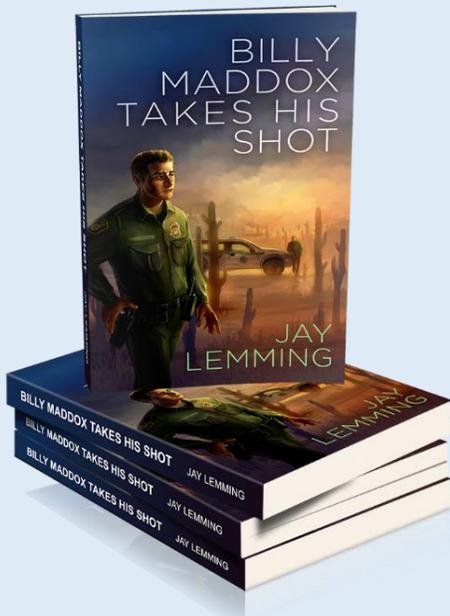


Jay Lemming Author

Billy Maddox Takes His Shot Readers' Guide



The following guide is intended to encourage readers to join or contribute to conversations about characters and themes in Billy Maddox Takes His Shot. Check out the “[Ask the Author](#)” section of Jay Lemming’s profile on Goodreads to ask a question about the novel or to find out what other readers are asking about. If “Ask the Author” is closed to questions, contact Jay by commenting on one of his blog posts at <http://jaylemming-author.com>. He will respond.

SYNOPSIS

23-year-old Billy Maddox is returning to Arizona's international border where his brother was killed in a shootout between drug smugglers and Border Patrol agents 15 years ago. Now a newly minted line agent himself, Billy is on the verge of divorce and this job is his last chance to make things right with his wife who struggles with his bouts of anger and unstable job history. Shocked by their son's death, Billy's parents largely abandoned their obligations to raise their remaining son well. With an as-yet unexpressed family grief still upon him, Billy struggles at school and finds lack of success in the workforce. He is a good man who wants to do right but personal history works hard against him. And now he is about to return to the desert landscape where things first started to go wrong. Can he finally find the way forward and save himself and his marriage?

AUTHORS' NOTE

Thanks for your interest in *Billy Maddox Takes His Shot*. Over the next few weeks, as of this writing in early May 2017, Jay will take questions about themes in the "[Ask the Author](#)" section of his Goodreads profile and encourage blog comments.

- **Theme #1: The Crippling Effect of Memory** - As the novel begins, Billy faces the strong possibility of divorce from his wife, Jessie Duncan, due to the lingering and crippling memory of his brother's death.
- **Theme #2: The Inevitability of Loss** - It is human nature to experience loss. The Maddox family loses their son and brother. Jessie loses her hoped-for future from an unplanned pregnancy. Carl loses his girlfriend. What happens when something is lost?
- **Theme #3: The Healing Power of Friendship** - Friendship has a restorative effect on someone who is suffering. Billy experiences a kind of healing when he befriends the Border Patrol agents Carl Daniels and Pete Beemer.
- **Theme #4: The Salty Taste of Bitterness** - Life's disappointments and letdowns can lead to bitter feelings. Billy struggles with anger management but his father Hector and Border Patrol Agent Nate Brown experience worse.
- **Theme #5: The Complicated Influence of Family** - Family influences can be both constructive and destructive. The same is no less true for Billy Maddox and Jessie Duncan and it has a tremendous impact on their marriage.
- **Theme #6: The Centering Effect of Parenthood** - Billy Maddox clearly has impulsive and anger management issues. But his duty has father, while burdensome at times, keeps him positively centered in some good ways.
- **Theme #7: The Opportunity for Redemption** - The possibility of redemption helps people keep their faith. Border Patrol Agent Billy Maddox experiences his chance when he encounters a couple illegally crossing the border in the Sonoran Desert.



If you participate in the Goodreads community, feel free to friend Jay Lemming or pose questions on [his profile page](#). Do you want him to blog about other themes? Comment on Jay's [blog](#) or email him at jay@jaylemming-author.com.