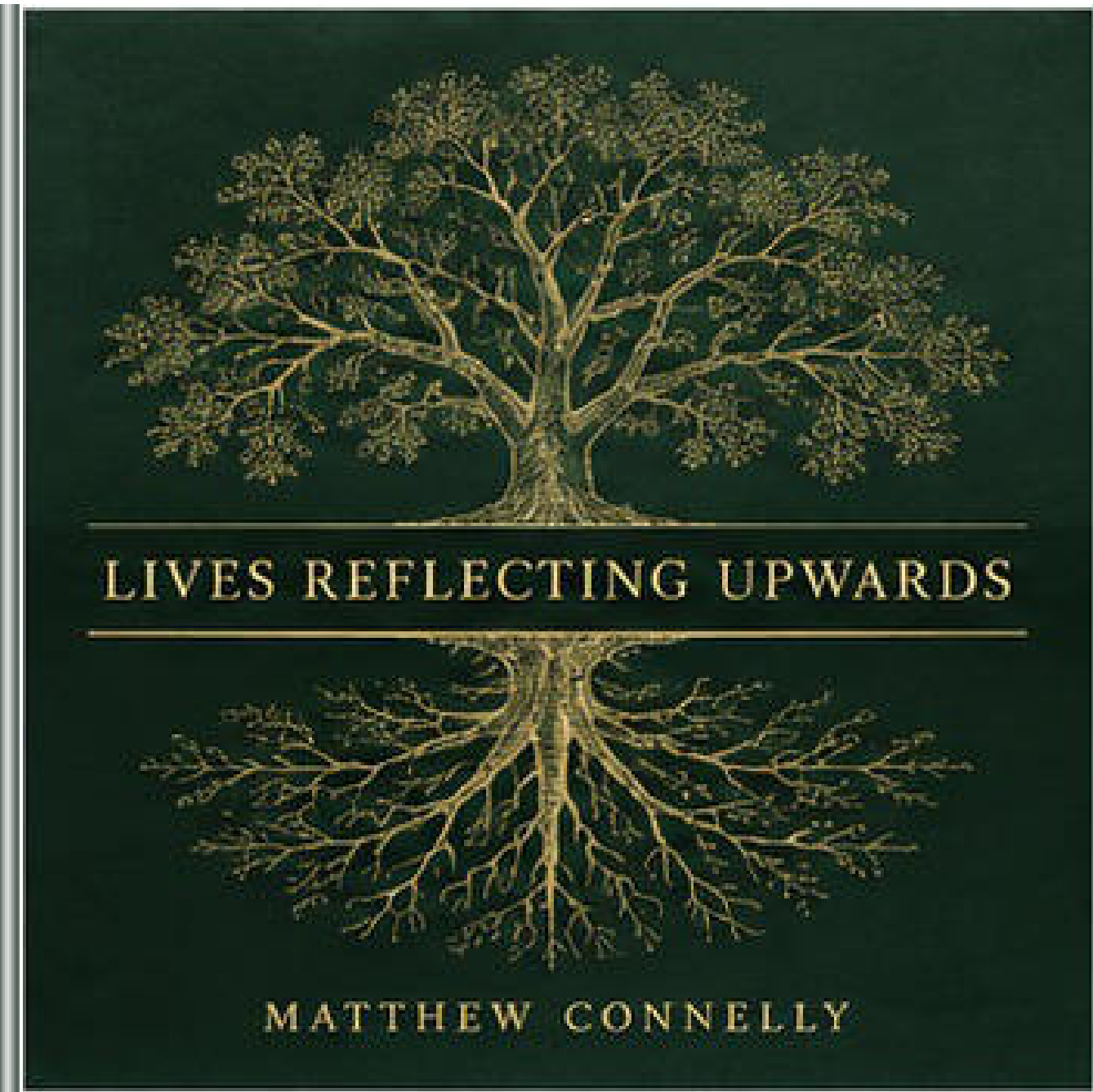
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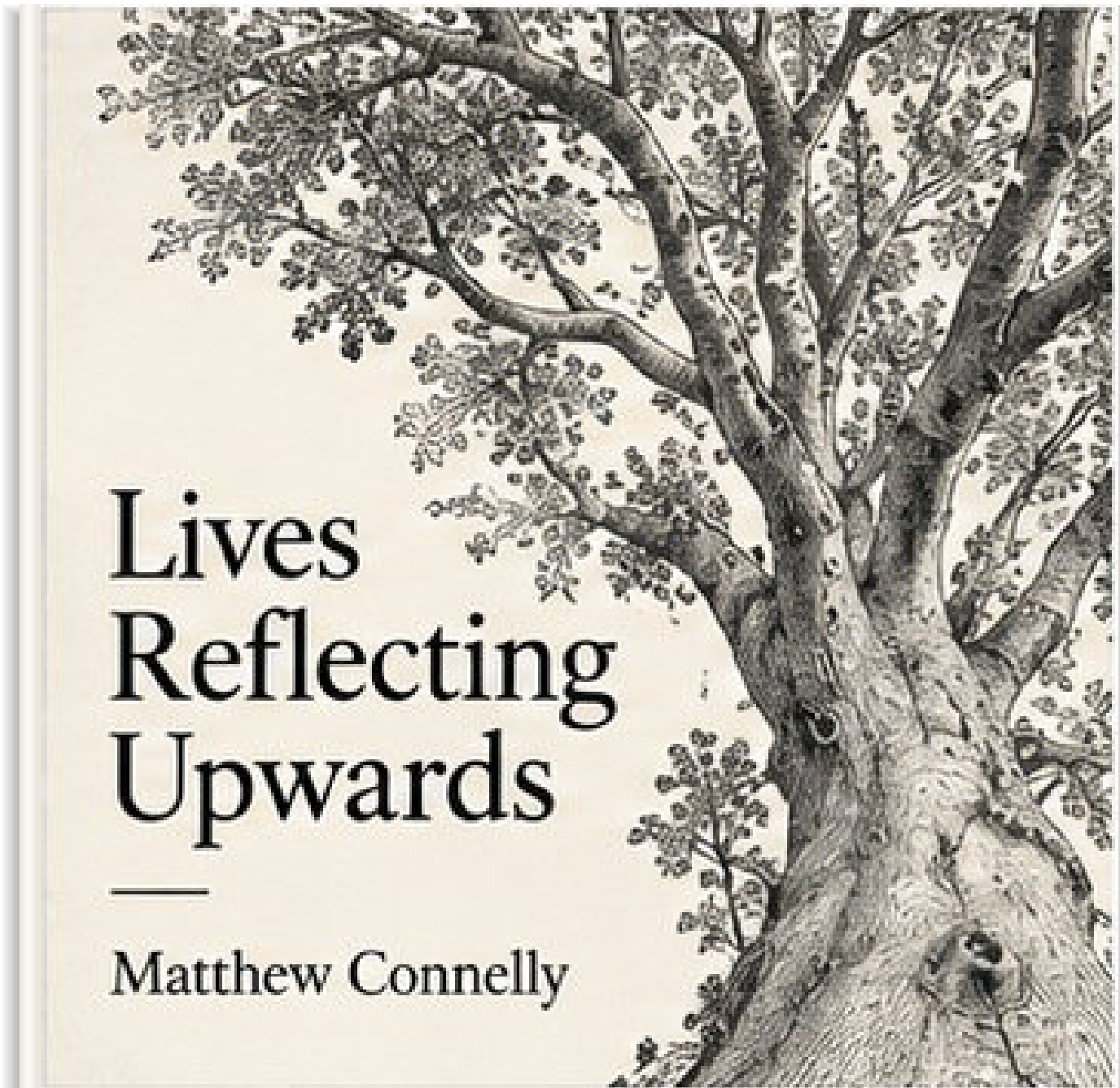
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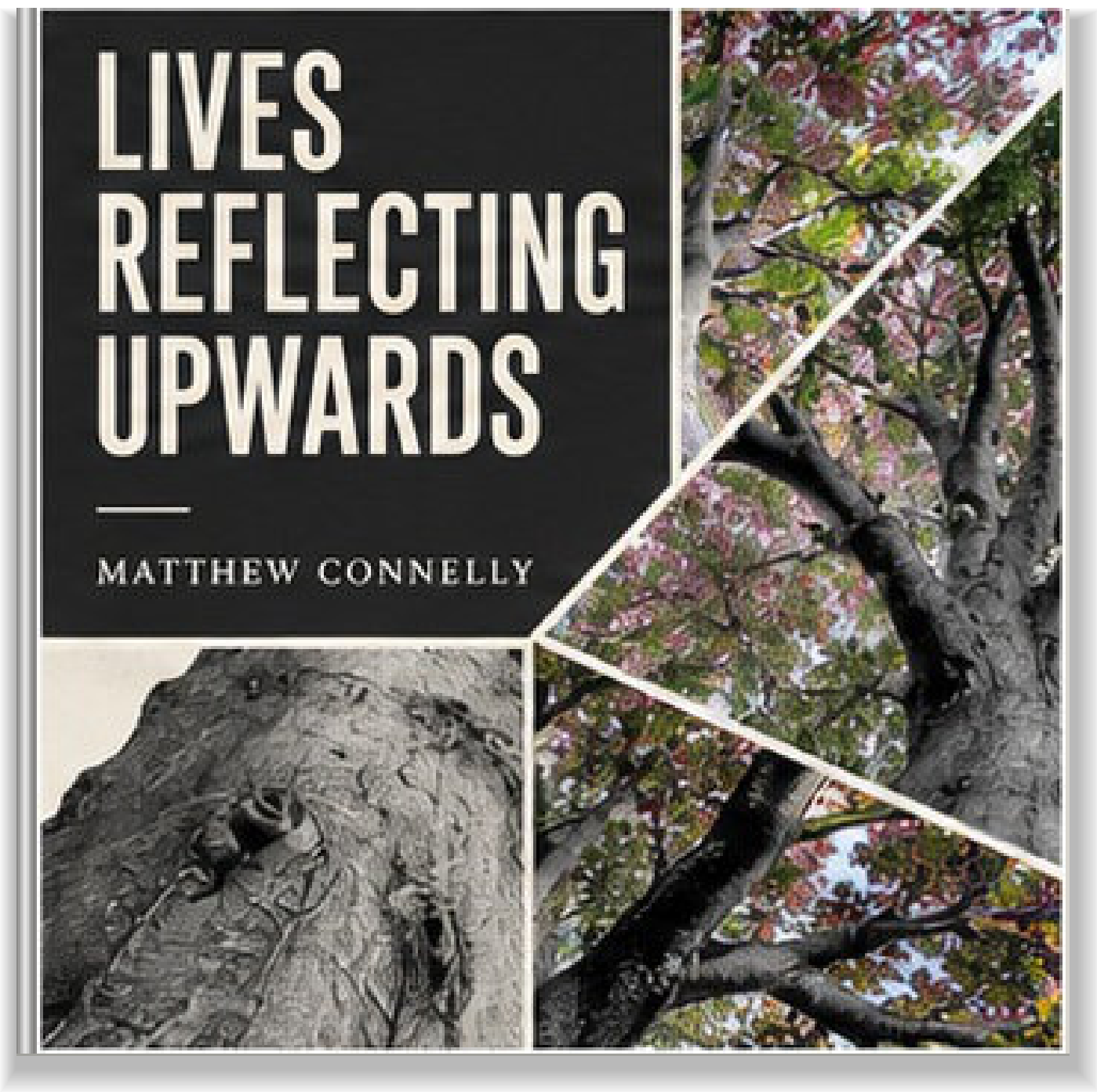


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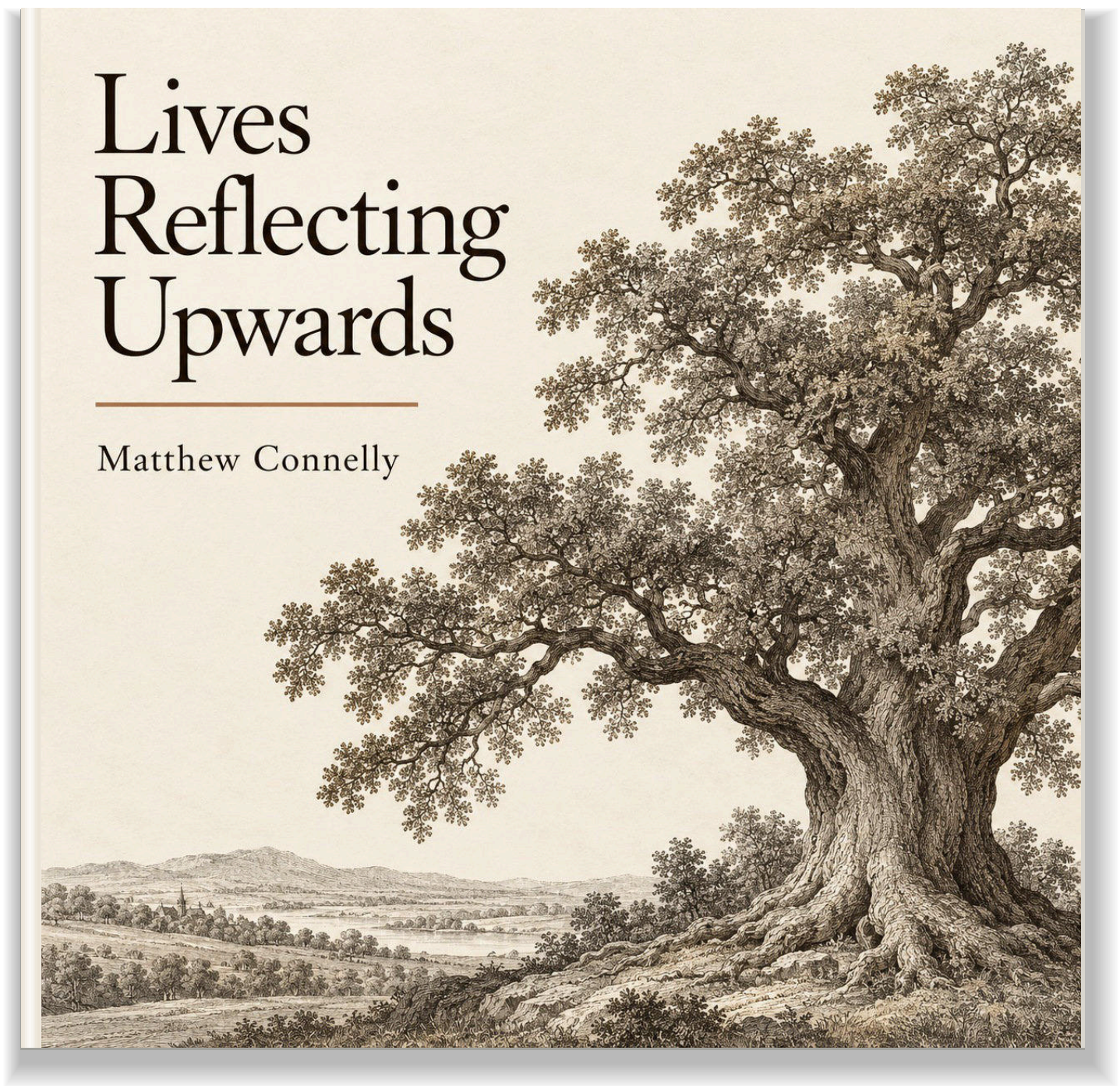


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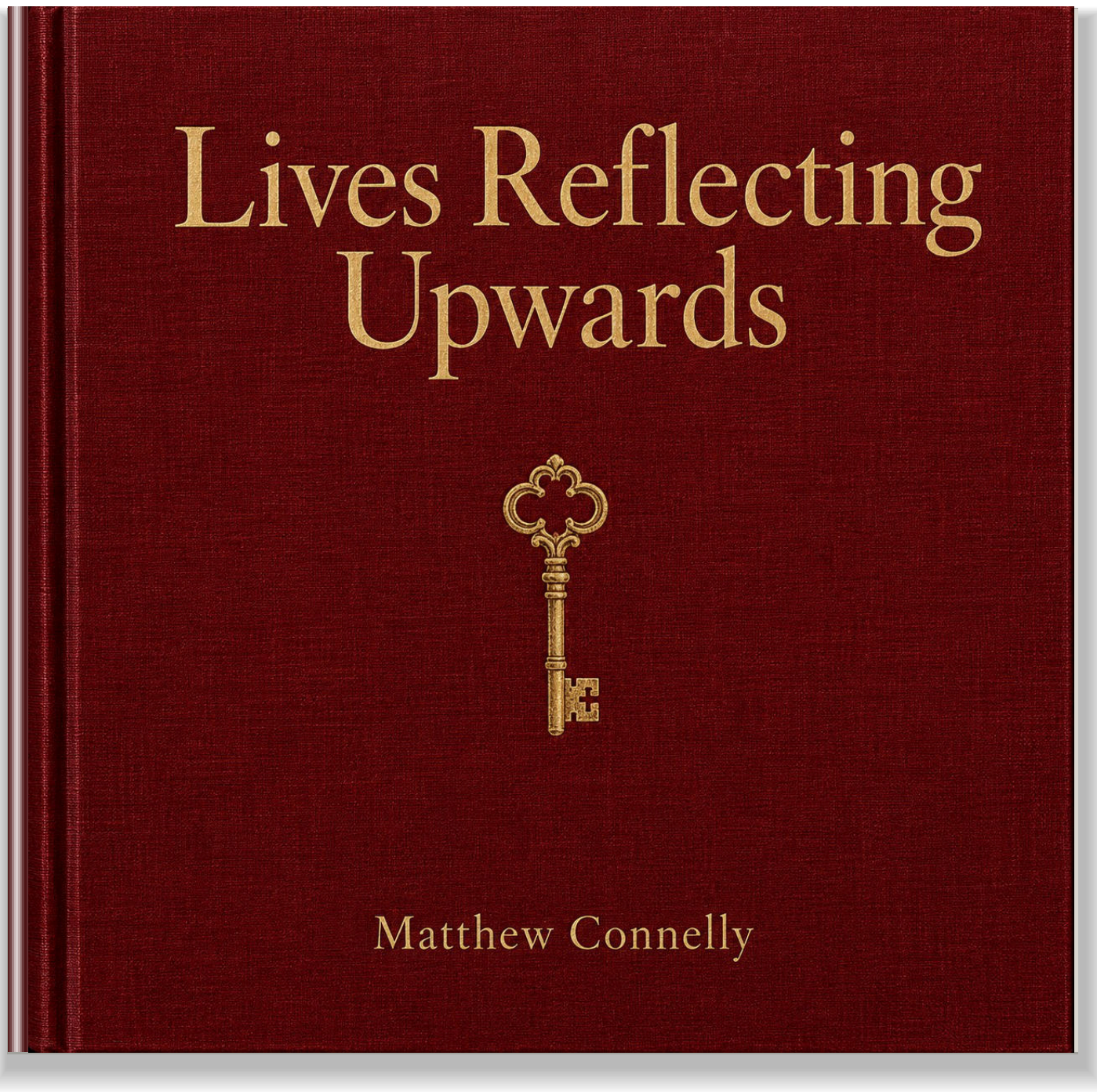
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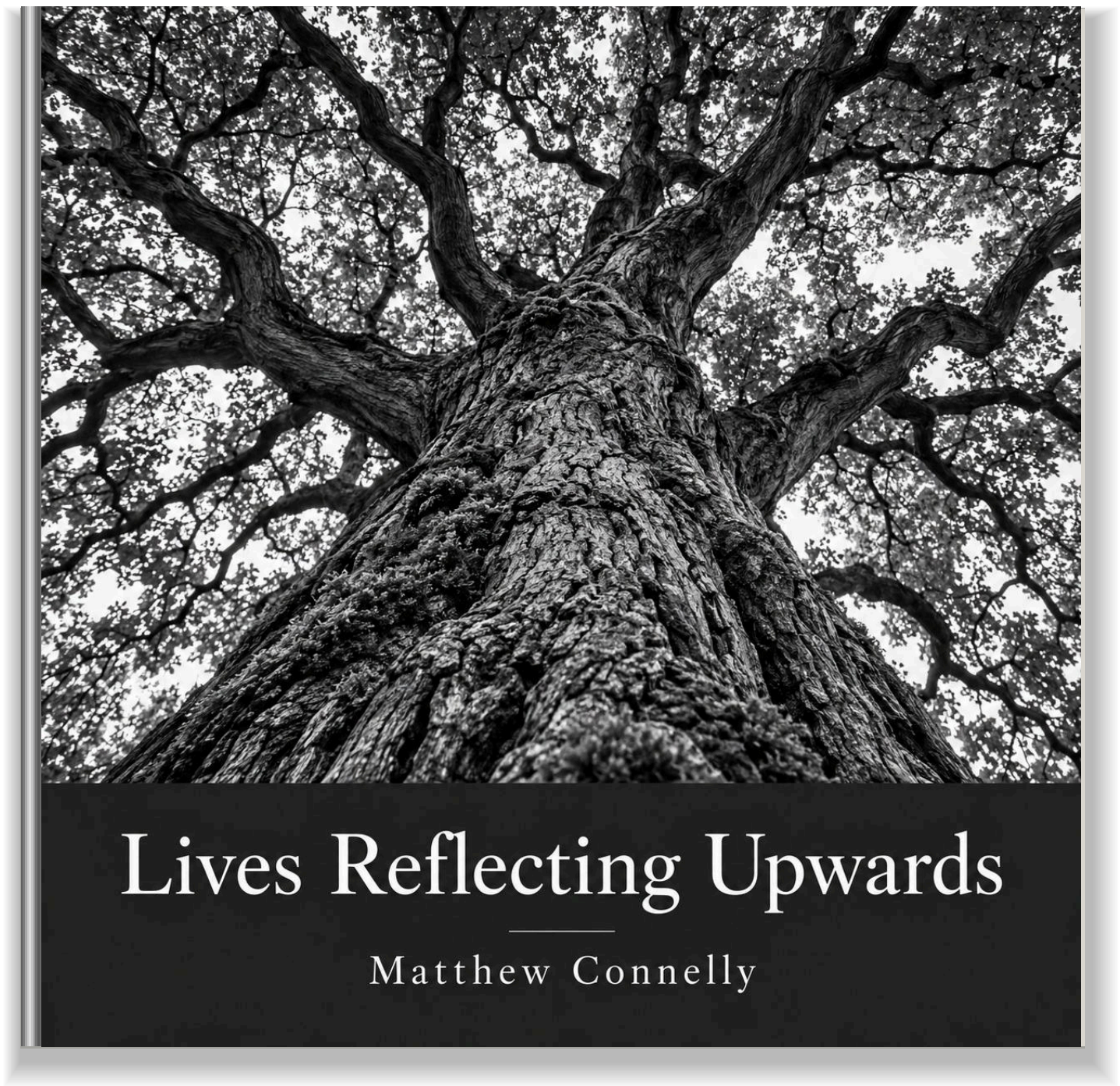
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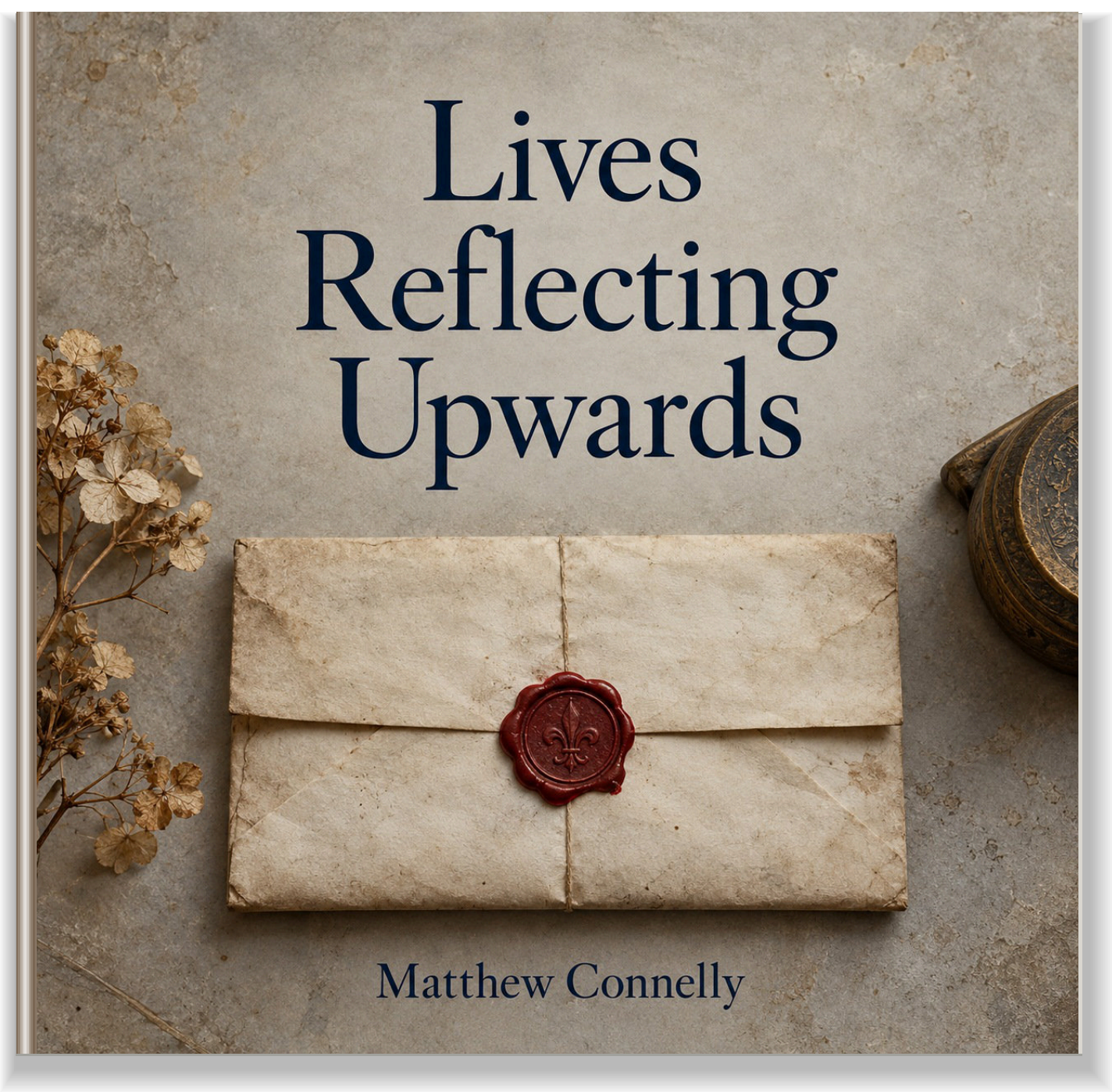


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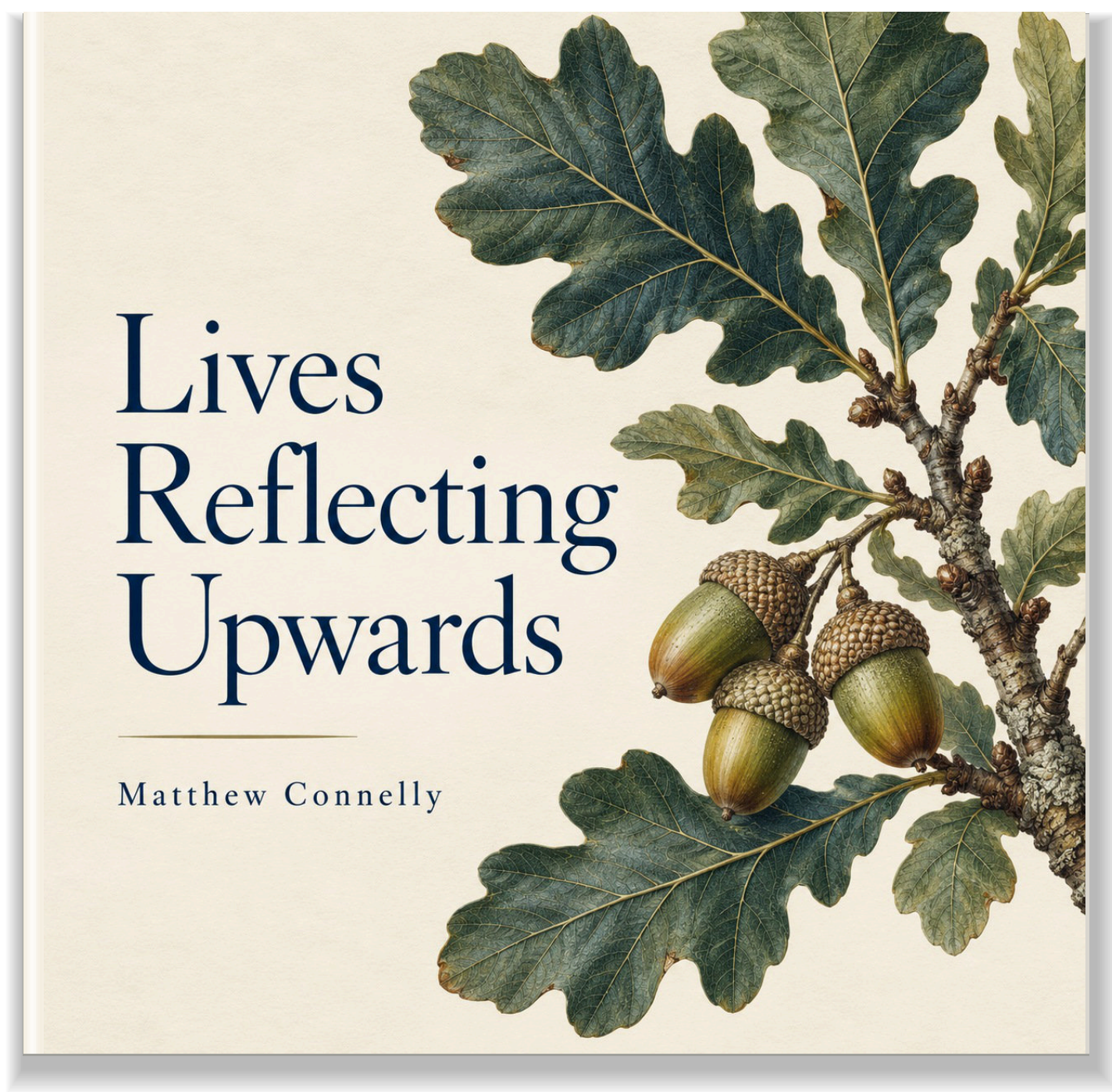


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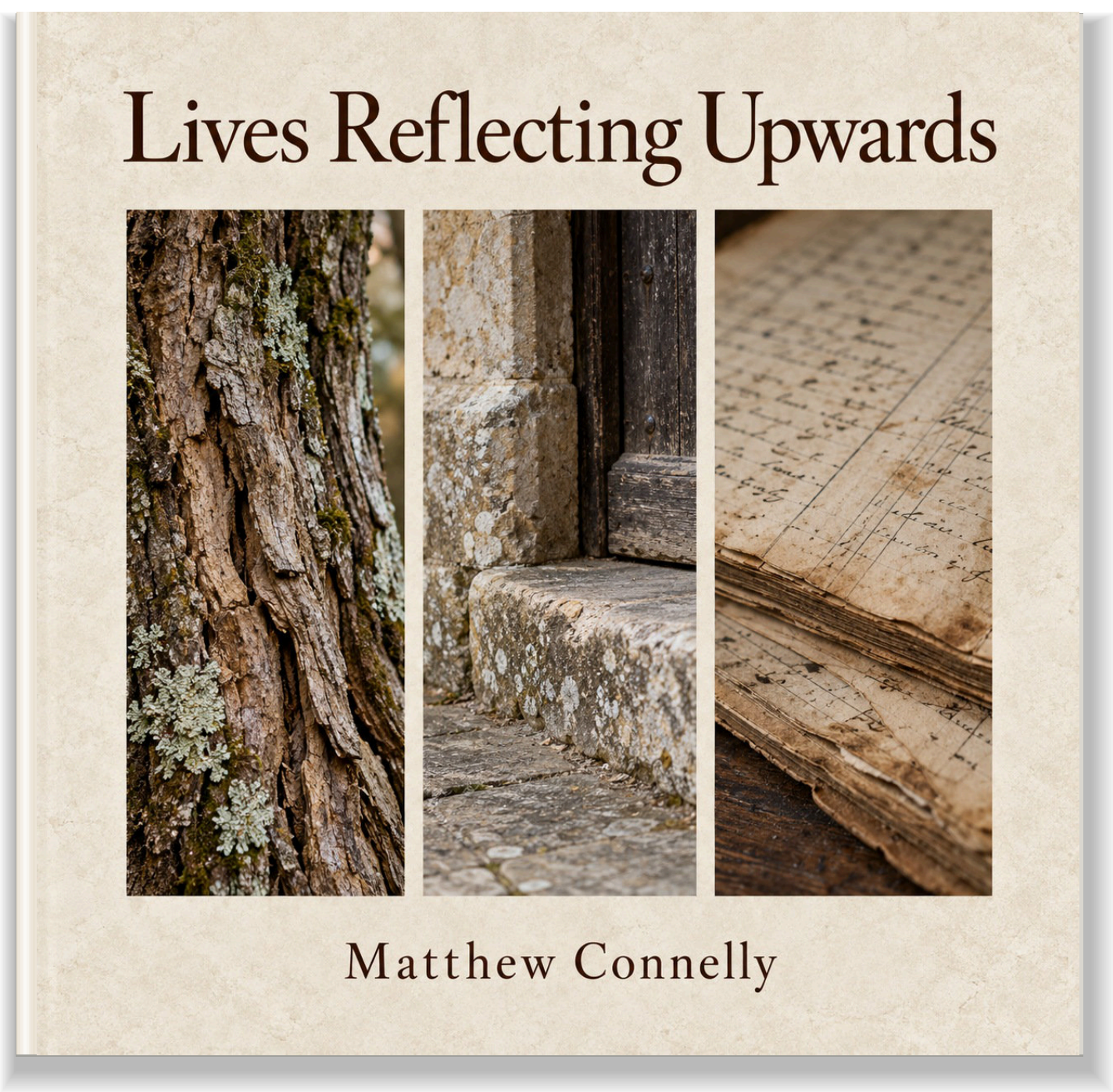
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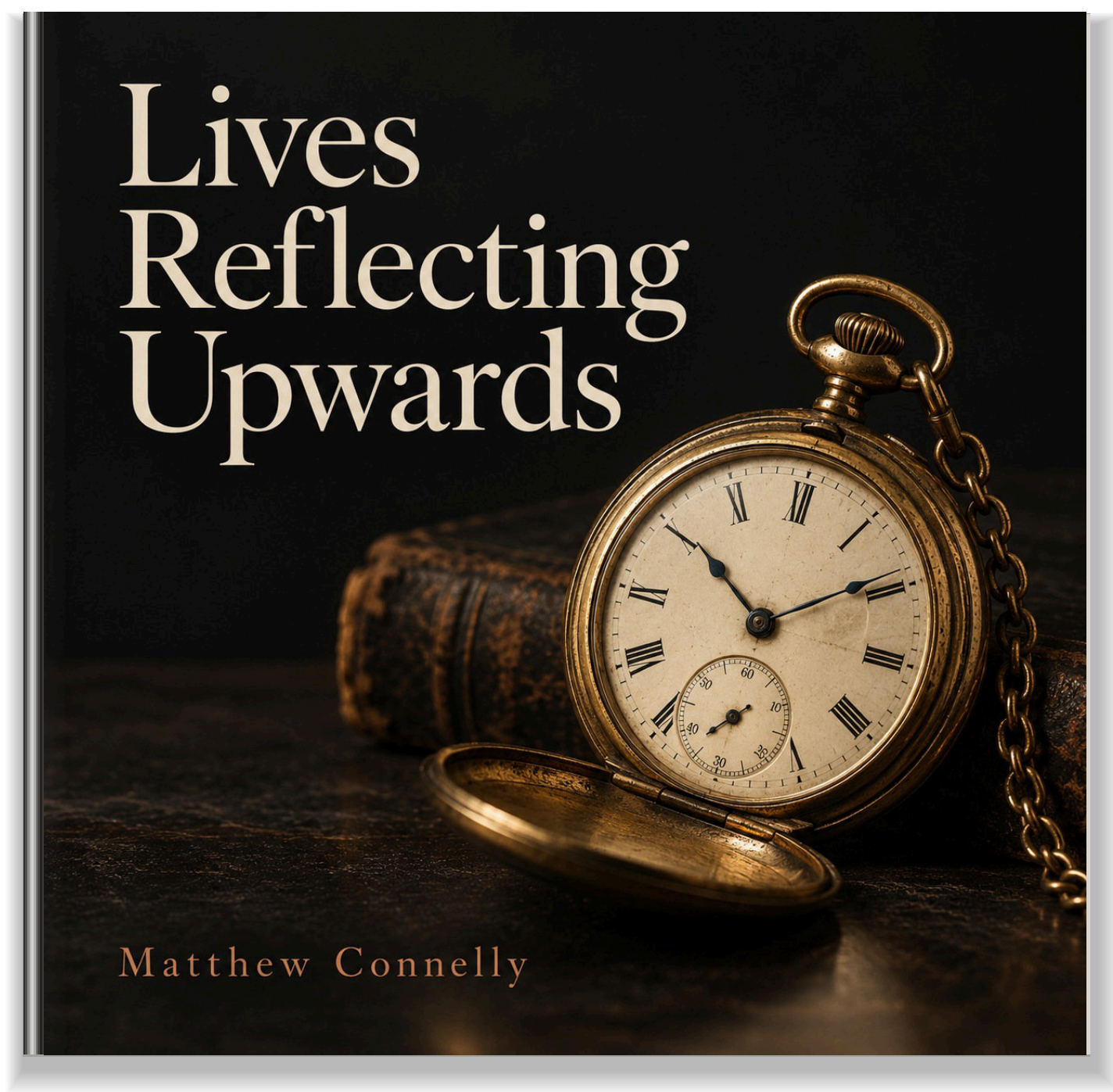
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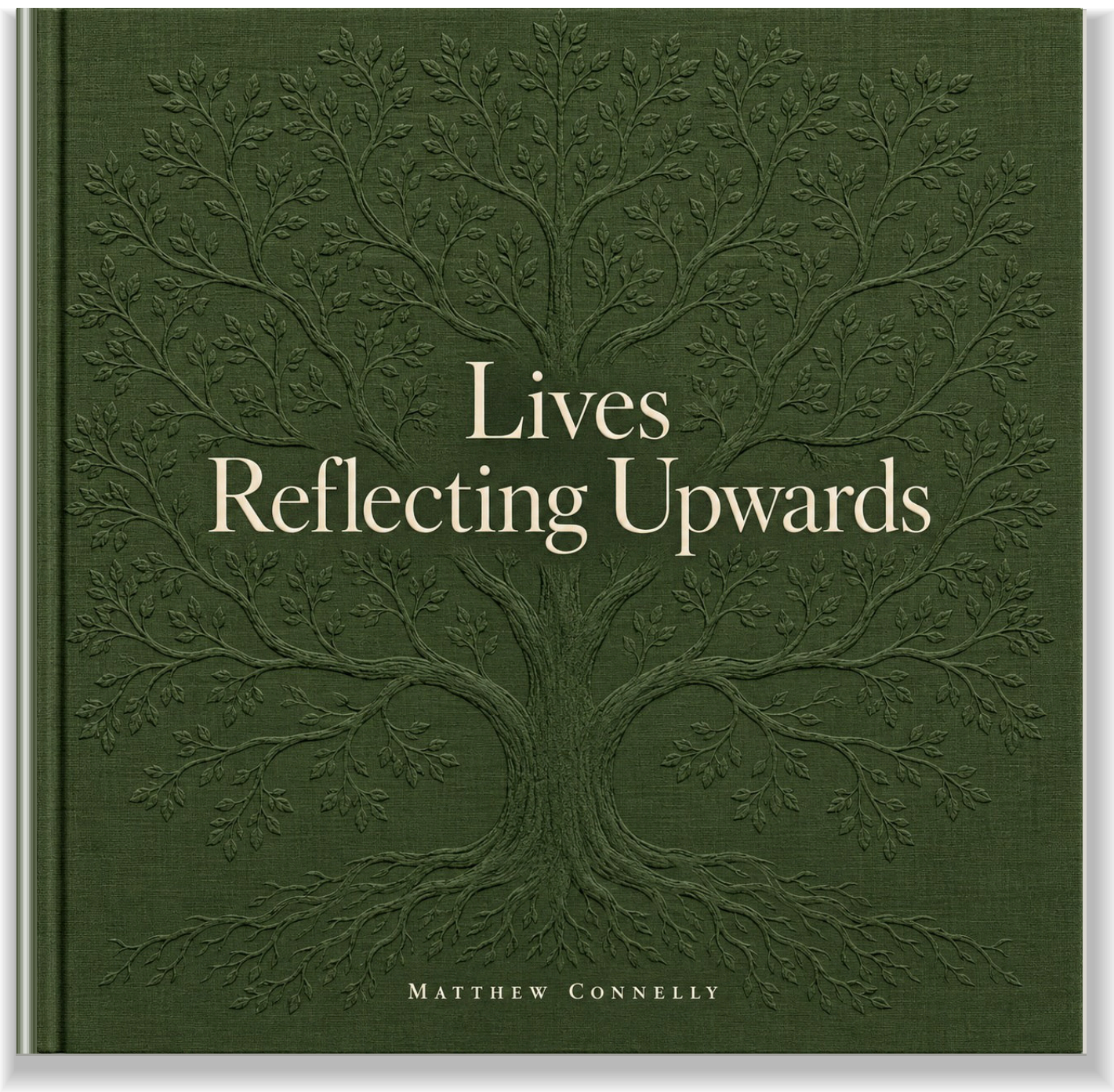


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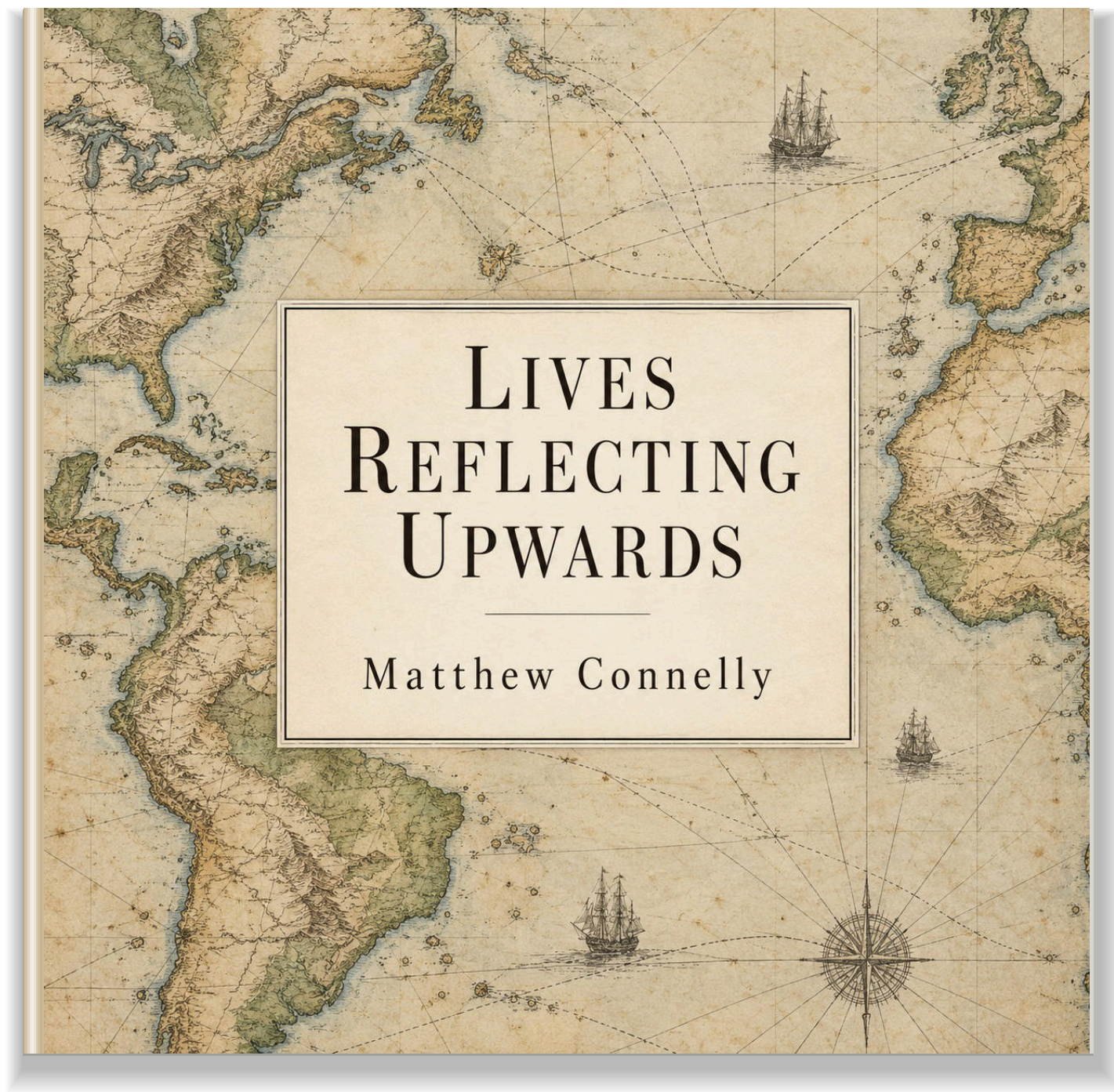


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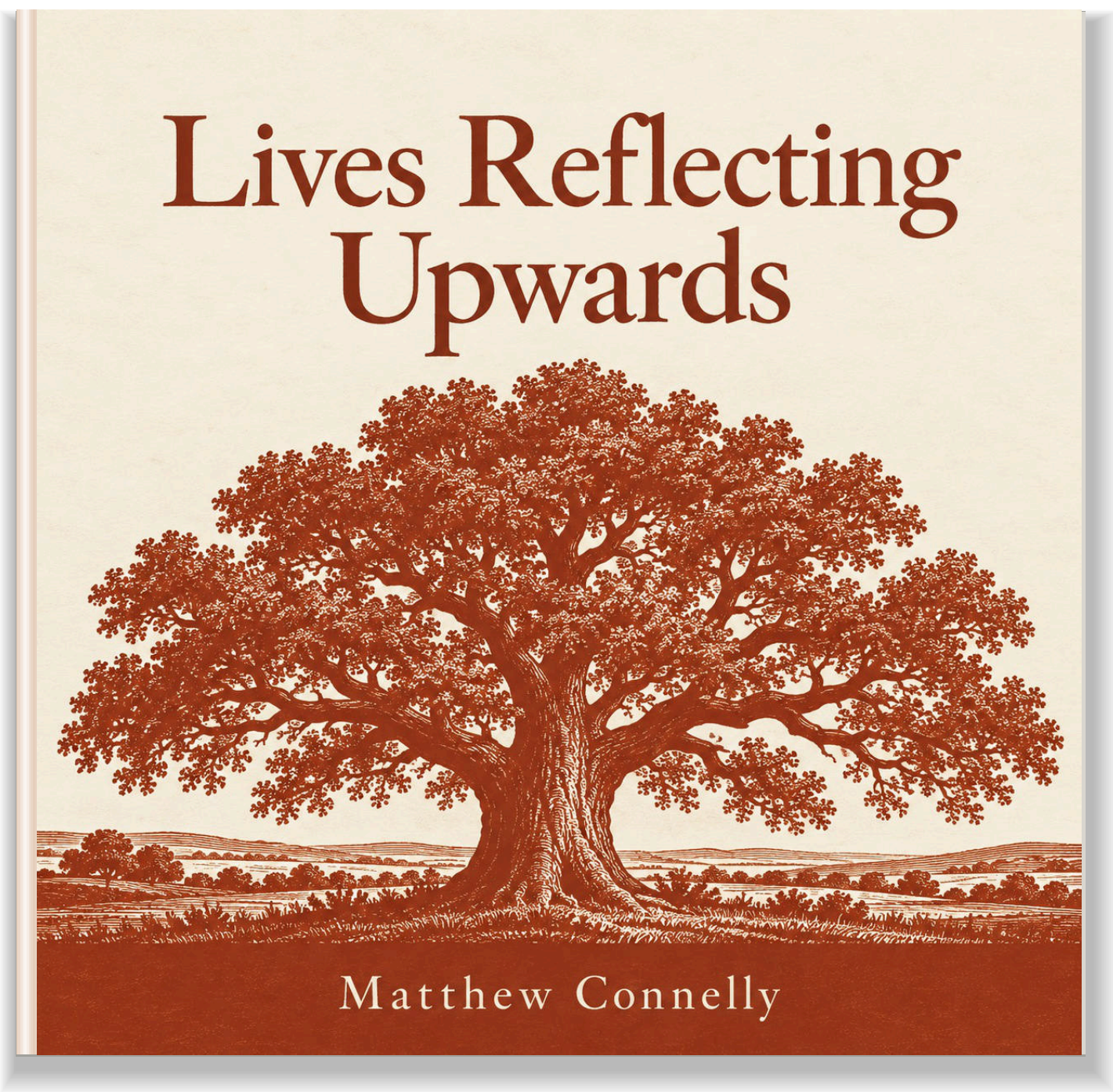
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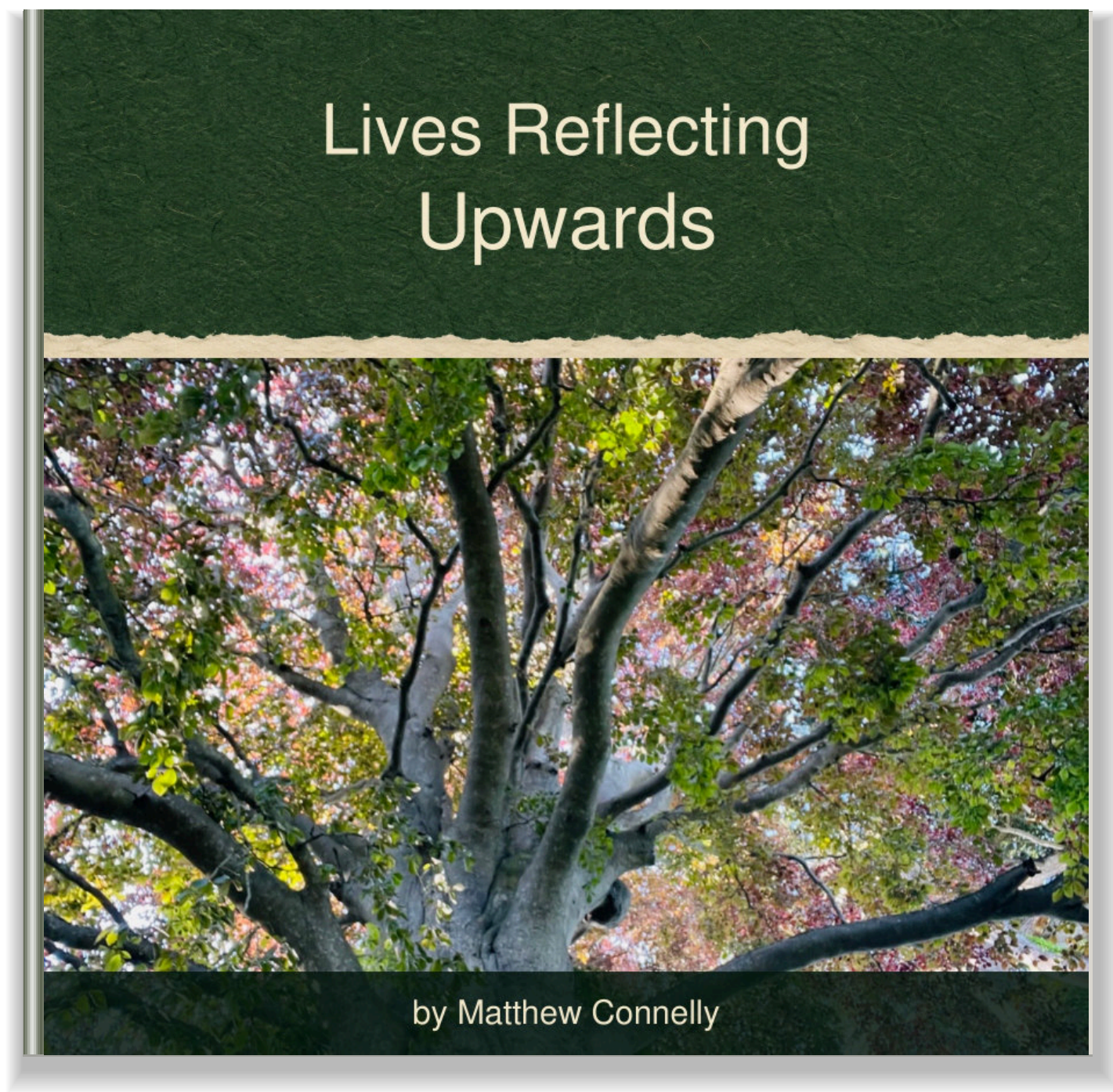
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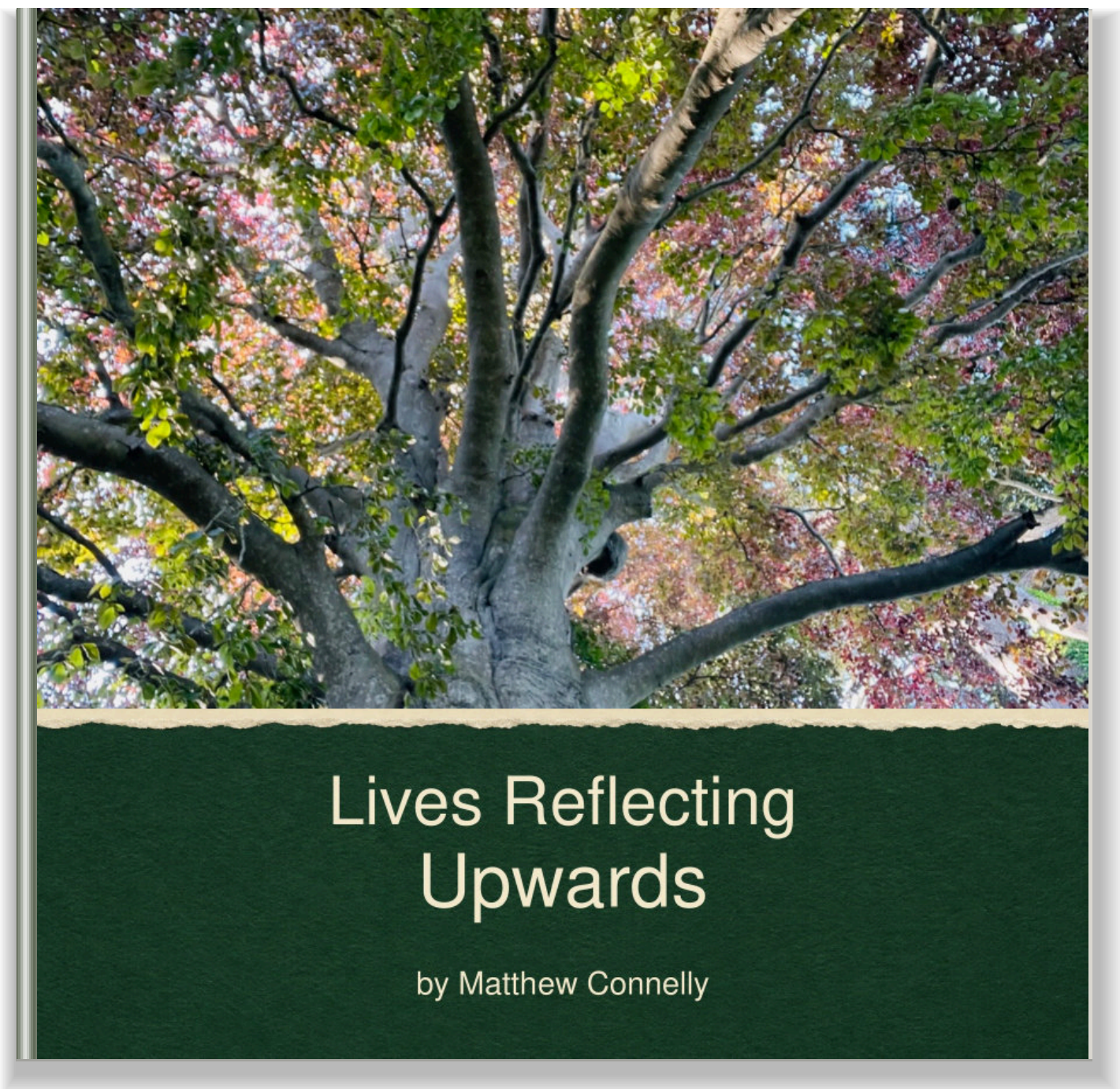


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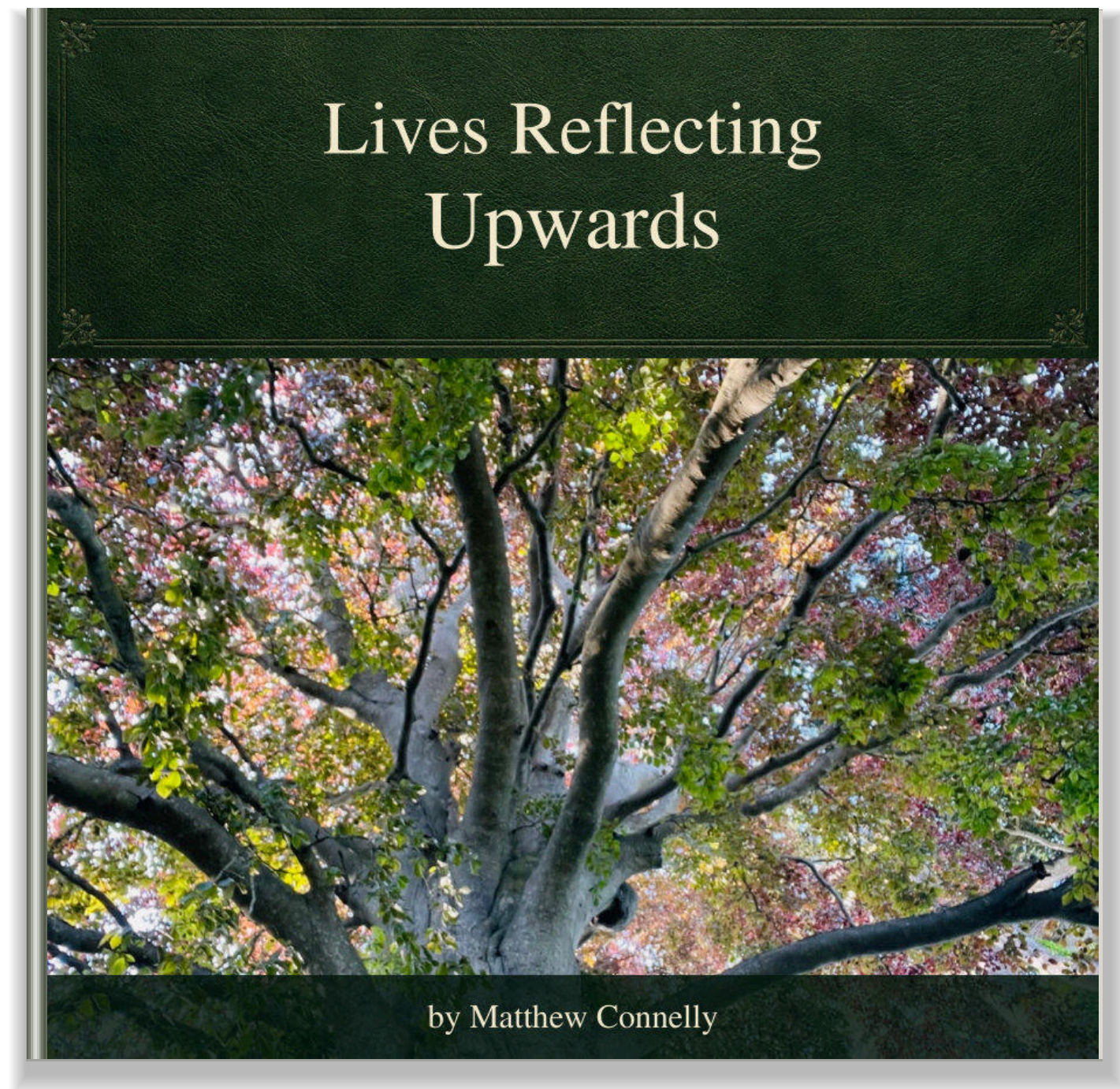


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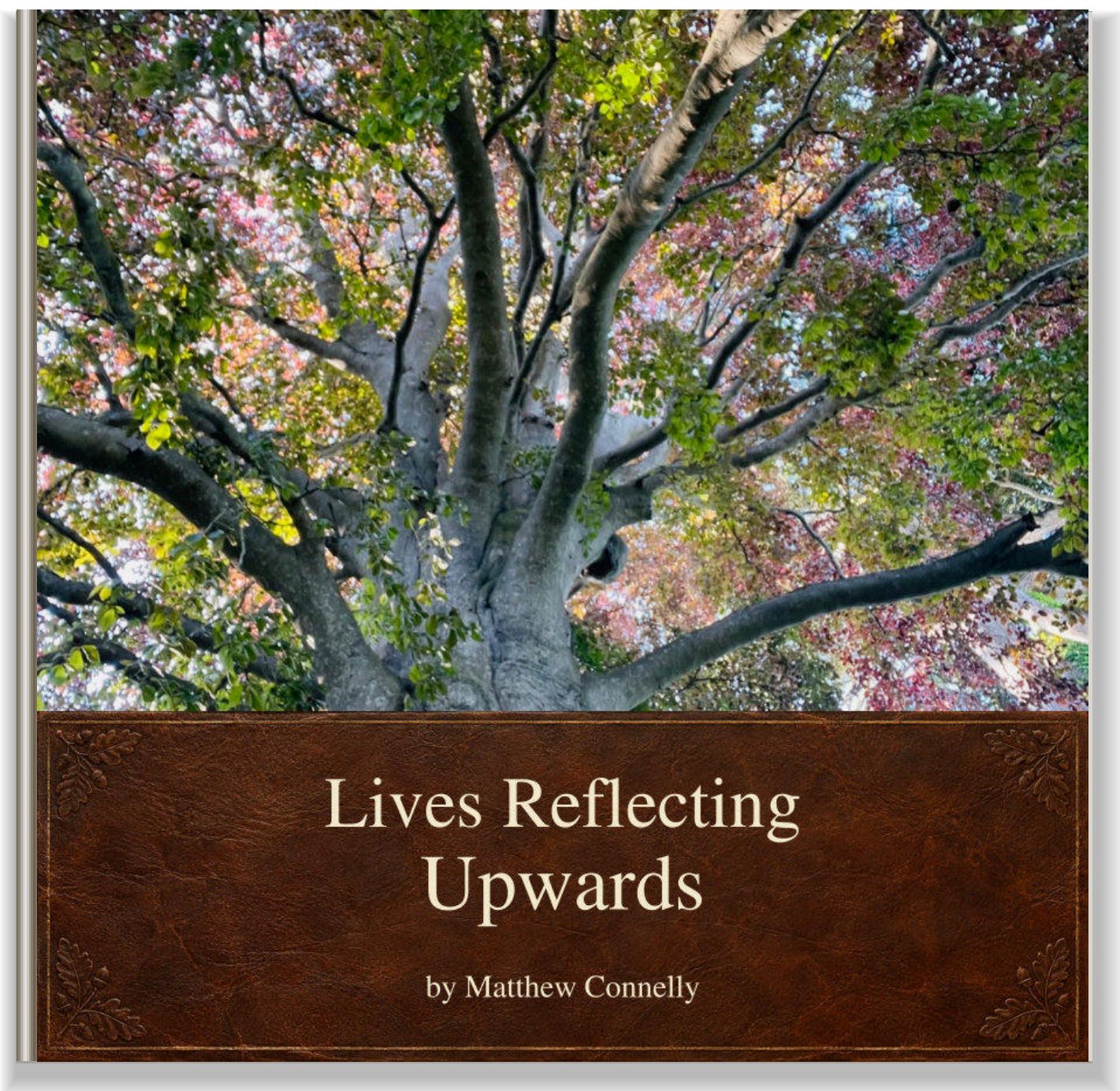
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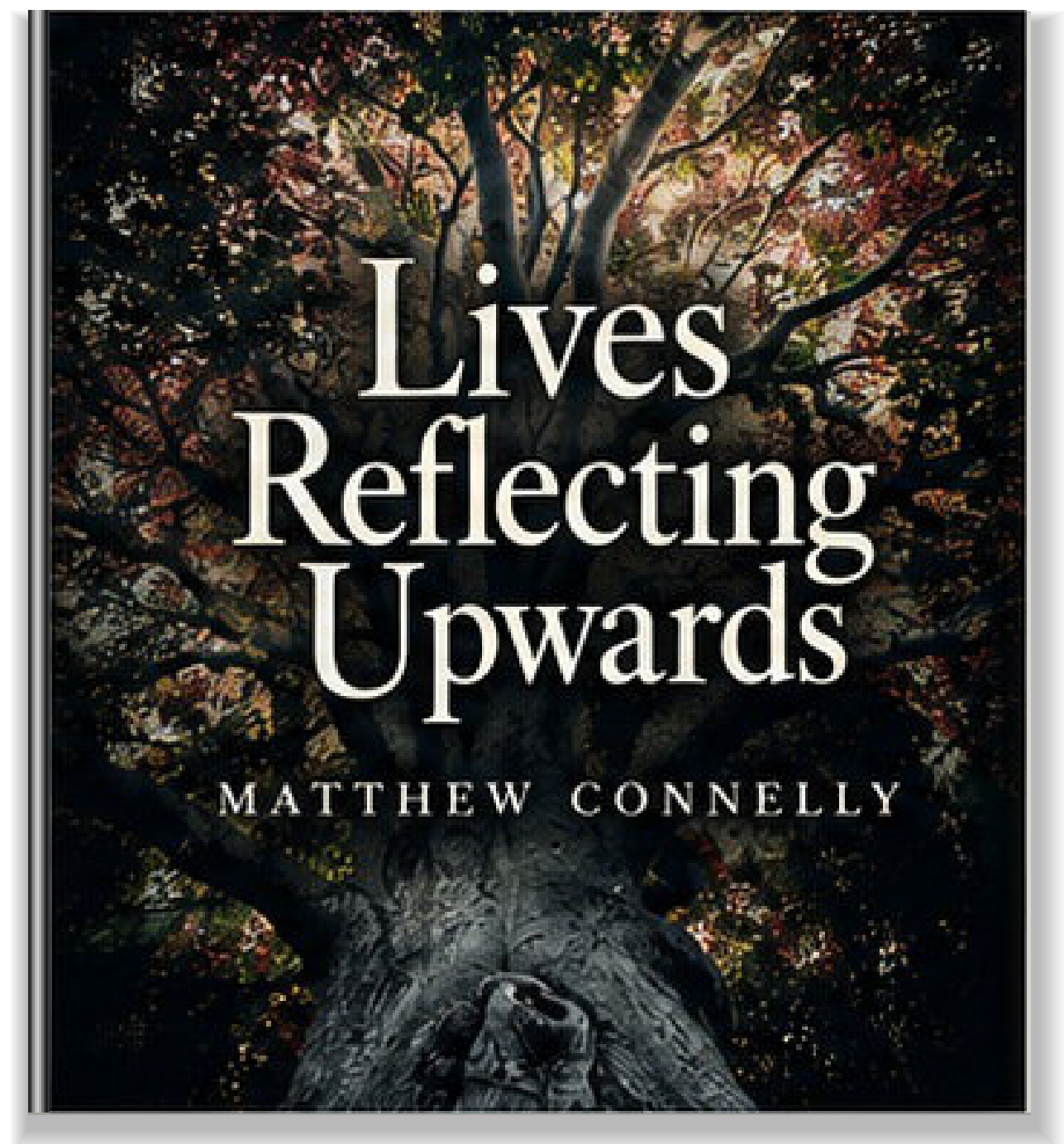
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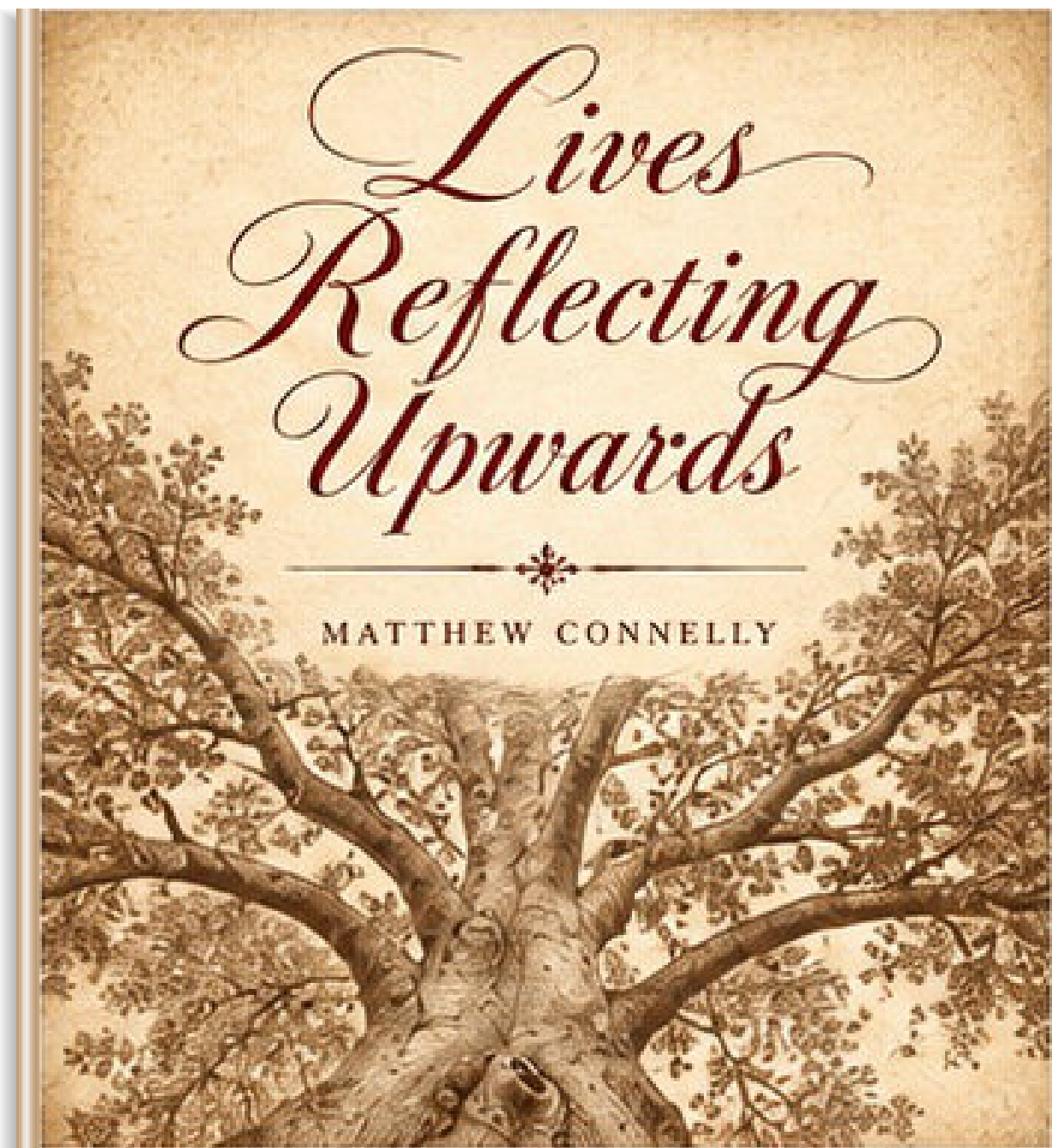


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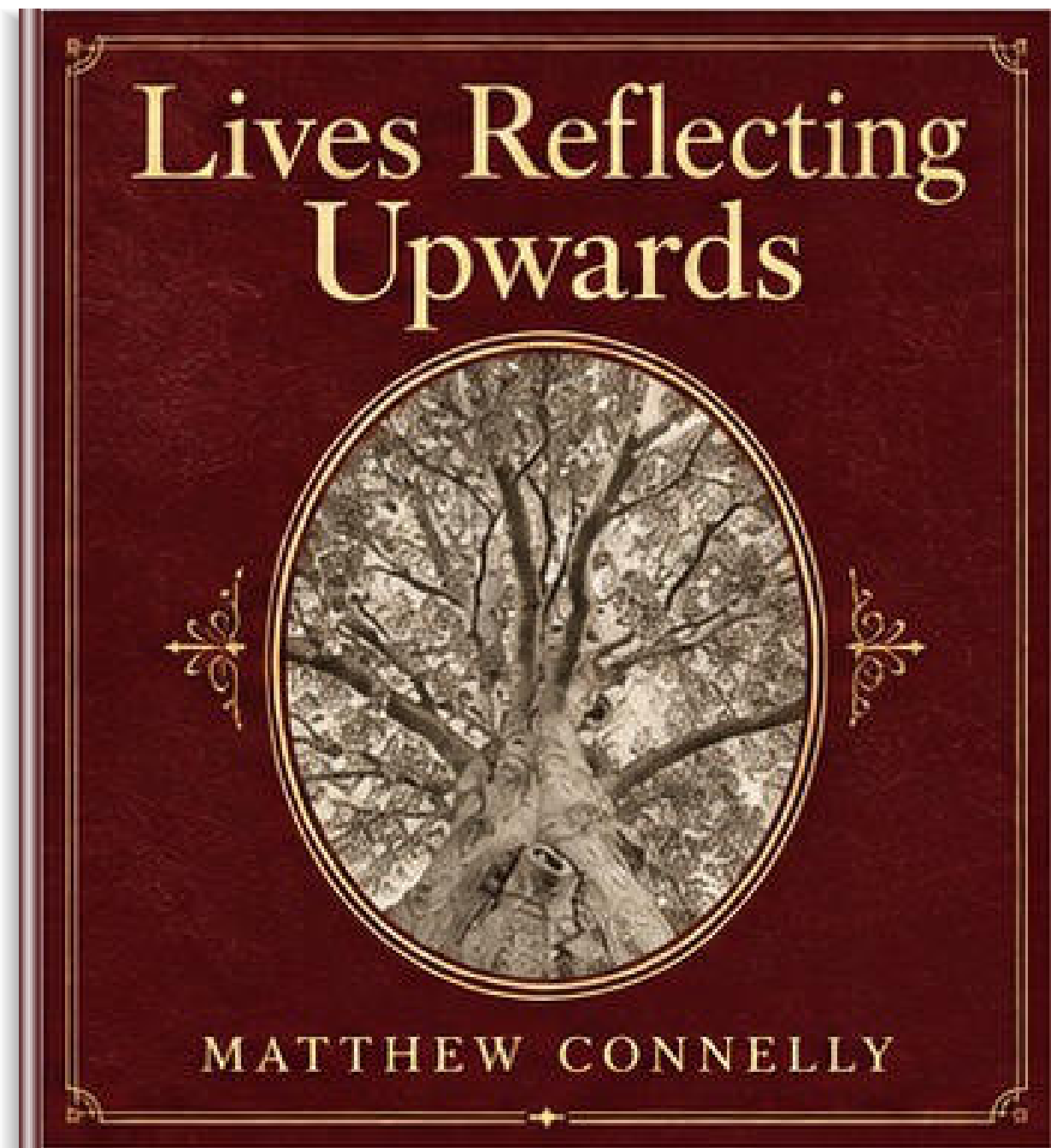


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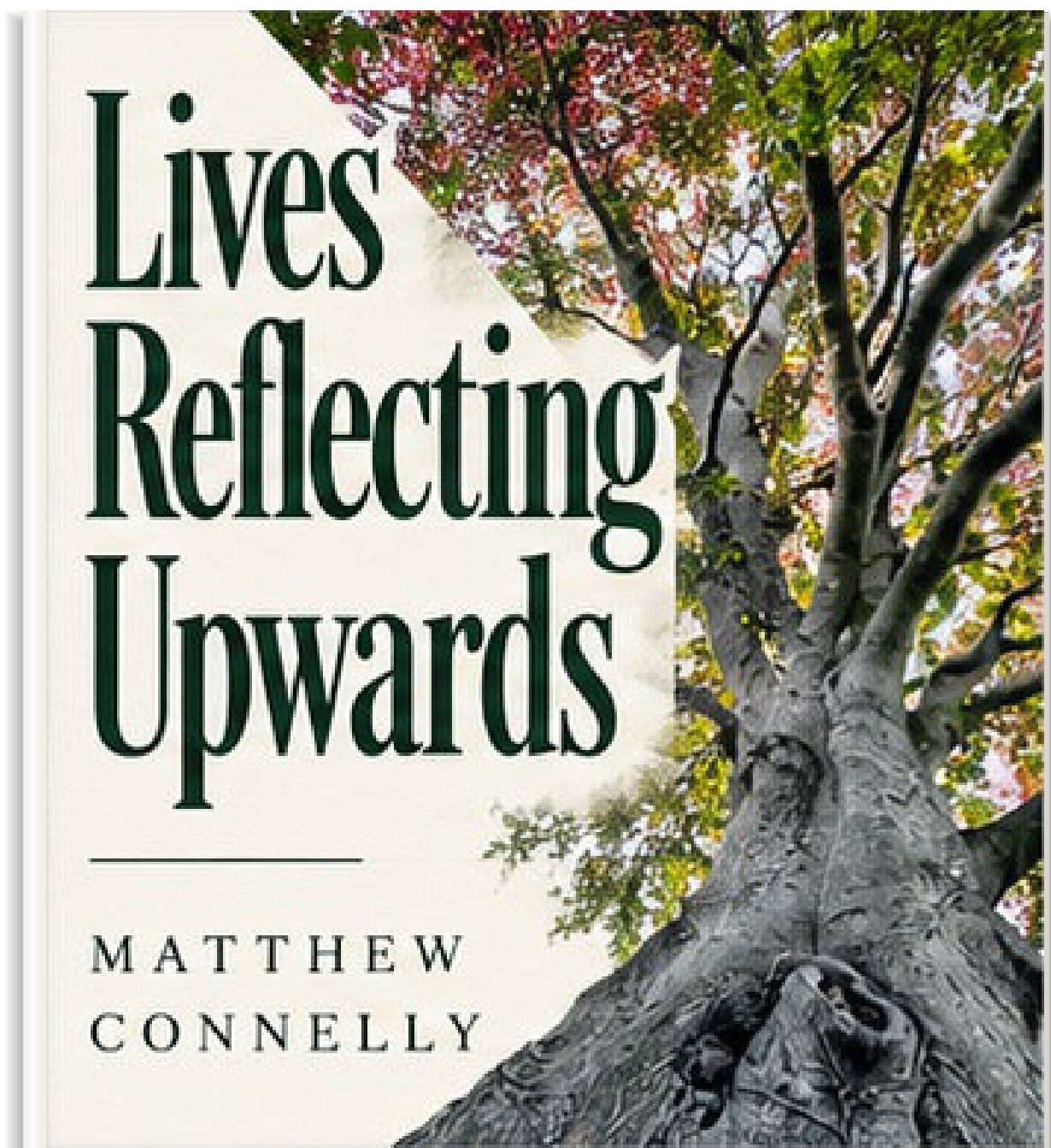
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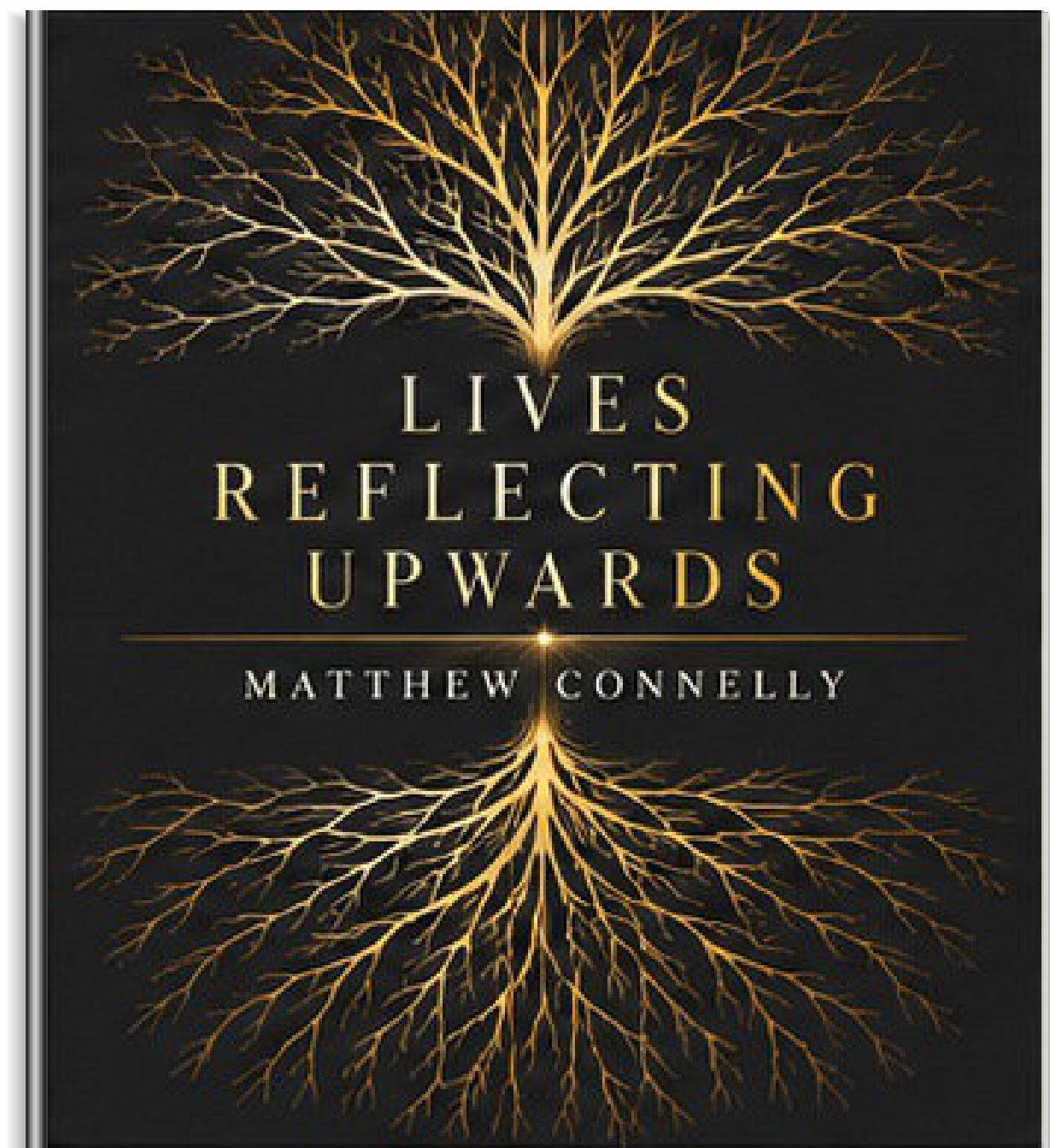
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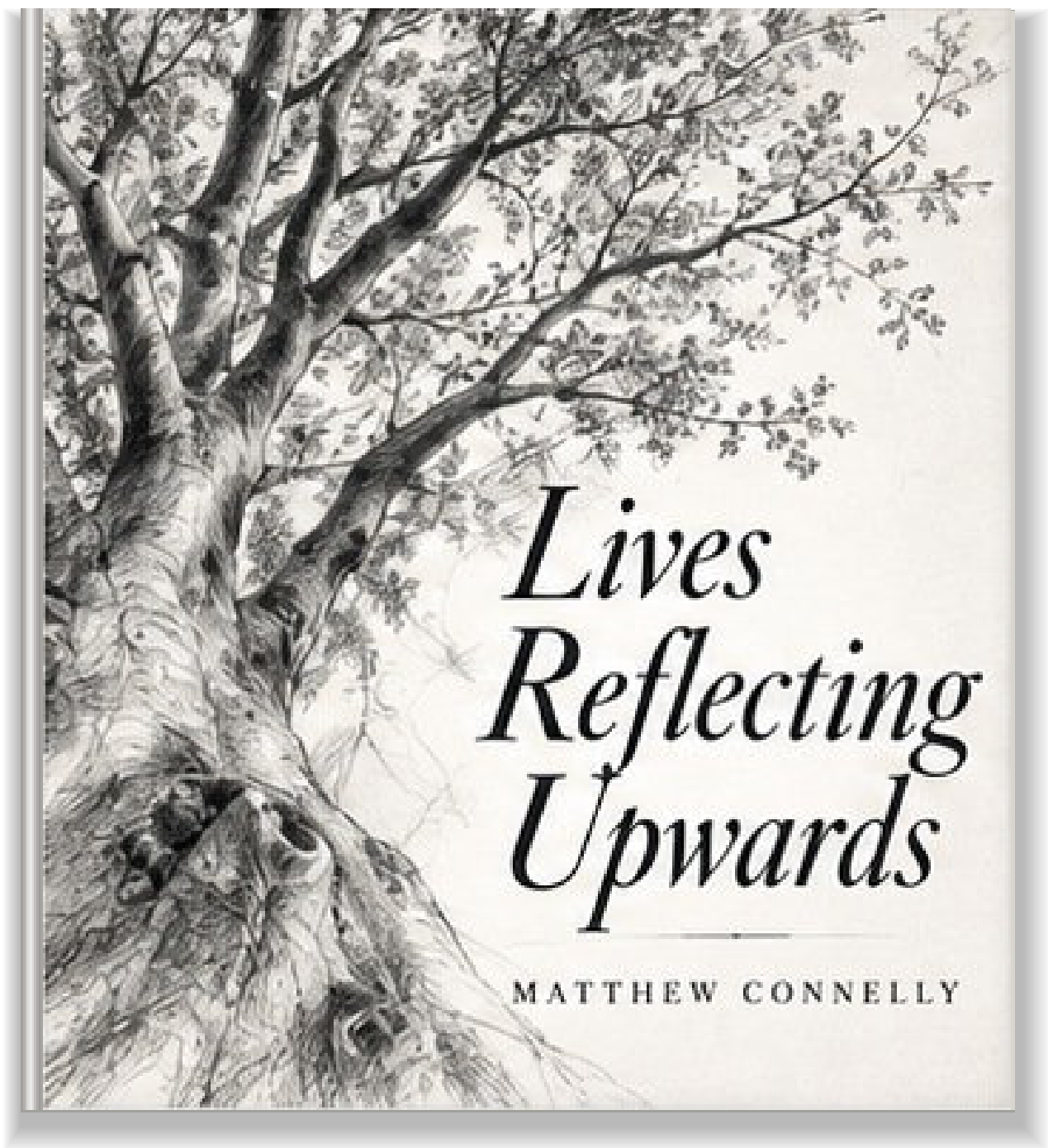


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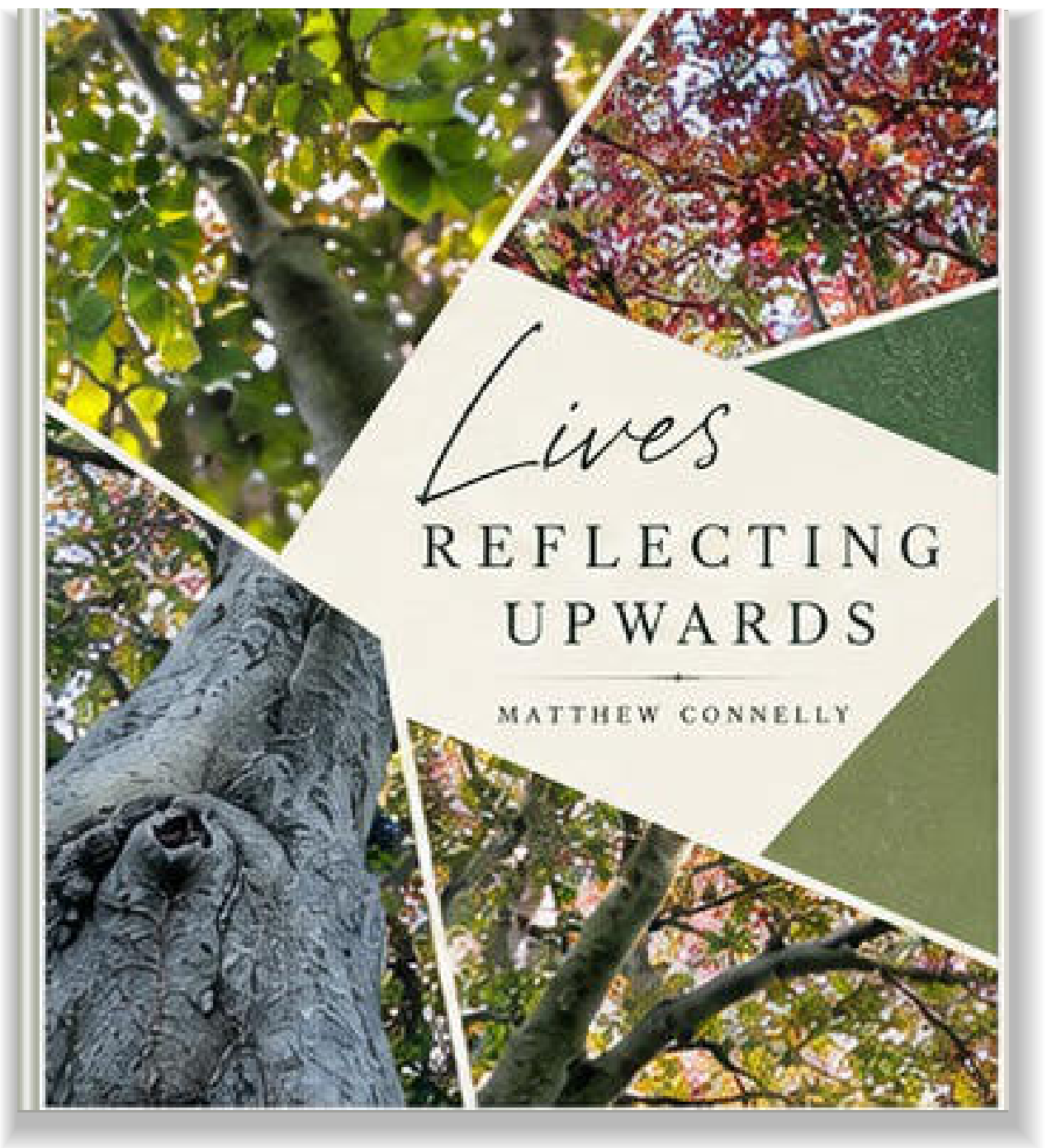


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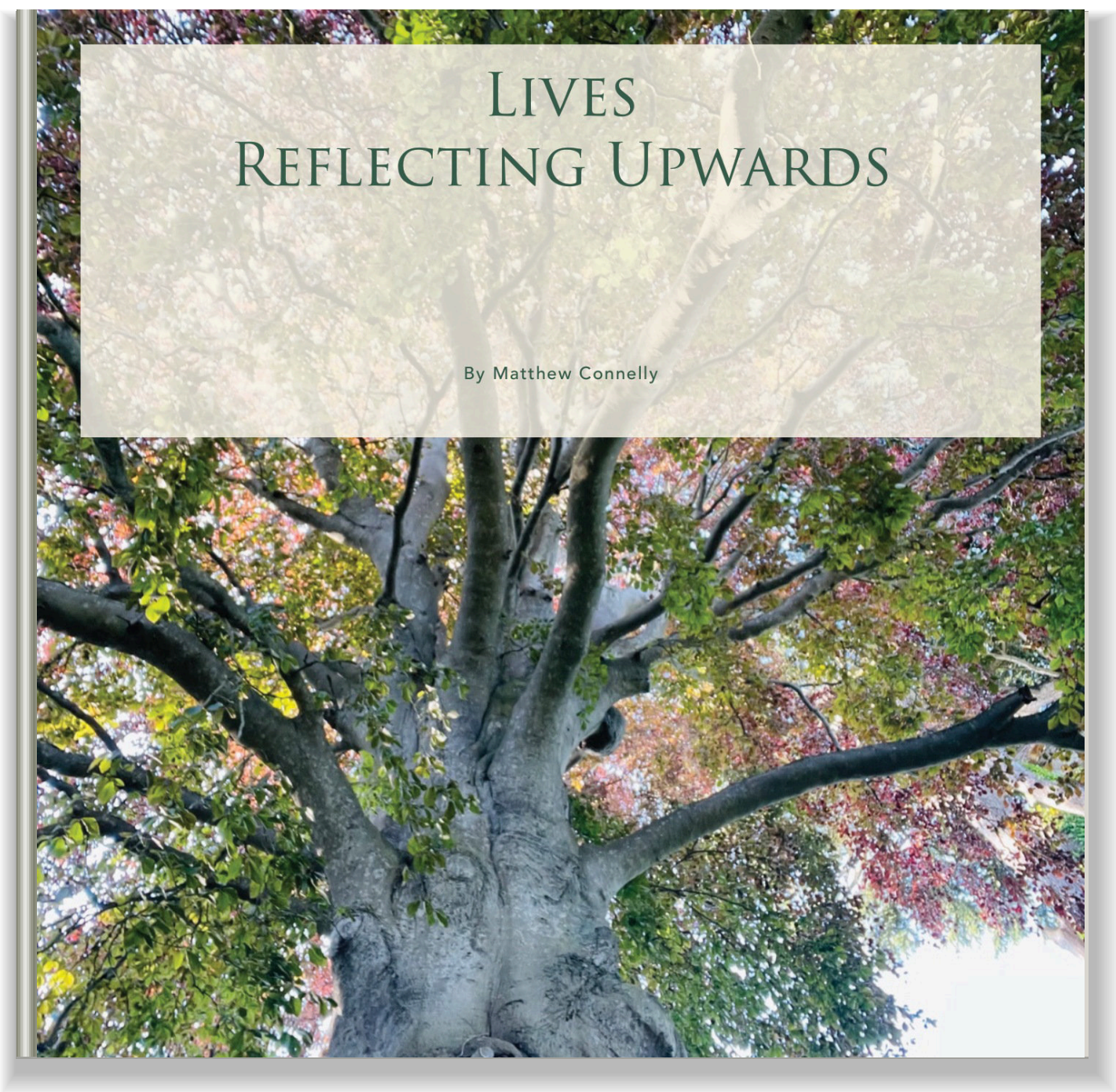
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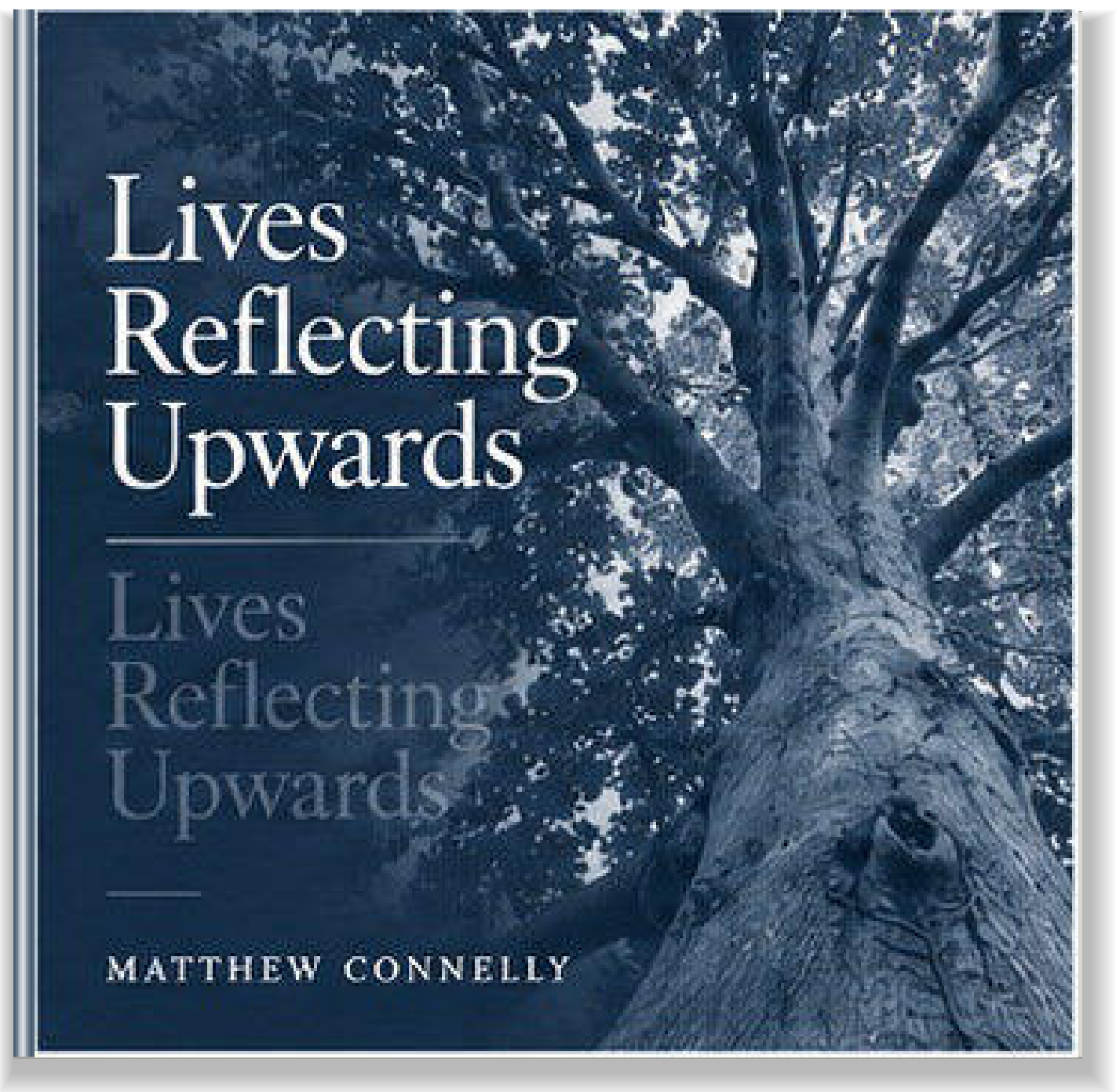
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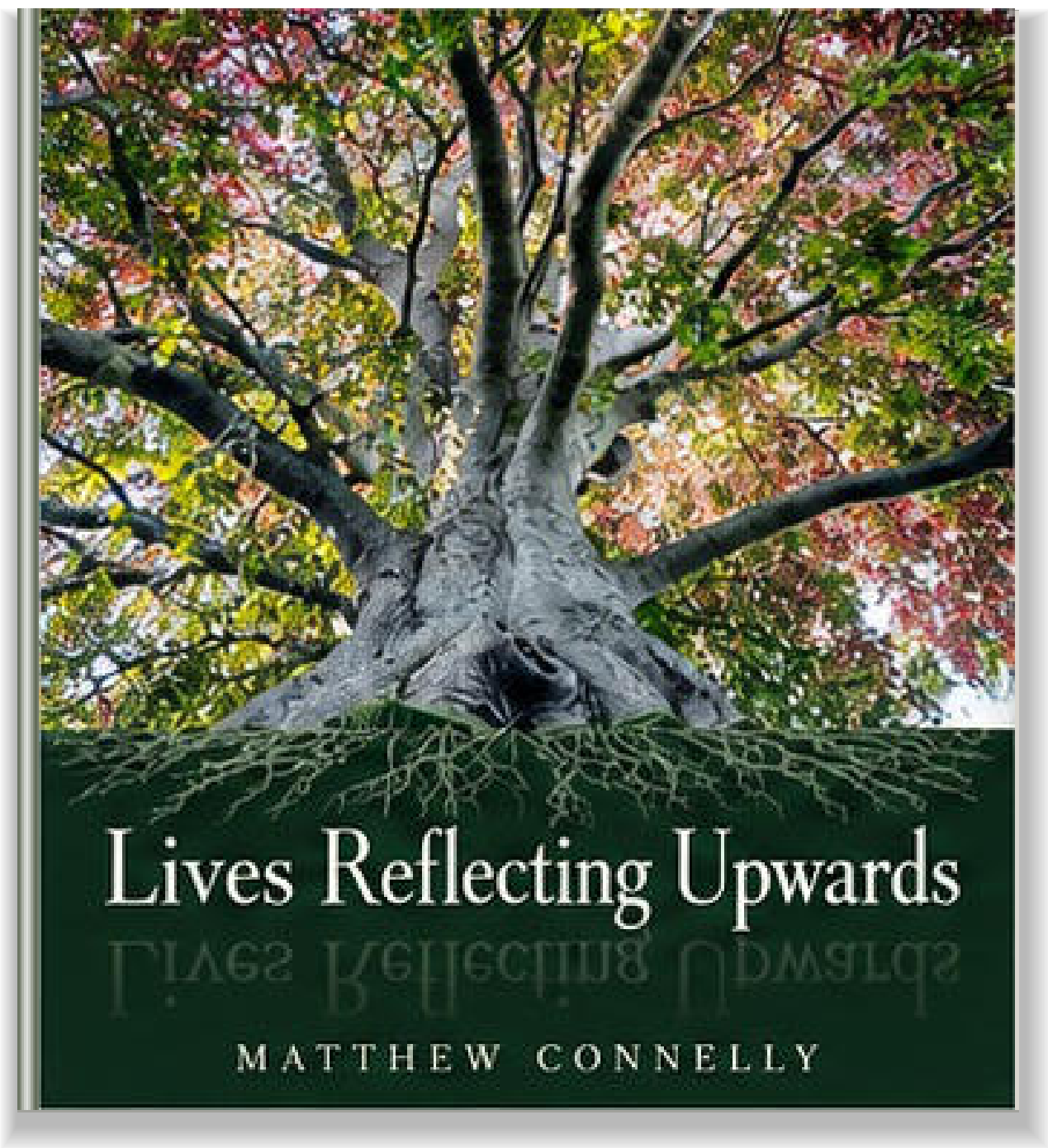


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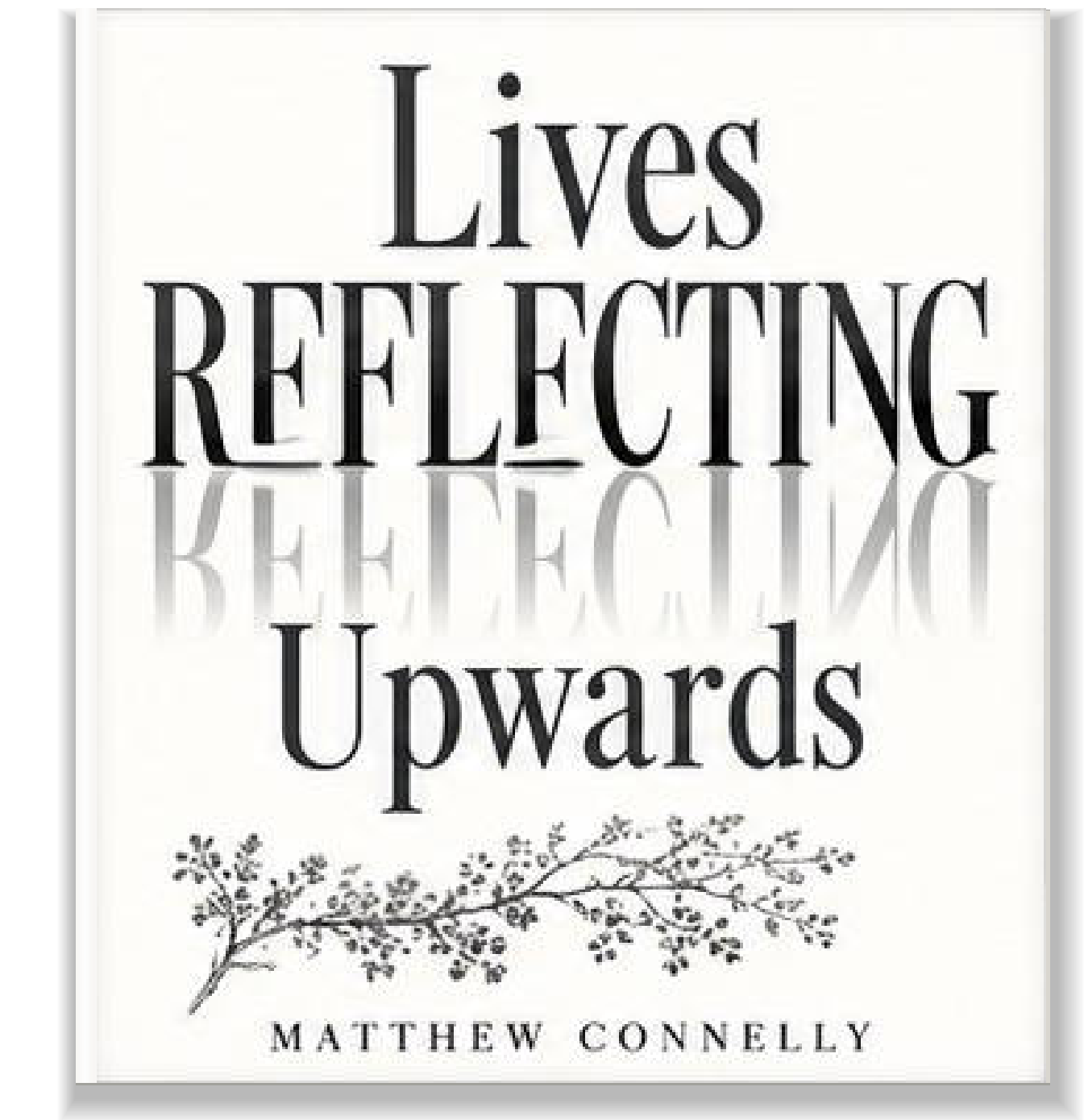


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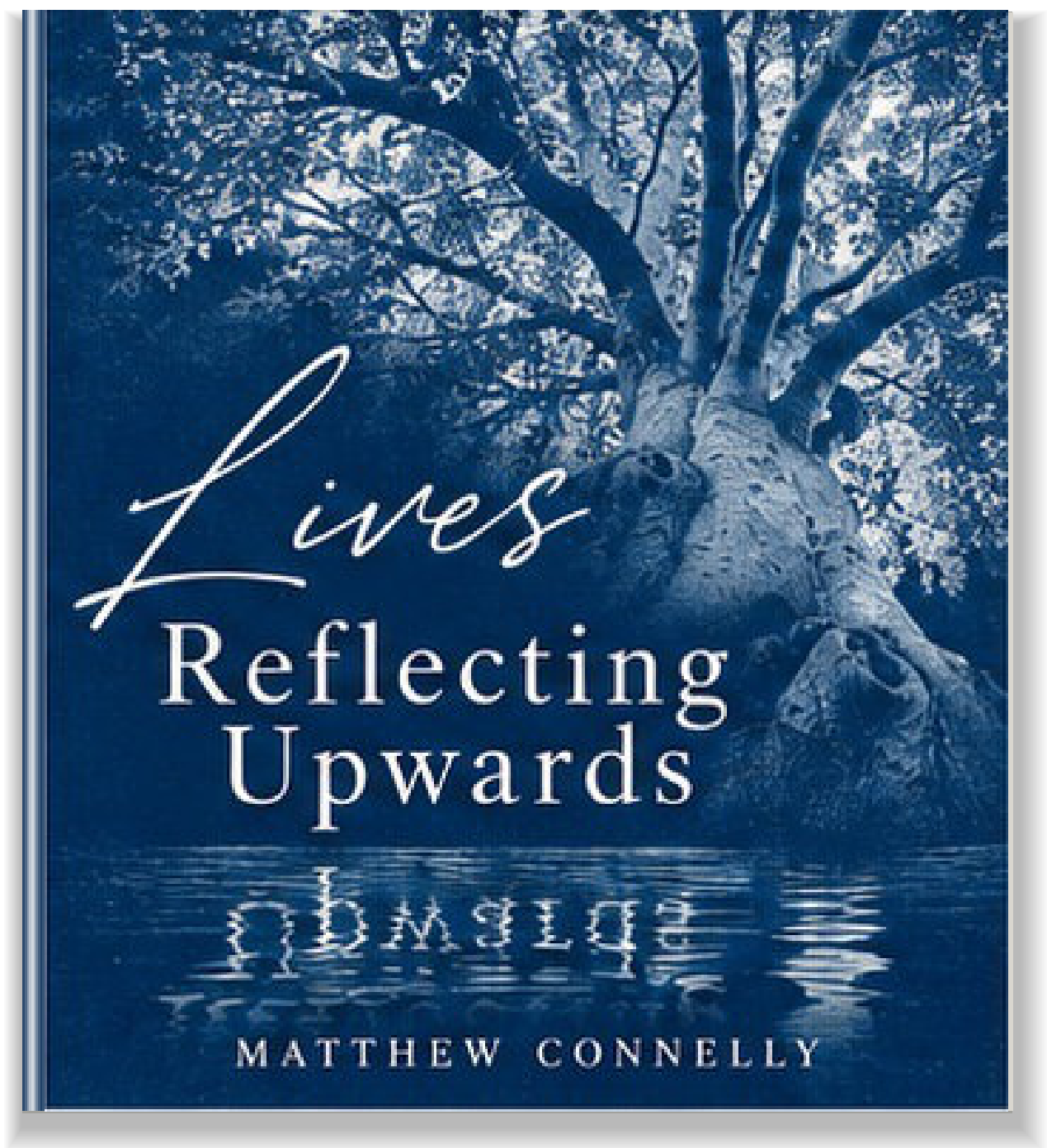
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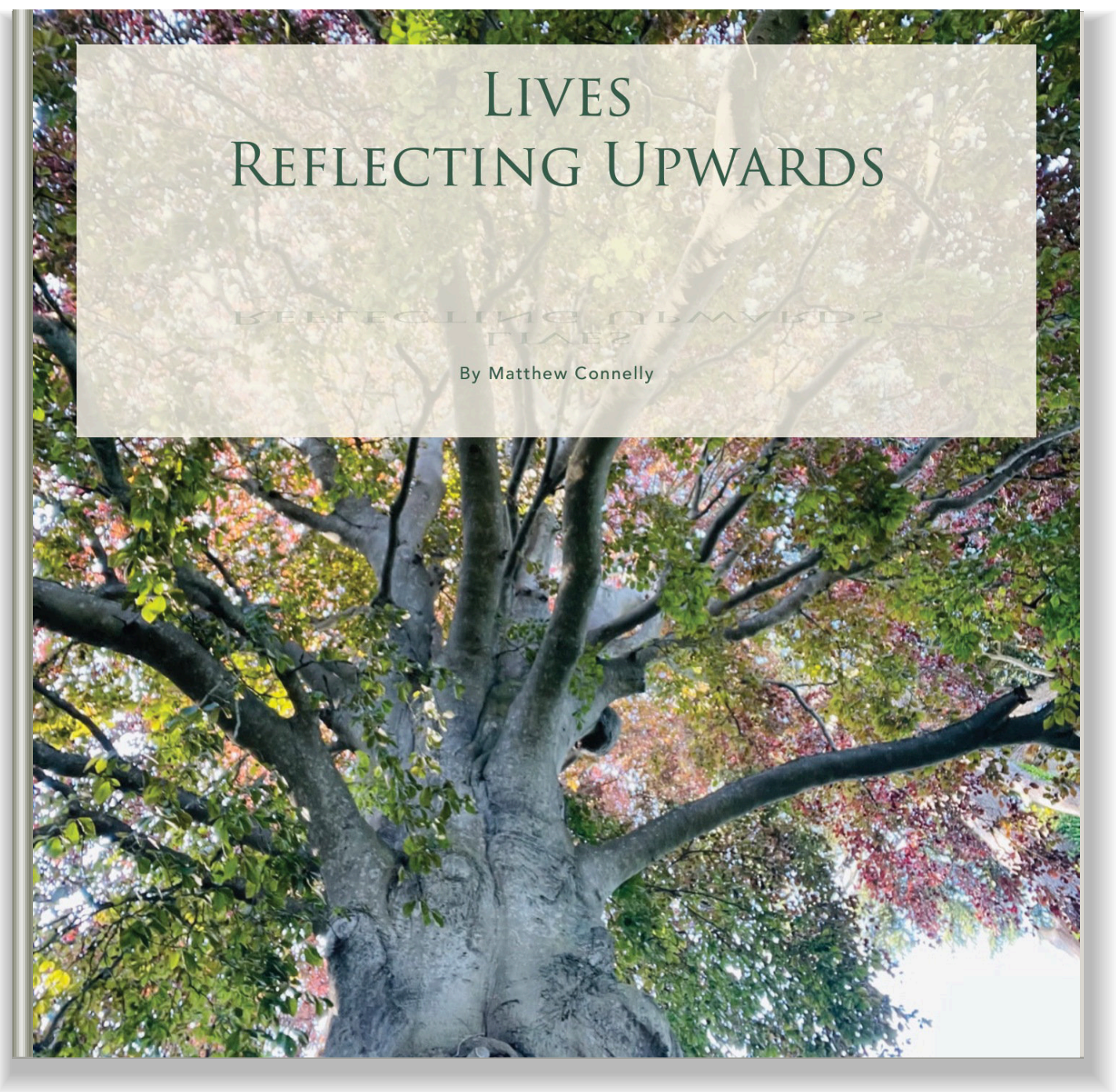
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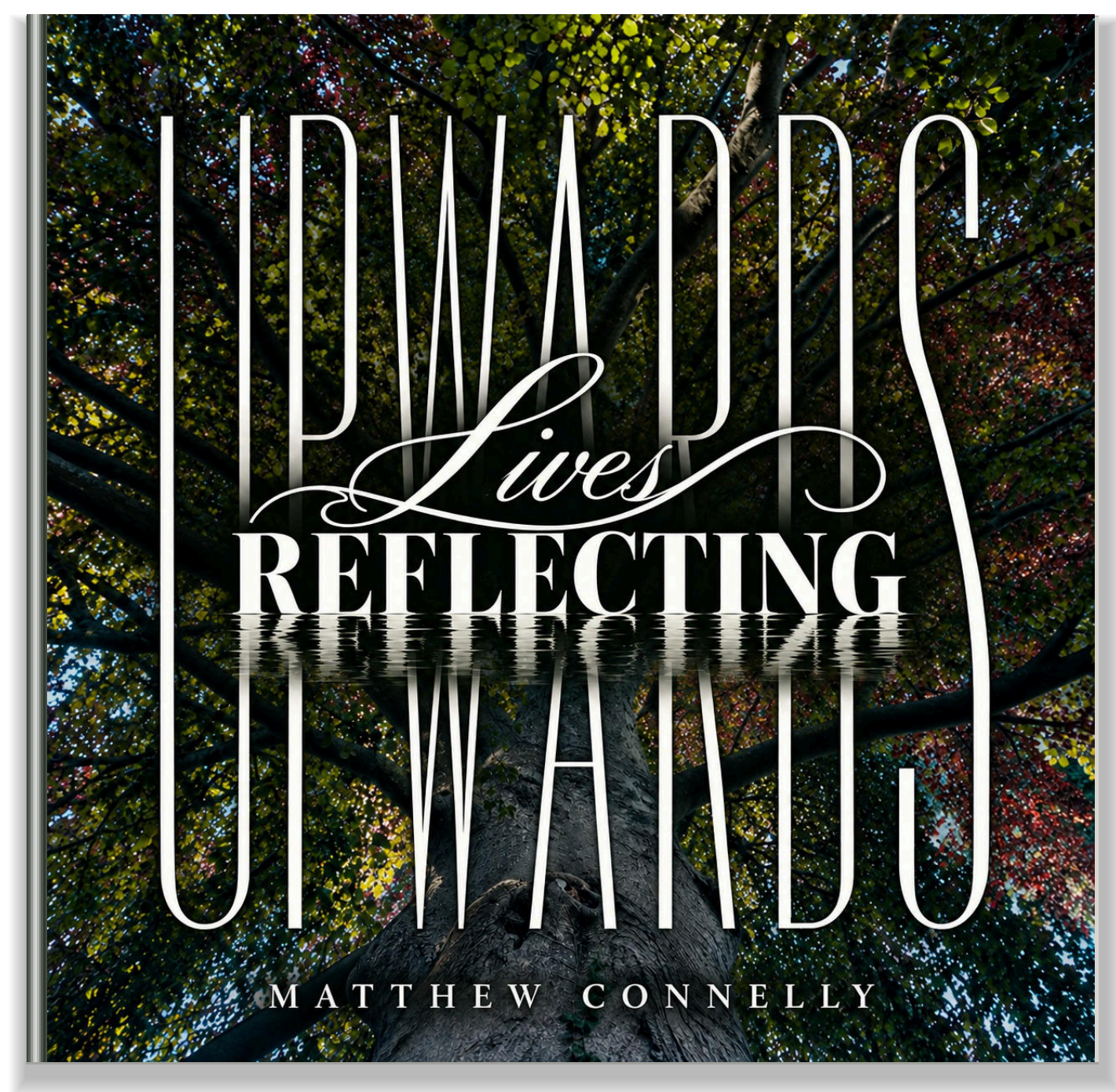


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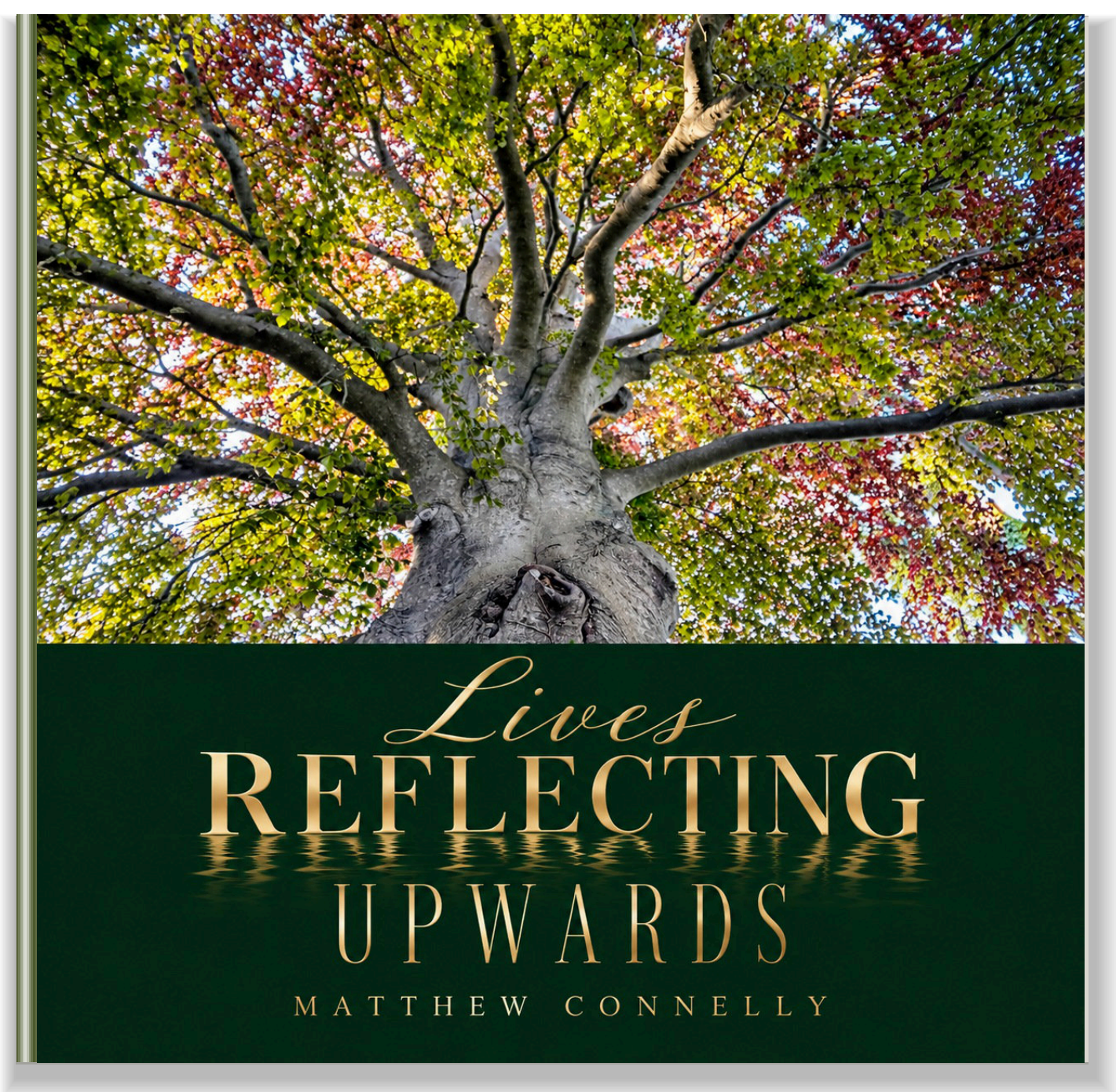
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Inside the book

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CHAPTER THREE

The Economics of Leaving Home

The decision to leave home involved far more than courage—it required money. For most immigrants, simply securing enough funds to purchase a one-way passage to America was an extraordinary achievement. Beyond the ticket itself, they also needed enough money to survive after arriving until work could be found. Every dollar or shilling represented months, and sometimes years, of sacrifice.

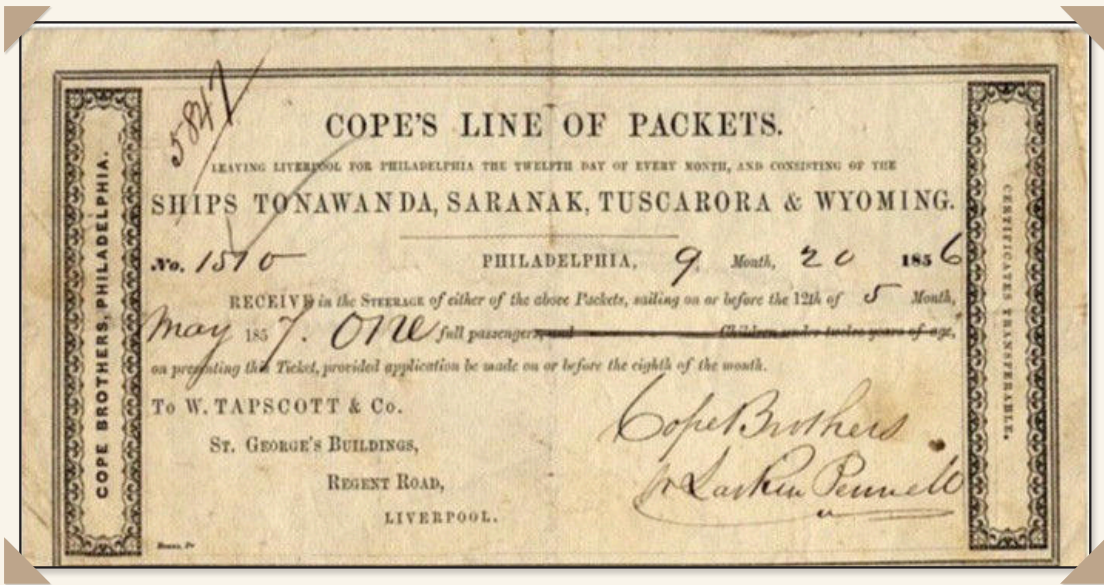
For my Irish ancestors who emigrated during the late 1830s and into the famine era, a steerage passage from Liverpool to Philadelphia generally cost between **£3 and £6** in the late 1830s. By the height of the Great Famine, increased demand often pushed fares to **£5 to £8**, and sometimes even higher.

To place those figures into perspective, an Irish agricultural laborer typically earned only **8 to 12 pence per day**, and then only when work was available. With **240 pence in one pound**, a £5 passage represented approximately **100 days of wages** before spending a single penny on food, clothing, rent, or supporting a family. Because employment was often seasonal and uncertain, saving enough money for passage frequently required a year or more of careful budgeting and sacrifice.

Many families sold livestock, mortgaged or sold household possessions, borrowed from relatives, or received **remittance money** sent by family members who had already established themselves in America. In many cases, an entire extended family worked together so that one person could make the journey, hoping that success in America would eventually allow others to follow.

The true cost of passage was therefore measured not simply in pounds and shillings, but in years of determination, sacrifice, and hope.

Even after stepping ashore in Philadelphia or New York, immigrants faced another challenge. They still needed enough money to secure lodging, purchase food, and survive until they found employment. Purchasing a ticket was not merely paying for transportation across the Atlantic—it was an investment in a future they could only imagine.



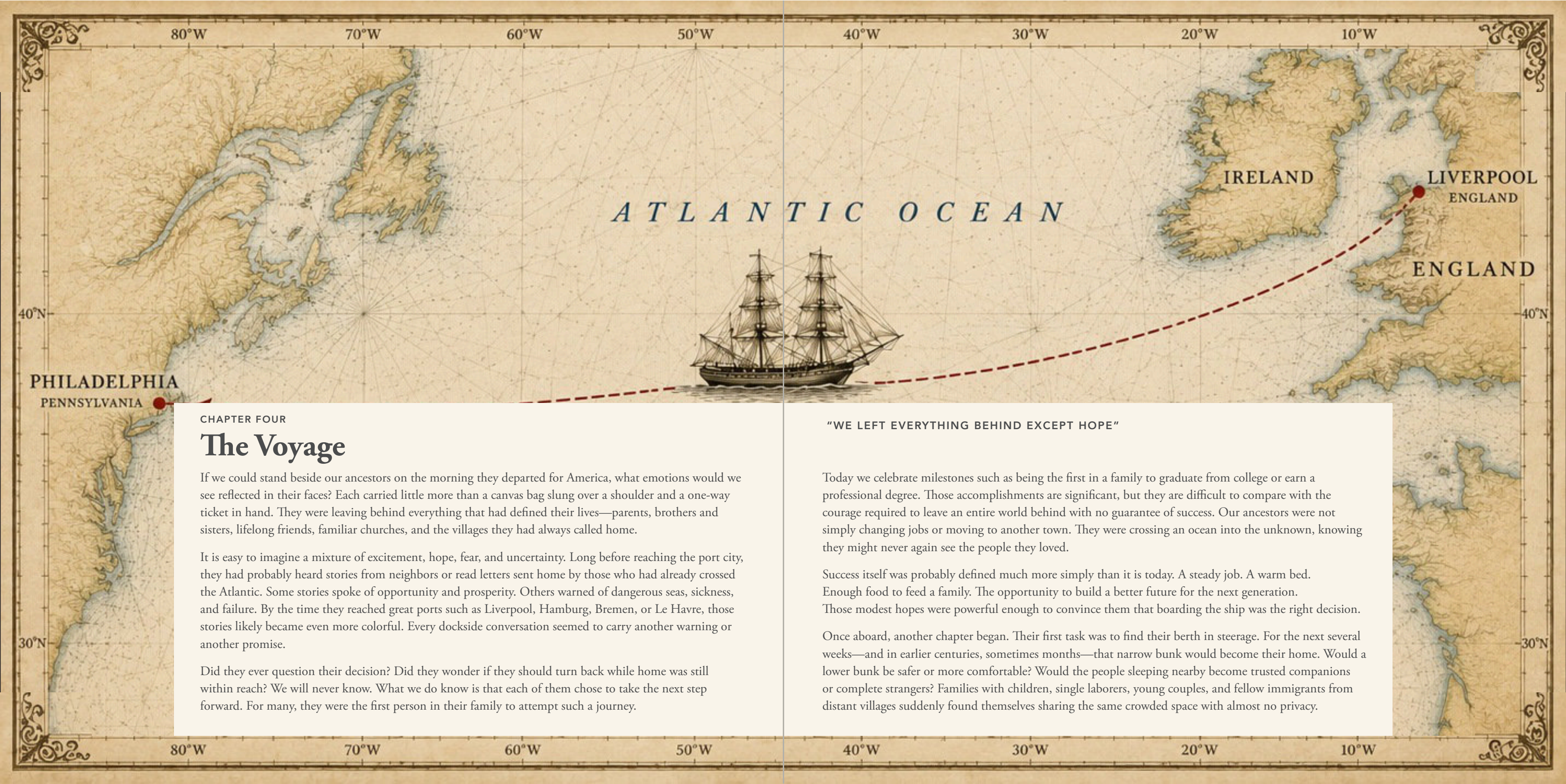
Photograph: Steerage Ticket

An example of an 1856–1857 Liverpool-to-Philadelphia steerage ticket for one-way passage. While issued a few years after Edward Connelly's probable voyage, it closely represents the type of ticket he would have purchased. More than a receipt for transportation, it symbolized the opportunity to begin an entirely new life.

Approved opening spreads

Inside the book

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Approved opening spreads