# **ReadingGroup**Guides

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# **Certain Jeopardy**

Jeff Struecker with Alton Gansky



### About the Book

Six American men live behind a protective façade, their real work hidden from neighbors and friends. Different in countless ways, they are intimately the same in one: at any moment their lives can be altered with a phone call, and their actions may change the world. They are Special Ops. And one team?s mission is about to hit certain jeopardy status when the discovery of an Al Qaeda base in Venezuela becomes secondary to thwarting the transport of a nuclear weapons expert from that training camp to Iran. Informed by the true combat experience of Captain Jeff Struecker and finessed by award-winning novelist Alton Gansky, **Certain Jeopardy** is an immersing and pulsating fictional account of what really happens at every level of a stealth engagement: the physical enemy encounter, the spiritual war fought within a soldier, and the emotional battles in families back at home.

### **Discussion Guide**

**1.** In the first part of the book, the team is drawn into a firefight when two men spot their location. They learn the men were not the enemy, just two shepherds in the wrong place at the wrong time. J.J. is seen standing over their bodies, clearly bothered by his role in killing innocent men. Is it more difficult being a Christian in the military than for those outside of the faith?

2. What would you tell Colt if you were there?

**3.** Moyer, the team leader, believes he has a life-threatening illness yet keeps it a secret from his family and from the military. What does this tell you about the man?

**4.** John Milton said, ?They also serve who only stand and wait.? Much of the book deals with events affecting the families of some of the team members. What role do you think the families of military personnel play in the defense of our country?

**5.** Martin Caraway makes it clear that he dislikes J.J. for no other reason than J.J. is a Christian. Does that seem possible to you?

6. Are there people who blame Christians for unpleasant events?

**7.** As events unfold Caraway and J.J. are forced to depend on one another for survival. How did their relationship change during those hours?

**8.** Jose Medina, the team medic, learns his wife and unborn child are in the hospital facing one of the most difficult decisions parents can face, but events in the mission cause Jose to choose to stay in Venezuela. Do you think he made the right decision?

9. Other than their lives, what other things do active duty military risk in the course of their duty?

**10.** The team takes on a sudden and more pressing mission, one that may require an action no one wants to take: the killing of an innocent man. If they cannot rescue Dr. Hector Cenobio then they may have to resort to taking his life to keep what he knows out of the hands of a terrorist country. What are the ethics of such a decision?

**11.** Is it ever the right thing to do the wrong thing?

#### **Author Bio**

Chaplain (Captain) Jeff Struecker is a decorated member of the United States Army?s most elite fighting corps whose personal experiences in Mogadishu, Somalia, were written about in the *New York Times* bestseller and major motion picture *Black Hawk Down*. In thirteen years of active duty, he also fought in Operation Just Cause in Panama and Operation Iris Gold in Kuwait. As a chaplain Jeff has done multiple tours in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He uses his personal story of survival on the battlefield to tell others how they, too, can be prepared for any circumstances life may bring. Struecker and his wife, Dawn, have five children, and live in Georgia.

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Publication Date: May 1, 2009 Paperback: 381 pages Publisher: B&H Books ISBN-10: 0805448535 ISBN-13: 9780805448535