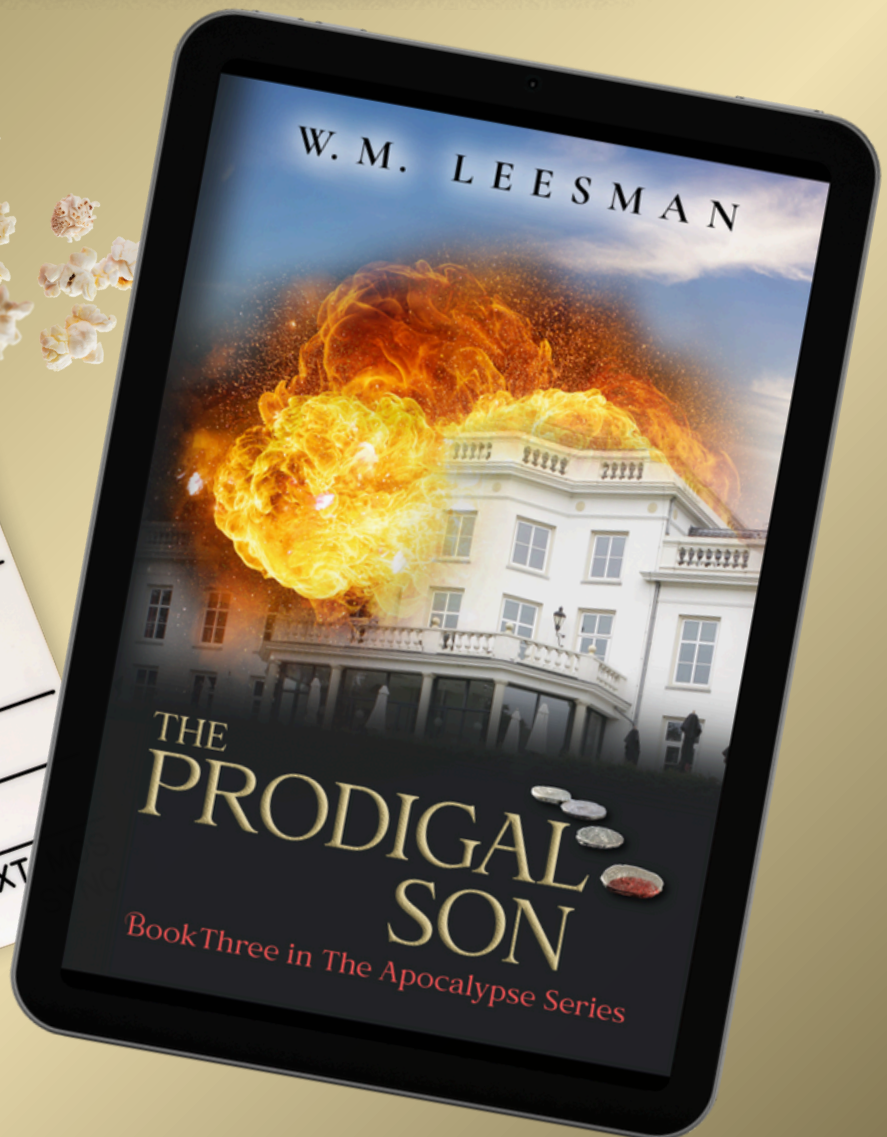


The **Prodigal Son**

by W.M. Leesman

Book Club Prompt Guide



THE PRODIGAL SON

A READER'S PROMPT GUIDE

A word from the author...

In the fall of 2024, after *Kayne's Revenge*, I wanted...no, *needed*, to tie up loose ends left behind in the first two novels. Of course, many of those threads were deliberately left unknotted.

Those darn frayed and loose ends.

Brad, Dian and Ken had many unresolved conflicts with Guillaume, going back in time.

Who had conspired with Pierre?

Then, *who was who* in setting up Brad and the rest of the team for failure? More importantly, *why*?

And, finally, what's with Joshua Robinson?

All of these questions needed answers.

Of course, most people will identify the historical basis of the first novel, *The Judas Legacy*. Beginning with a betrayal by Judas Iscariot, it made sense to title the other books after mythical stories. Hence, *Kayne's Revenge*, book two, the story of brothers caught in a battle for their father's attention.

The Prodigal Son was the final chapter in the set.

The Apocalypse Series is like life. A multifaceted and twisted journey with heroes who are broken, allies who sometimes turn away from each other and villains who are complex.

The one thing I can promise, you will find someone to root for.



"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."

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, thing, or event from the current book, following A-B-C, etc. See how far you can get.

Book Title Pictionary

Don't panic over your artistic talents—remember this is just like Pictionary, except with a bookish twist. Stick figures, doodles, and symbols are most welcome! Instead of drawing words, you will be drawing book titles.

How to play:

Write down as many titles from books as you can think of—if you need some inspiration, have a look at Goodreads! Fold the pieces of paper in half and place them in a bowl.

Divide your group into 2 teams, and let the games begin!

A person from the first team picks a piece of paper and tries to draw the book title on a large piece of paper or a whiteboard. Whiteboards are so much fun as everyone can watch and sometimes, you will look back and be astounded that your team guessed the title from your doodles.

Each team has a minute or two to guess the book title (*more than 2 minutes is usually far too long*).

Now, it's the second team's turn.

Teams score a point for correctly guessing the title, and whichever team has the most points at the end of the titles in the bowl, is the winner.

Credit to litlovers.com, bookclubbish.com, onceuponabookclub.com

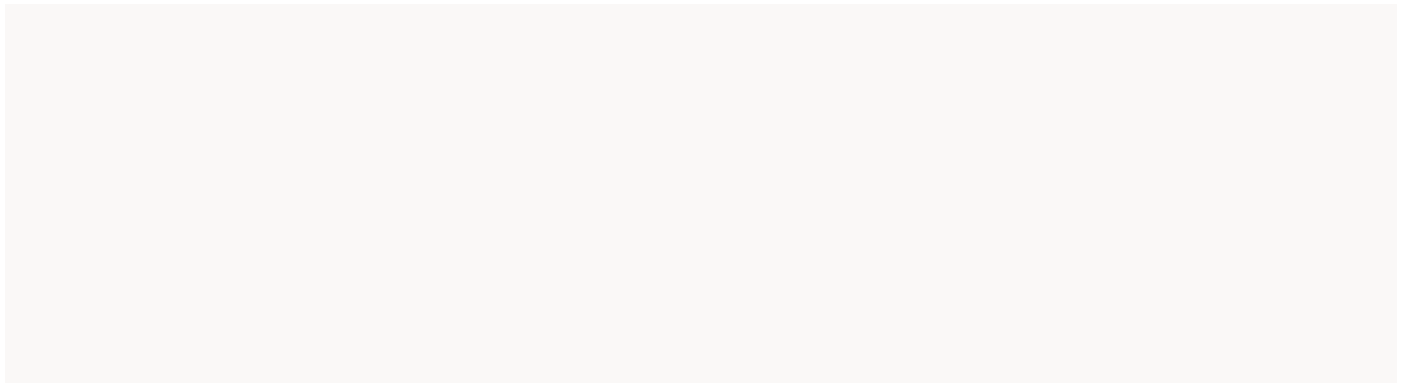
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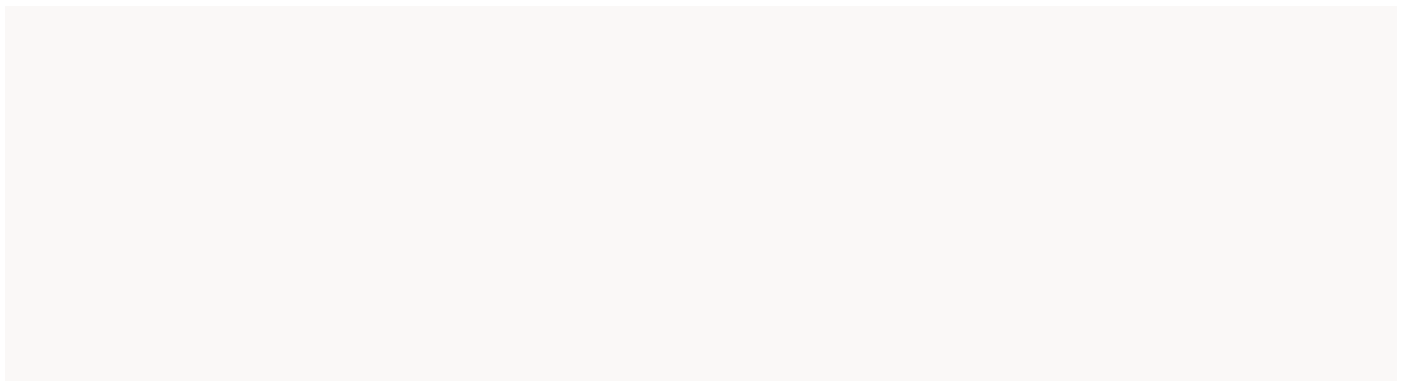
Who was your favorite character? What character did you identify with the most? Were there any characters that you disliked? Why?



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



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



THE PRODIGAL SON

A READER'S PROMPT GUIDE

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

How would you adapt *The Prodigal Son* 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 Prodigal Son*?

Historical Facts and Fiction of The Prodigal Son

Assassination of John F Kennedy (Dallas Texas 1963)

On November 22, 1963, the President of the United States, John F Kennedy, was assassinated at Dealey Plaza in Dallas Texas. At the time, Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested as the lone gunman.

Before he could go to court or testify, Oswald was gunned down, while in police custody, by mobster Jack Ruby. There is much speculation over whether events stated in the official record are accurate. Many claim it could have been anybody, from the Mafia to the Cubans and Russians, or to the US government itself.

What is known, is that the official files have never been released and the term *conspiracy theory* was born out of the conjecture of that event.

Battle of Hastings (East Sussex, England, AD 1066)

In AD 1066, the Battle of Hastings, between the Normans-led by William Duke of Normandy and the English-led by Anglo-Saxon King Harold, was a turning point in British and European history. There is much debate about the historical facts of the day, with much of it gleaned from the iconic Bayeaux Tapestry.

What is not in dispute is the Norman victory and the rule of England by William the Conqueror (Guillaume in French). All of the characters in the chapter are real individuals. Eventually, each of the major players on the Norman side were given lands by William, and he built the Tower of London.

Launch of the 1st Crusade (Clermont, France, AD 1095)

More than one thousand years after the Siege of Masada, the Holy Lands were under the control of Islamic Rule. At the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II commanded the ruling heads of Europe to take back the lands in the Middle East.

The characters in the chapter are all real and according to documents, most attended that meeting. Shortly after, the Crusades began.

It was a small leap to incorporate the search into the story, for the remaining coins by the Pope's crusaders.

The Templars

Many myths and facts surround the Templars. Cultural stories have grown to epic proportions in literature, and in Hollywood. Founded during Pope Urban II's First Crusade, the Templars grew into an authoritative military and economic force. They are said to have amassed tremendous wealth and power with untold treasures.

In 1305 Pope Clement and King Phillip IV of France conspired to destroy the Templars and steal their treasures. Their Grand Master, Jacques de Molay was burned at the stake, but their treasures were never found. Some say they were secreted away to caves beneath Royston, England.

The Hospitallers

Much like the Templars, The Hospitallers left the Holy Lands after the Crusades. They set up their base in Rhodes and Malta, and also commanded great wealth and treasures. They eventually became the Order of St. John and competed with the Templars for wealth and prestige.

I used them as a fictional branch of The Order, whose role was to protect the coins.

Background of JFK's assassination (1959-1963)

When leaving office in 1959, President Dwight D Eisenhower had an historic and little-known exit speech in which he warned the US of hidden forces controlling governments. Between him and JFK, they met with most of the heads of state from around the globe. Many were secret meetings.

I used that as a backdrop expressing the need to remove the influential coins from the secret cabal running governments. It also allowed me to give credence to the assassination motives of JFK and the rise of his replacement, Lyndon Johnson.

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?

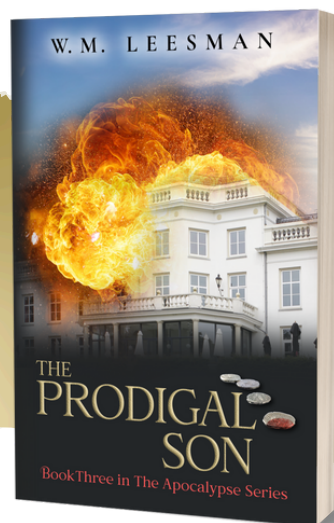
In The Apocalypse Series that is character heavy, I include a character legend at the front of each book. Otherwise, I write the story. I trust my readers are able to pick up on nuances so they can enjoy the aha moment.

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.



“Excellent series, and sorry that this is the final book 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 Kayne’s Revenge!

f @WilliamLeesmanAuthor

@WMLeesmanAuthor X IG

Wrap Up...

I spent time in both Alberta and Oregon while growing up. The two divergent cultures led to a well-rounded view of the world.

Baseball was a passion with opportunity. I played in several national championships at different levels and at 18, pitched for a team representing Canada in a World Championship. I continued playing in college until a serious injury prevented me from continuing at the same level.

Today, I'm chasing a dream that started when I owned a bookstore-to write. If you've finished The Apocalypse Series, then you've reached the end of the beginning.

What's next is a variety of stories that have been jumping through my imagination.

- A mystery series featuring an acerbic reporter with an eye for murder and mayhem.
- A dystopian action adventure following a family trying to survive a conspiracy of elites.
- Plus more...

Of course, further musings are in my newsletter, The Philosopher's Dugout. It's short and sweet and rarely goes out more than once a month. It's a spam free zone.



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 few of the answers are a stretch and sadly, nothing starting with 'X'.

A-Anton, Angela, Adam

B-Brad, Bellagio, bunny

C-Calgary, Clarice, Clifford, Caroline

D-Dian, Dmitri, Dark Theories Convention

E-EH Craine, Erika

F-Freddie, FBI

G-Grace, Guillaume, Gerhard

H-hospital

I-Illinois

J-Joshua, Jim, Jesse, JFKStarWitness

K-Ken, Koenigsegg, Kamloops

L-Lisa

M-Matteo, Marco

N-Nevada,

O-Olaf, Order

P-pool, Peter

Q-Quinn, Queen St

R-Reghan, Rockworth Asylum, runes

S-Stockman, Stanley, Salvador

T-Templars, Todestage

U-USA, university

V-Vancouver, Vegas

W-William, Wong

X-🙄

Y-Yukon

Z-Zhao (Yichén), (Boris Zubov), Zippo

