



BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

CONTEMPORARY
FICTION



THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING GUILT BY
DEFAULT FOR YOUR NEXT
BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

RJ BARCLAY

Dive into the gripping narrative of “Guilt by Default,” where the tranquility of family life is shattered by the haunting specter of a past mistake. Follow John Quisenberry as he navigates the complexities of a life turned upside down when his name surfaces on a public sex offender registry. Amidst the turmoil, John must confront the consequences of a long-buried incident that resurfaces in the worst possible way, threatening to unravel the fabric of his existence and the lives of those he holds dear. RJ Barclay masterfully weaves a tale of suspense and emotional turmoil, exploring the themes of guilt, redemption, and the indelible impact of one’s actions.

WORD COUNT: 65,000

PAGE COUNT: 250

KEY WORDS: False Accusation | Family Drama | Legal Thriller | Moral Dilemma | Psychological Suspense | Redemption Story

DEMOGRAPHICS: Readers who enjoy crime fiction, suspense, and psychological thrillers

COMP BOOKS: Goodbye Days by Jeff Zentner | Willow by Julia Hoban | The Unmade World by Steve Yarbrough | Atonement by Ian McEwan

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Redemption Blend

Ingredients:

- Dark roast coffee beans
- Cinnamon sticks
- Whipped cream
- Dark chocolate shavings
- A splash of bourbon (optional)

Preparation:

- Brew a strong cup of dark roast coffee, symbolizing the deep and intense emotions of the protagonist.
- Stir in a cinnamon stick to add warmth and complexity, reflecting the intricate layers of the narrative.
- Top with whipped cream to represent the hope for redemption amidst the turmoil.
- Sprinkle dark chocolate shavings for a bittersweet touch, mirroring the story's poignant moments.
- Add a splash of bourbon for a hint of boldness, akin to the protagonist's journey towards truth.

Enjoy the "Redemption Blend," a drink that captures the essence of "Guilt by Default" with its rich flavors and thoughtful composition.



SIGNATURE DRINK

- Survivor's Guilt by AlexanderTheGreat
- Mortal Man by Kendrick Lamar
- Mirror by Lil Wayne Ft. Bruno Mars
- Guilty Conscience by Eminem Ft. Dr. Dre
- Sorry by Justin Bieber
- All Too Well by Taylor Swift
- When We Were Young by Adele
- Demons by Imagine Dragons
- Before You Go by Lewis Capaldi
- Confessions Part II by Usher
- Back to December by Taylor Swift
- Hello by Adele
- Hurt by Johnny Cash
- Unforgiven by Metallica
- Say Something by A Great Big World & Christina Aguilera



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the center, a wooden chair with a curved back sits on a light-colored rug. To the left and right are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The background features a large window with light streaming in, and a small table with a plant is visible behind the chair. The overall style is soft and artistic.

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN
THE DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- **Character Motivations:** What do you believe motivates John Quisenberry's actions throughout the chapters?
- **Moral Dilemmas:** How does the author portray the moral dilemmas faced by the characters, particularly John?
- **Family Dynamics:** Discuss the impact of John's situation on his family dynamics and relationships.
- **Legal Implications:** What are the legal implications of the events that unfold in the story, and how do they affect the characters?
- **Character Development:** How do the characters evolve from the beginning to the end of the excerpt?
- **Setting Influence:** In what ways does the setting influence the events and the characters' reactions?
- **Themes Exploration:** What themes are explored in the excerpt, and how are they represented?
- **Conflict Resolution:** How do the characters deal with conflicts, both internal and external?
- **Author's Style:** What is unique about RJ Barclay's writing style, and how does it contribute to the story?
- **Predictions:** Based on the excerpt, what predictions can you make about the outcome of the story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Themes

Explore the impact of past mistakes on the present, the concept of guilt and redemption, and the influence of public perception on personal identity.

- **Character Analysis:** Discuss the motivations and development of characters like John Quisenberry and his family, exploring their dynamics and choices throughout the story.
- **Exploration:** Delve into the themes of guilt, family, and societal judgment. Consider how these themes impact the characters and the narrative.
- **Setting Impact:** Examine how the settings, from John's workplace to the camping trip, influence the plot and character interactions.
- **Author's Message:** Reflect on the author RJ Barclay's intended message and how it resonates with the readers, considering the impact of the book's events on their perspectives.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS



RJ Barclay was born and raised in Northern California. She has a BA in Psychology, and an MA in Depth Psychology. Her thesis explored the stigma of suicide and long-term effects of the children left behind. Her passion is to explore topics silenced by shame and bring to light a different point of view. Recently retired, she is excited to pursue her love of writing. *Guilt by Default* is her debut novel.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PURCHASING OPTIONS:

- ◆ AMAZON
- ◆ BARNES & NOBLE
- ◆ SMASHWORDS
- ◆ KOBO
- ◆ APPLE IBOOK