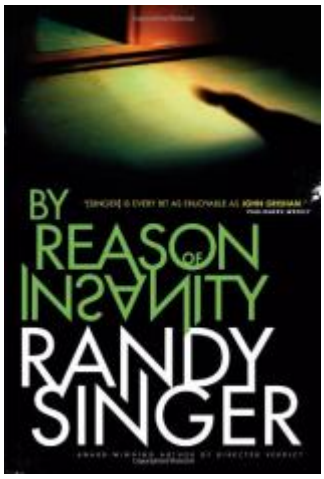
By Reason of Insanity

by Randy Singer



About the Book

After a series of kidnappings and murders in Virginia Beach, newspaper reporter Catherine O'Rourke experiences disturbing dreams that detail each crime. In an effort to aid the investigation, she shares them with her confidential source --- a detective working on the case. Catherine's intimate knowledge of the crimes immediately makes her a prime suspect. When scientific evidence corroborates her guilt, she's arrested and charged with murder. As she begins to doubt her own innocence, Catherine turns to Las Vegas lawyer Quinn Newberg, a high-priced specialist in the insanity defense. Quinn believes in justice, Vegas-style. But he doesn't believe in the supernatural, or that Catherine's dreams are anything other than the result of a fractured personality disorder. *Who can understand the human mind?* Quinn knows that insanity cases are unpredictable, but nothing had prepared him for *this!* To win, or even survive, Quinn will need more than his famed legal maneuvering and biting skepticism. On this case, he needs a miracle.

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Discussion Guide

1. How do you react to Quinn Newberg's ethics in the courtroom? Where is the line between working for his clients' best interests and being unethical? Would you want Quinn Newberg as your attorney?

2. What do you think of Dr. Rosemarie Mancini's integrity in her dealings with Quinn? with Cat? on the witness stand?

3. Have you ever concealed, exaggerated, or minimized the truth to protect someone you love? Describe that time. Was it the right decision?

4. What do you make of Reverend Harold Pryor? Does he speak the truth? How would you interact with him if you met in person? What impact does a person like the Reverend Pryor have on the reputation of Christians?

5. Have you ever taken heat for doing the right thing? What was your response? How was the situation resolved?

6. As you read, did you believe Catherine's visions were supernatural or the result of a dissociative disorder? Would your guess have been different in a novel by a different author or from a different publisher?

7. In the story, Dr. Mancini gives examples of supernatural visions that occurred in the Bible. Does God still use visions or dreams in order to draw people to Himself? Since God does not lie, would He ever give

someone a vision or dream that contradicted or called into question His written Word?

8. Describe a supernatural experience, large or small, that has happened to you or someone you know. Whom did you tell about it when it happened? How did they respond? Whom did you choose not to tell, and why?

9. For most of the story, Quinn doesn't believe in anything supernatural. What changes him?

10. How does Quinn's relationship with his niece, Sierra, affect him, especially after she comes to live with him? What are the positives and negatives?

11. To what extent do you relate to the Avenger of Blood? Can you sympathize with any of the Avenger's attitudes or actions? Is vigilante justice ever an appropriate response?

12. What if the system fails? How should a person respond to injustice? When should one attempt to right a wrong, and when should one leave it in God's hands?

13. Do you think the right person is in prison at the end of the story?

14. The major themes of the story are encapsulated in one-word at the start of each section. The theme of the second-to-last section is "justice." Was justice accomplished in these cases? The last section is "grace." Why did the author use this label for the last section? In the context of this story, what is the difference between justice and grace?

Author Bio

Randy Singer is a critically acclaimed, award-winning author and veteran trial attorney. He has penned more than 10 legal thrillers and was recently a finalist with John Grisham and Michael Connelly for the inaugural Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction sponsored by the University of Alabama School of Law and the ABA Journal. Randy runs his own law practice and has been named to Virginia Business magazine's select list of "Legal Elite" litigation attorneys. In addition to his law practice and writing, Randy serves as teaching pastor for Trinity Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He calls it his "Jekyll and Hyde thing" --- part lawyer, part pastor. He also teaches classes in advocacy and civil litigation at Regent Law School and, through his church, is involved with ministry opportunities in India. He and his wife, Rhonda, live in Virginia Beach. They have two grown children.

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