

RETRIBUTION: INFILTRATE

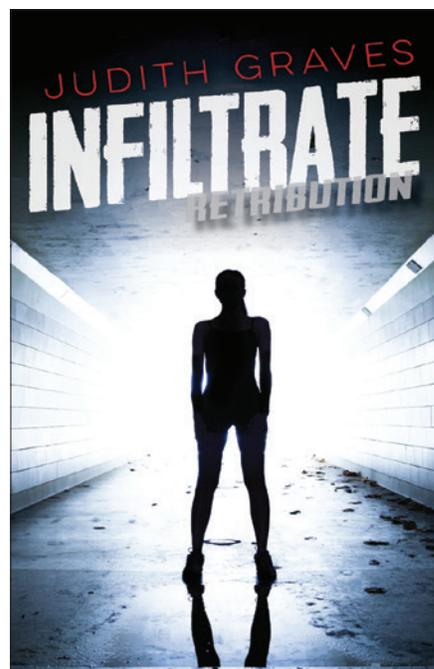
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Reading Level: 4.5

Fiction Ages 12 +

Themes: anxiety disorders, illegal drug trials, vigilantes, teen suicide, urban climbing, parkour, car theft

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SUMMARY

Infiltrate is the fifth book in the *Retribution* series written with two other authors: Natasha Deen (*Burned*, *Terminate*) and Sigmund Brouwer (*Unleashed*, *Escalate*).

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Raven is once again fighting for the underdog. When a desperate wave of teen suicides threatens to overwhelm her school, Raven does some digging and learns that all of the victims have one thing in common: issues with anxiety. With help from Team Retribution, Raven links the deaths to an unauthorized drug trial at a shady medical center. To find out more, she goes undercover, but things quickly get out of her control. Soon she's not sure what is real and what is a drug-induced fantasy.

PREREADING ACTIVITY

Brain storm the following ideas:

- What makes you anxious?
- What are some common anxieties that exist? (e.g., test anxiety, speaking in public)
- How does everyday anxiety turn into more serious problems? (e.g., OCD, phobias)
- Is there a link between anxiety and suicide?

It is not uncommon for people to think about the idea of suicide. Many of us get feeling down and think things like “No one would care if I was gone” or “That would sure serve them right if I killed myself.” Usually these thoughts are fleeting and the next day things seem better and we are able to move on. However, what happens if they are not fleeting and things don't seem to get better? How can we tell the difference? What is our moral obligation when we see someone struggling with depression and they can't seem to move past it?



CONNECTING TO THE WORLD

In this ever changing fast-paced world we live in, teen anxiety has become the most common mental health issue our youth face today. What are the causes and what can we do to support these people? With a partner, research this topic and share your findings in a Google Slides presentation.

OR

Is teenage suicide romanticized by pop culture? It has existed in our society for hundreds of years (Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*; the novel *13 Reasons Why* and its subsequent Netflix show). Write a persuasive essay expressing your viewpoint.

CONNECTING TO THE TEXT*Character*

The quote in chapter 3, "You know they practice lockdowns in schools and trap everyone inside, right?" offers insight into Jo's character and her fear of confinement due to trauma she experienced in her past. Find three quotes in the book that provide similar insight into Raven's character.

Plot

Using a cause and effect chart, explain how Team Retribution exposes both Dr. Millie and the pharmaceutical company she works for.

Title

At the beginning of the book there is a definition for the word "Infiltrate." How does infiltration occur within the story and by whom?

CONNECTING TO THE STUDENTS: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In chapter 1, after waking from a nightmare, Raven goes out climbing because "climbing [keeps] the monsters where they [belong]." What is the significance of this statement?
2. In chapter 2, Raven talks about Team Retribution and how they are the only thing keeping her from leaving town, yet they also cause a new kind of stress with new complications. Why doesn't she just walk away and start over somewhere new?
3. It is obvious that Raven is very attracted to Emmett, but she continues to fight the idea of giving into her emotions. Provide examples from the book to support this.
4. What is the significance of the infinity tattoo that the team members all have? Why does Raven feel empowered by it?
5. Raven appears to be struggling with the suicides more than the other team members. Why do you think she takes it so much more personally?



6. At the end of chapter 9, the doctor says to Raven, "There. Now you're officially one of ours." This creates a sense of foreboding. How does this set the stage for the next chapter?
7. The author alludes to Raven's terrible childhood several times. However, there is a piece of Raven's past that she wants to cling to even though she emphatically denies this. Why do you think that Raven cannot move on?
8. In chapter 14, Raven reveals that although the team always had each other's back no one trusted the other members 100%. What effect does this have on the psyche of each member?
9. At the end of chapter 17, Raven makes reference to "monsters" ("The monsters are many. They're hungry. And they know my name."). What are these "monsters" that Raven continues to refer to throughout the story?
10. Although Raven and the team are successful at stopping Doctor Millie from testing AL28-9 on any more unsuspecting teenagers, the pharmaceutical company walks away with no consequences. Why is this? What does this say about our society and the role pharmaceutical companies play?

AUTHOR 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.

