



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

### What's It About?

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. Everyone else thinks Zoe's worrying about doing a good job at her bakery internship and proving to her parents that she's worthy of auditioning for Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge. But with bakery confections on one part of her mind, and Marcus's conviction weighing heavily on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies.

\* Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Book of the Year \*  
 SLJ Best Book of the Year \* Kirkus Best Book of the Year \*  
 Junior Library Guild Selection \* Edgar Award Nominee \* Four  
 Starred Reviews \* Bank Street Best Children's Book of the  
 Year \* An Indie Bestseller \*

AR Reading Level: 4.4

### Who Wrote It?

Janae grew up in the suburbs of New York City, where she always wrote. She started out writing illustrated autobiographical stories in kindergarten, and then journal entries, stories to submit to Seventeen Magazine's short story contests, and letters to her pen pals and summer camp friends. She read a lot too, of course. Her books were among her prized possessions. Janae went to college to earn a writing degree and afterward she got an inside look at the publishing world while spending 7 years working for a Big 5 Publisher. Janae wrote three young adult manuscripts before switching to middle grade and writing From the Desk of Zoe Washington. In 2017, that



novel won the New Voices in Children's Literature Award in the middle grade category. Now, she lives in Connecticut with her husband, daughter, and miniature schnauzer named Cookie.

Lexile Level: 660L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆

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