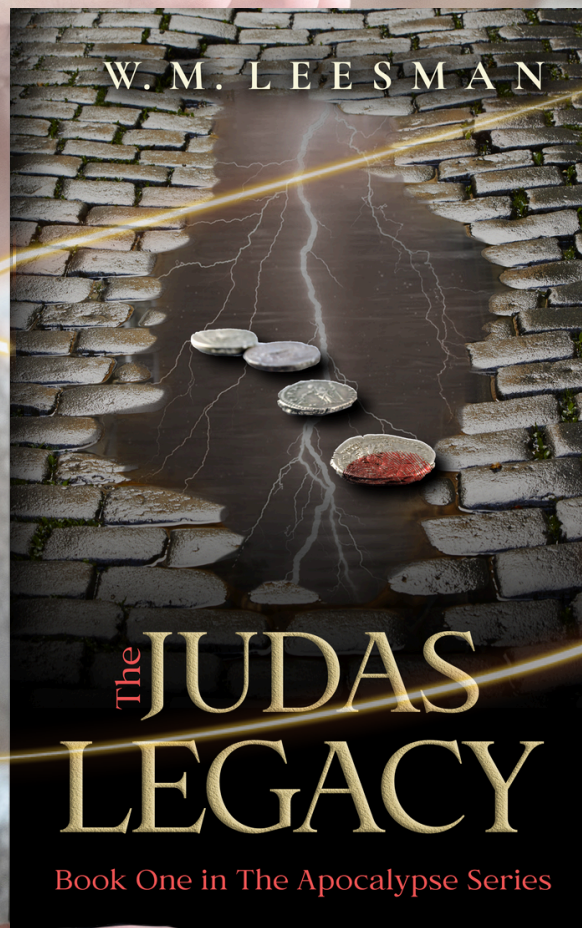


The Judas Legacy

by W.M. Leesman

Book Club Prompt Guide



THE JUDAS LEGACY

A READER'S PROMPT GUIDE

A word from the author...

My debut novel, *The Judas Legacy*, is a thriller inspired by working in the numismatic industry where people sought money, often for the historical significance, and hoped for value.

In the early '90s the Financial Action Task Force (*anti money laundering*) stipulated that ID was taken for transactions over \$1,000. For deals of \$10,000 or more, a declaration was to be completed.

We were on guard constantly, so customers and anecdotes often made me wonder "What story would come out?" if these coins could talk.

Who owned it?

What world events did it experience?

What if they were part of a robbery?

Were there famous and infamous people who handled the coin(s), etc.?

An idea was born. After a decades-long hold on writing the book, I published my debut novel early in 2023! It has made its way to more countries than I have travelled to.

Readers are saying they have been surprised by the twists and enjoyed the book.

I hope you do too!

“

“Leesman's writing style is engaging and fast-paced, which kept me hooked from the very first page. The plot is intricately woven, with unexpected twists and turns that keep the story fresh and unpredictable. The inclusion of Roman-era relics added a touch of mysticism and historical intrigue for me, and I feel elevated the novel beyond a typical thriller.”

Ice Breakers

Q and A

1. What was the first book you remember reading?
2. What's your favorite genre?
3. What book needs a sequel?
4. What was your last 5 star read?
5. Where do you read?
6. Hardcover, paperback, audio or ebook?
7. Two reads and a DNF? (A twist on 2 truths + 1 lie; name 3 books and let others guess the Did Not Finish.)

Alphabet Soup

Moving from player-to-player, name a person, place or thing from the current book, following A-B-C, etc. See how far you can get.

Literary Snowballs

Divide into 2 teams on either side of the room. Hand everyone a sheet of paper and have them write a question about the book.

Crumple the sheets into *snowballs* and, at a signal, throw them across the room to the other team.

The team who correctly answers the most snowballs wins.

Scoring:

2 points—to a team for each correct answer

1 point— to the other team for each incorrect answer.

Credit to litlovers.com, bookclubbish.com

THE JUDAS LEGACY

A READER'S PROMPT GUIDE

Who was your favorite character? What character did you identify with the most? Were there any characters that you disliked? Why?

How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you most about The Judas Legacy?

Was there any part of the plot or aspects of the characters that frustrated or upset you? If so, why?

THE JUDAS LEGACY

A READER'S PROMPT GUIDE

How thought-provoking was The Judas Legacy? Did you find yourself wondering, what if? Are there lingering questions you're still thinking about?

How would you adapt The Judas Legacy into a movie? Who would you cast in the leading roles?

Did you reread, highlight or bookmark any passages? Did you have favorite quote(s)? If so, share which and why?

What kind of reader would most enjoy this book? Who do you most want to read The Judas Legacy?

Beyond the Book

The Judas Legacy includes several historical scenes. This is not unusual for this genre of novel. One of the questions consistently asked is: "Are the characters and scenes real?". Using real historical figures and events woven into a fictional narrative can help create a more believable novel that stretches ideas like 2000-year-old relics that may have been used in the past.

Historical Scenes and Characters in The Judas Legacy:

The payment to Judas Iscariot by the priests

- No one is clear on how this event took place, if it did at all. The Biblical account is stated in a general sense of the action in two chapters. But the specifics are vague. According to ancient Roman chronicler, Josephus, Caiaphas was the Jewish High Priest during those years. Theophilus ben Ananus and Ananus ben Ananus were younger brothers who followed as High Priests.
- There are supposedly thirty silver coins similar to the ones received by Judas conserved at the AUB Archaeological Museum in Beirut.



The Siege of Masada in circa AD 73

- Eleazar ben Yair was a real rebel leader at Masada who was purported to give a rousing speech to his people in Masada just prior to the final assault by the Romans (Jewish Virtual Library). In the novel, the characters of Beulah and his nephew Judas, are fictitious.
- Lucius Flavius Silva Nonius Bassus was the actual Roman general who commanded the Roman army, composed mainly of the Legio X Fretensis. It also had many mercenaries including Jewish troops.
- There is an official narrative that 960 Jewish people in Masada were killed but only 28 actual bodies were found and rumoured to have killed themselves or each other. What happened to the missing bodies is a mystery the novel explains as well as the disconnect between the official narrative and the fact that the Jewish people at the time would not have committed suicide.

The Execution of the Russian Royal Family

- In 1917, the Russian Royal family was captured and held in a farmhouse made into a prison in Ekaterinburg. The windows were boarded up and the conditions of living there became increasingly worse for the family. Of course, the Tzar and Tzarina and their children in the story are real. Leonid Sednev was the chef's assistant, left before their executions, and survived until WWII.
- Yurovsky was in charge of the imprisonment. His assistant, Grigory was known to be cruel.
- Andras was a fictional character in the book. However, there were Left people at the farmhouse who were both pro and anti Tzarist.

The Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna

- The Grand Duchess Olga was the younger sister of Emperor Nicholas II. She eventually emigrated out of Russia to Denmark, and made her way to Canada. She was a well-known painter. Did she ever meet with Queen Elizabeth II? The Grand Duchess was known to have been visited by many foreign dignitaries, so it is possible.

Predicting future events in the book

- In the book, two characters conspire to manipulate Canadian elections. The novel was written in late 2018. The actions of these 'diplomats' was speculative in nature and used as a turning point for one of the characters. However, it was discovered in 2023 that actual interference in Canadian elections did in fact take place, involving the Chinese government.

Further consideration...

These are just a few more questions you might like to discuss, in addition to or, in place of the listed set! Some are author originals while others have been adapted from Bookclubs.com .

- ☐ Did the book strike you as original?
- ☐ What was your favorite part of the book?
- ☐ Which scene has stuck with you the most?
- ☐ Did this book remind you of any other books?
- ☐ Would you want to read another book by this author?
- ☐ If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?
- ☐ Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
- ☐ How long did it take you to get into the book?
- ☐ How does the book's title work in relation to the book's contents?
- ☐ Did you find the author's writing style easy to read or hard to read? Why or what made it such?
- ☐ If you could give the book a new title, what would it be?
- ☐ Did any part of this book strike a particular emotion in you? Which part and what emotion did the book make you feel?
- ☐ Was there any part of the plot or aspects of the characters that frustrated or upset you? If so, why?
- ☐ From your point of view, what were the central themes of the book? How well do you think the author did at exploring them?
- ☐ Compare this book to other books you have read by the same author, or other books you have read covering the same or similar themes. How are they the same or different?

Author Q+A

Do you have a writing ritual?

From a planning perspective: I create a character bio, answering some standard questions about traits, hobbies, thoughts, vital statistics, etc. I then map out a general day planner for each major character to establish their habits, relative to the story.

From a writing perspective: Approximately the same time every day, coffee in hand, I head to the office, and put in my earphones. I turn on the music and type. Music seems to bring out the creative juices.

Who is your favorite writer?

When I was younger, Stephen King. I read a lot of horror. When I owned my book store, I learned to appreciate a breadth of writers. So do I have a favorite? No.

Which authors do I read a lot of besides King?

James Rollins and James Patterson. Michael Connelly and Wilbur Smith. Thomas Harris and Dean Koontz. These are my favorite fiction writers. I enjoy the gritty, believable stories they write.

How do you balance making demands on the reader with taking care of the reader?

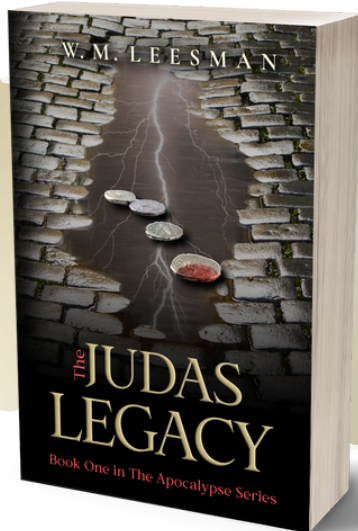
In The Apocalypse Series that is character heavy, I include a character legend at the front of each book. Otherwise, I write the story. I trust my readers are able to pick up on nuances so they can enjoy the aha moment.

Have you ever killed off a character your readers loved?

Yes, and I still hear about it on a regular basis from my daughter! It was a vital part of the story though.

Do you hide any secrets in your books that only a few people will find?

Yes. Happy Easter.



While "The Judas Legacy" is a bit different than the genre I typically read, I wasn't disappointed. This was an excellent story that kept my attention until the very end. I look forward to the next installment in the series.

As an indie author I rely on word of mouth and reviews! If you enjoyed this read, I would be grateful for you leaving a review on your favorite sites, such as:

[Amazon](#), [Goodreads](#), Social Media, and telling your friends.

Thank you for reading The Judas Legacy!

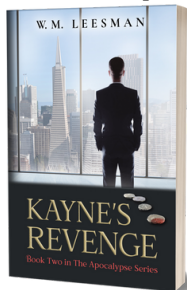
f @WilliamLeesmanAuthor

@WMLeesmanAuthor X



Next Up!

Series Book Two: Kayne's Revenge



Wewelsburg Castle, Bavaria, Sept 1933. The Nazi elite unleash an ancient force upon the world - one of the infamous thirty pieces of silver, said to be infused with malevolent power.

Decades later, former Congressman Daniel Hamilton will stop at nothing to preserve his media empire and regain political power through possession of the coin. Manipulating his sons, Kayne and Aaron, Hamilton is determined to rewrite history.

Recruited by The Order, a clandestine organization, rare coin dealer Brad Stockman has been tasked with tracking and retrieving the relic and making life and death decisions. With the countdown on, Brad and his fledgling team must end Hamilton's power play and retrieve the relic before it can be used as it was in WWII, in this battle of good versus evil.

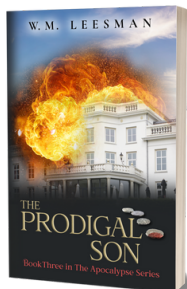
It's the beginning of a worldwide conspiracy that will rock the globe.

Brad's journey began with learning of the evil relics in The Judas Legacy. It wages on in Kayne's Revenge where he discovers not all is as it seems with The Order. In the finale, The Prodigal Son, revelations will expose Brad and his family to a dark world of secrets better left buried.

Brad has sworn to protect the coins but at what cost?

"I found the storyline and the storytelling even richer than the first book, while keeping a good balance of action and suspense."

And then... Series Book Three: The Prodigal Son



11th-century France, Pope Urban II commands a clandestine gathering under a cloak of secrecy. The quest? To secure ancient relics of unparalleled power, coveted by forces both righteous and malicious.

Now, unseen enemies and traitors are hellbent on destroying The Order, the secretive society sworn to protect the relics from misuse. When whispers of a chilling conspiracy lurk beneath the surface, waiting to rewrite history and reshape world order as we know it, rare coin dealer Brad Stockman delves into the shadows to uncover the truth.

In the final deadly game of cat and mouse, Brad's team must unravel the web of intrigue that spans from the Pope's plans to the most famous shooting of the 20th century, and beyond.

The Apocalypse Series began with The Judas Legacy and continued in Kayne's Revenge.

Corruption is the name of the game in this thrilling finale where Brad discovers the secret his family kept and must decide his own fate when it comes to the 30 pieces of silver and their evil power.

Read it now to discover the epic conclusion and find out who, if anyone, wins.

"I love how the author intertwined actual historical facts and places with fiction to make this series so believably real. Action packed and edge-of-your-seat moments abound in this story, as in the two previous books."

Alphabet Soup Answer Key

with some obscure book words to get you from A-Z. This isn't an exhaustive list, but at least there's one word for each letter!

A-Area 51, Alexander, Ananus

B-Brad

C-Calgary, constable

D-Dian

E-Enzo, entrepreneur

F-Freddie, Franconi, Foothills

G-Grace, Garrett, Guillaume

H-Henry, history

I-Isadore, Izak, inspector

J-Judas, Joshua

K-Ken, Kelowna

L-Luke, Leonid

M-Maricia, museum

N-Notre Dame Cathedral

O-Ontario, Olga

P-Peterson, podcaster

Q-Qin, Quenton

R-Reghan, Robinson

S-Shaun, Sandeep, Stockman

T-Thaddeus

U-University

V-Vatican, Via Silla, Volkswagen

W-windbreaker, Wanda

X-Xian

Y-Yeung

Z-Zoey

This image shows a full page of white paper with light gray horizontal lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the bottom right corner, there is a small rectangular area containing a black and white QR code. To the left of the QR code, the text "Philosopher's Dugout Newsletter sign up" is written in a dark, sans-serif font.

