
Reader's Guide for *What Goes Around*

By Michael Wendroff

About the Book

When a brutal shooting shatters the calm of a small town, two antagonistic detectives are forced to work together. Jack is a hardened enforcer with a short fuse. Jill is a brilliant, intuitive investigator who is completely driven. They can't stand each other—but they'll have to stay alive long enough to solve a string of killings that leads them deep into the dark underworld of Incels and white supremacists.

As the case twists and escalates, so do the stakes—personally and professionally. What starts as a manhunt becomes a reckoning, as long-buried secrets surface and the lines between justice and vengeance begin to blur.

With a finale that redefines the boundaries between life and death, *What Goes Around* is a propulsive thriller layered with themes of loss, redemption, and the enduring power of connection that transcends time.

Themes for Discussion

- **Justice vs. Revenge:** How do the characters in the novel grapple with the difference between justice and revenge? Do you think the ending provides resolution or perpetuates the cycle?
- **Reincarnation and Karma:** What role does the twist ending play in the larger themes of the novel? Does it change your perception of the characters' actions?
- **Trust and Betrayal:** Who can be trusted in *What Goes Around*? How does betrayal shape the outcome?
- **Loneliness and Isolation:** Several characters seem to be haunted by loneliness. How does that impact their choices?
- **The Complexity of Morality:** Were there moments when you sympathized with a character who had done something morally questionable?

Discussion Questions

1. What did you think of Jack as a protagonist? Did your opinion of him change throughout the novel? What forces shaped him? What role did Jill play relative to his behavior?
 2. The twist ending reveals a connection that reframes the entire story. Did you see it coming? Were there any hints along the way? How did it impact your understanding of earlier events?
 3. How do secondary characters—such as the local police and the FBI agent, add depth or contrast to the journey?
 4. What was Jill's motivation? Did she make a good partner as half of Jack and Jill?
 5. Why do you think the author used different viewpoints? How did that enhance or detract from the novel?
 6. How did you feel about Saint? Why did he act the way he did? Do you think he's learned his lessons?
 7. What did you learn about the hate groups? Do you feel what happened to them in the end was just retribution? What more might happen to them?
 8. If this book were adapted into a film or limited series, who would you cast in the lead roles?
 9. Do you believe in the possibility of karma or reincarnation? Did this book make you think differently about those ideas?
 10. What do you think happens to the characters after the final page?
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Behind the Book: A Note from the Author

What Goes Around was born during a time of personal reflection and global stillness—COVID lockdowns, when I found myself in Venice, Florida, stuck home with no activity outside the house. The story came from a question I couldn't shake: *What if justice found you in your next life, not this one?* That seed turned into a novel that blends mystery, thriller, and something just a bit metaphysical. It also was prompted by what my mother said to me the second I was born: "Oh! How nice to see you, AGAIN!" I hope it makes you think—and keeps you turning pages late into the night.

About the Author

Michael Wendroff is a debut thriller writer with a passion for twisty plots, complex characters, and stories that linger long after the final chapter. He would be happy to join your book group either in person or via Zoom. Contact him at wendroffm@gmail.com. Michael splits his time with his wife Diane between Florida and Italy. His daughters, Alessandra and Gabrielle, and son, Hunter, were his excellent first readers. His 94 year old mother-in-law was his final proofer! And he thanks his mother, who was an editor at NYC publishing firms, but is no longer with us, at least physically, for his initial interest in writing. It will be nice to see her, again.
