

**Readers' Guide for *Done Gone Wrong*  
by Cathy Pickens**

1. Who was your favorite character in the book and why? Your favorite scene? What surprised you most in the book?
2. What intrigues you most about Avery? What are her flaws and strengths?
3. When reading a traditional mystery, do you sometimes like to know something a short time before the main character/detective does, or not? When Avery drove by the out-of-the-way accident scene in Chapter 1, did you automatically assume her dinner date, Mark Tilman, was involved? Why or why not?
4. What is the evidence that Avery's family is important to her? Who's your favorite member of her family and why? Did s/he remind you of someone you know? Did you sense any ambivalence on Avery's part about her family or home?
5. In Chapter 2, Jake says the real attraction of money in a lawsuit is that it tells him whether he's winning or losing. Is that true in law? In most professions? What is Avery's yardstick for success?
6. Should Avery have walked away from the case when she found out Dr. Langley Hilliard was involved as an expert witness? Can a defense attorney (or any specialist) change stripes as Avery is trying to do? What advantage does her background give her in the Uplift case?
7. Great-aunt Letha said, "The deepest grief grows in the soil of deepest guilt." What does that mean to you? What examples do you find of that in the book?
8. Avery's been busy the last few months since being forced out of her large law firm, and her love life is noteworthy in its absence. In his 1928 "Twenty Rules for Writing Detective Stories," mystery writer S.S. Van Dine stated, "There must be no love interest. The business at hand is to bring the criminal to justice . . . ." Do you agree with Van Dine's "rule," or do you prefer that the detective/protagonist in a traditional mystery have a love interest? Why or why not?
9. Did you think Jake Baker would win the Uplift case? How did you feel about the verdict?
10. Do you think Avery will return to Dacus permanently? What are the pros and cons of going home, for anyone?