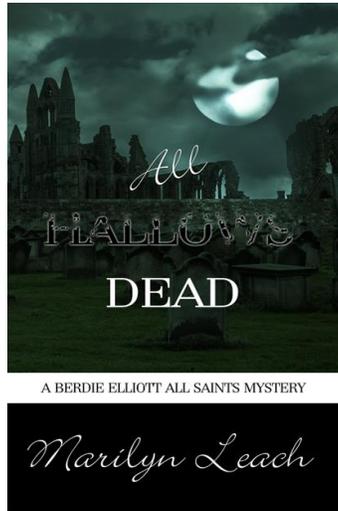


## Discussion Questions

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### **ALL HALLOWS DEAD**

A Berdie Elliott All Saints Mystery

Author: Marilyn Leach

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### **About the Book**

When Berdie Elliott, vicar's wife and sleuth extraordinaire, attends a church course with her husband in the North of England, she bumps into her former newspaper boss who calls upon her to investigate beguiling circumstances that spell murder.

From the landed Cavendish family to the local pub's manager, Criswell Abbey and its village are steeped in a centuries-old mystery.

The legend of a departed churchman, a mysterious bell tower, England's tangled history, a delayed marriage proposal, and a wily parrot all help Berdie to uncover All Hallows Dead.

TITLE: All Hallows Dead

Discussion:

Question 1: 1. What part of the story did you find the most exciting?

Answer 1: Open Ended, Many may say that Berdie's process of discovery in the church tower was the most exciting

Question 2: 2. Lillie said the time with Wilhelmina in the tree house wasn't productive, but Berdie thought Wilhelmina had told her a great deal. What do you think Berdie found significant?

Answer 2: Wilhelmina was very proper, "things were simpler then," "everyone knew their place," were remarks she made. Yet, she took a tray of drinks, which she normally considered a servant's job, to the church workman. This was inconsistent with her stiff and uppity attitude.

Question 3: 3. What specific circumstance did Berdie recognize as a divine intervention?

Answer 3: When she and Lillie bumped into Ruby Turner while trying to catch the same bus back to Criswell.

Question 4: 4. Criswell had the Brother Trustyn legend, albeit not the whole story. Have you ever had a neighborhood or urban "legend" that was circulated either when you were a child or at the present time?

Answer 4: (Open Ended)

Question 5: 5. With which character from the story would you enjoy a cup of tea? Why?

Answer 5: (Open Ended)

Question 6: 6. Who was your primary suspect for perpetrating the crime?

Answer 6: (Open Ended)

Question 7: 7. How did Sailor, the parrot, hold a major clue for Berdie that helped solve the mystery?

Answer 7: The song he sang, that he learned from Dennison, was about the treasure and its location. Agate, Beryl, and Ruby weren't actually girlfriends, but precious gems. High fire was the pele fireplace which he had uncovered.

Question 8: 8. How did the noisy little advertising car on the counter in the garage/hardware where Berdie and Hugh bought the torch help Berdie realize what was going on in the church?

Answer 8: The little car was motion activated giving Berdie the idea that the “cameras” in the church could be motion activated to create various effects.

Question 9: 9. Who was your favorite male character in the story? Why?

Answer 9 (Open Ended)

Question 10: 10. The next Berdie Elliott mystery will have Lillie and Loren’s wedding in it. Judging by how their proposal went, what can you imagine might happen on their wedding day?

Answer 10: There's bound to be something that will upset the flow of the day. (Open Ended)

