

BLUE BIRD Reading Group Guide

CAUTION: *This reading guide contains spoilers.*

About *Blue Bird*:

In the storyline that begins with *Burden of Truth* and continues with *Glass Houses*, Birdie Keane is a young woman struggling with psychological and physical traumas. She is driven to confront a violent past before considering the future. Equal parts love story and thriller this final chapter will answer the questions Birdie has been seeking. Yet even she is unsure if her need for resolution controls her destiny or is a final self-destructive act.

1. The pump house incarceration is mostly off page in *Burden of Truth*. Why is it necessary to go back there in Birdie's point of view?
2. Is Ron's hatred of Matt just about his betrayal of the conspirators or something more?
3. How do Matt and Ron compare from Birdie's perspective?
4. Characters who have strong religious beliefs are rarely portrayed with such depth in mainstream mysteries. Why do you think the author chose to create one in Birdie?
5. Noa's job is a secret even from his most trusted friend. Why? Later we learn he has a QRF. What's that about? How does that fit with the speculation about his job?
6. When Birdie first meets Matt she regards him as "the handsomest man she ever saw," while Ron is not given the distinction of even being good looking. Beyond his body, what is Birdie's initial attraction? And why has she stayed with him? Is it out of obligation?
7. Had Ron not met Birdie would he have a long-term relationship with Shannon?
8. What is Danny's motivation for calling Birdie with the upsetting news about Dog's brother? If he hadn't called would she have allowed Noa to coax her into dancing?
9. Why is it that bro friends fight and make up quicker than girl friends?
10. After learning that Noa did spy on Birdie how can she conceal her anger? Is it discipline or deviousness or something else?
11. Does Birdie know the depth of Ron's poetic side? That he's in touch with his emotions? Did Noa know before Ron waxes about his feelings?
12. Why does Ron tolerate Frank's ministering?
13. What is it about Birdie's personality that allows trouble to find her? Or does she find it? She has a developed sense of intuition so why doesn't she worry over Henderson?
14. Did someone actually tap on the glass? If so, why didn't Ron find proof of it?
15. Is the cabin sex scene disturbing? Should it be off page?
16. Is Walter's character development short shifted? What clues in *Blue Bird* and the previous books can you offer as proof into his decision making of an important life change?
17. Though not stated explicitly, what is the knowledge used to blackmail Gerard? Do you think Birdie's comment "I think I've always known" an adequate resolution to something Gerard sold his soul to protect? Did we know all along?
18. Did Birdie make the right life choice? How has she grown throughout the trilogy?
19. How has the tone of the story changed throughout the three novels?