



Rebecca Forster

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### **PRIVILEGED WITNESS**

Grace McCreary swears she tried to stop her sister-in-law from jumping from her penthouse balcony but the police have a different take on the situation. They arrest Grace for murder that puts her brother, Senatorial candidate Matthew McCreary, in a spotlight he doesn't relish. Nor is he thrilled when Grace seeks out his former lover, Josie Baylor-Bates, to act as her defense attorney. Josie, who has sworn off rich clients, agrees to defend Grace but even she isn't sure why. She swears she believes in the woman's innocence but in her heart she wants to prove that Matthew made a mistake letting her go. Stepping back into the world of privilege and power, forced to face her feelings for a man she once loved, Josie is determined to win this case - even if she loses everything she holds dear.

#### **1. Grace's appearance takes Josie by surprise.**

Is Josie's reaction to Grace understandable? What does Grace symbolize for Josie? Is her anger really directed at Grace? Herself? Matthew? Does anyone ever get over a first love?

#### **2. Once Josie sees Matthew, old feelings are rekindled.**

Does Josie betray Archer on any level? Is Josie jeopardizing all her personal relationships by accepting Grace's case? Was her decision ever about Grace or always about proving something to Matthew?

#### **3. Matthew appears tortured by the consequences of his choices.**

Is his guilt a result of remorse, honest compassion for Grace, or concern for his career? Is it possible to rationalize anything including a crime as heinous as incest?

#### **4. Michelle and Grace were extraordinarily close.**

We're they drawn together because they were flawed and weak, or because they cared about one another? Do women feed off one another in unhealthy ways while men accept their own flaws and move on?

#### **5. Hannah and Billy try to help Susan O'Connel, but they are too late.**

Was Josie to blame for what happened to Susan? Was Hannah correct that Josie had become obsessed with the McCreary's?

#### **6. All the women in this story are abused.**

Was it always a man abusing a woman? Which of the characters were heroic? How did they manifest their heroism? Who was the most tragic character and why?