

# READING GUIDE

## **RETRIBUTION: EXPOSED**

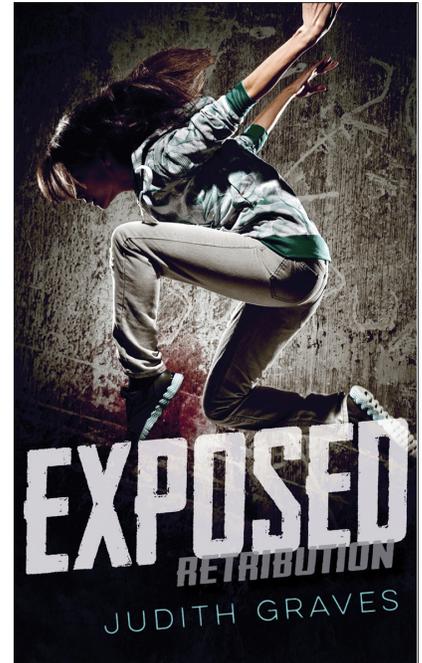
Judith Graves

Reading Level: 4.8

Fiction Ages 12+

Themes: crime, car theft, murder, blackmail,  
organized crime, danger, urban climbing, parkour

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### **SUMMARY**

*Retribution: Exposed* is one of three books in a trilogy written with two other authors: Natasha Deen (*Retribution: Burned*) and Sigmund Brouwer (*Retribution: Unleashed*).

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Raven is a street-smart girl who has learned to survive by stealing cars. Cast out by her drug-addicted parents, Raven was taken in at a young age and shown the tricks of the trade by Diesel, a street-wise enterprising hoodlum. Raven feels she owes him her life. However, things begin to go bad when Diesel puts his own needs and greed above that of the group and as a result a younger protégé of Raven is killed in a senseless accident. When Raven is blamed for his death she realizes she has been fooling herself and decides it is time to expose Diesel for the monster he is so she sets out for retribution.

### **PRE-READING ACTIVITY**

We all have stories to tell about how we were wronged by someone and how we would love to get revenge. We often fantasize about how great it would be by replaying various scenarios in our heads of exactly how that revenge might go down. Have the students share their experiences and then lead a discussion about consequences that may occur if they were to actually carry out their plan. Is there ever a time when revenge can be justified?



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**CONNECTING TO THE WORLD**

Thousands of people are victims of car theft every year. Have the students complete a power point presentation that shows the effects this has on our society. They can consider such things as methods, tools used, prevention, most commonly stolen models and recovery. The students should include stats relevant to Canada.

OR

When crime is glamorized by Hollywood in movies such as *The Fast and Furious* or *Gone in Sixty Seconds*, are people taken in by this? Do crime rates increase as a result? Have the students write a persuasive essay explaining how this would/would not encourage some to break the law.

**CONNECTING TO THE TEXT***Character*

Create a Fishbone Diagram to complete a character analysis of both Raven and Jo. How are they alike? How are they different from one another? What is it about the two of them that draws one to the other?

*Plot*

The relationship between Raven and Diesel is quite complex and changes throughout the story. Have the students create a time line that outlines this, highlighting key events within the story that lead to the ultimate destruction of the relationship.

*Title*

How is the title of the book reflected in the story? Have students discuss the various ways that details, character motives and the plotline are “exposed.”

**CONNECTING TO STUDENTS: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Throughout the book Raven, Jo and Jace continue to make assumptions about one another. Why do they do this? How does this influence their relationship?
2. Why does Raven feel that she must find a replacement for herself before she can leave Diesel?
3. In chapter 3, Mr. Nicholson recites the poem “Caged Bird” by Maya Angelou. What is the author’s purpose at choosing this poem?
4. Explain the irony of Raven referring to her house boat as “Big Daddy.”
5. At the end of chapter 5, Raven explains the importance of family:

“This wasn’t just looking for a place to belong. This was family and family was everything-especially when you didn’t have one of your own. Or you did. But they chose drugs over you long ago.”

What sort of insight does this give us into Raven’s character and her relationship with Jo, Diesel and Supersize?



6. When things begin to fall apart at the warehouse Link turns to Raven for support hoping she can calm the others down and get them to listen and follow orders. Why do the others trust Raven?
7. Diesel presented Raven with a birthday present of a caged bird hoping to intimidate her but as Raven claimed symbols mean different things to different people. How did this motivate her to ultimately end their relationship that results in Diesel's downfall?
8. In chapter 16 Raven was finally free of Diesel but she was hesitant to get on her boat and leave. Why? What does this tell us about her character?

### **AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Award-winning writer and screenwriter Judith Graves loves tragic romance, werewolves, vampires, magic and all things a bit creepy. A firm believer that teen fiction can be action-packed, snarky and yet hit all the right emotional notes, Judith writes stories with attitude. She lives in northern Alberta, and when she is not writing she works in a school library. For more information, visit [www.judithgraves.com](http://www.judithgraves.com).

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