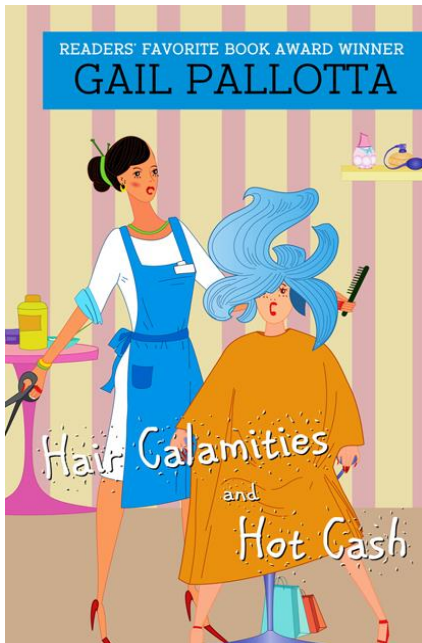


## Discussion Questions

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### HAIR CALAMITIES AND HOT CASH

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### About the Book

“A comedic romp from small town to big city in search of missing money, hair catastrophes, and love. A truly fun read”– Cynthia Hickey, author of the Shady Acres Mystery series

What happens when a New York stockbroker crashes his car into Eve Castleberry’s North Carolina beauty shop ... on the same day the young widow’s defective hair products are causing wild hairdos? Soon, Eve finds herself helping the handsome stranger hunt the thieves who stole his clients cash...and hot on the trail of two of the FBI’s most-wanted criminals!

Romance blossoms amid danger, suspense and Eve’s hair-brained plan to get back the money.

TITLE: Hair Calamities And Hot Cash

Discussion:

Question 1: Philip's car crashing into Eve's beauty shop affects her income, but the business means more to her than her livelihood. Why?

Answer 1: It's a social outlet for the lonely widow. She says, "Since Jordan died only my customers connected me to the small town outside my beauty shop."

Question 2: When Philip first arrives in Triville to service Mr. Jacobsen's account with Make More Money, he enjoys the scenery, but it doesn't occur to him to ever live here. Why and what changes his mind?

Answer 2: At first Philip misses the glitz and glitter of his life in New York. However, he's drawn to the people in Triville more and more, even though he doesn't understand why. Then he hears Reverend Binder's sermon saying God wants us to offer our fellow man friendship. He tells the congregation, "Perhaps our neighbor's not the most likable person in town. But what is his burden? Even if we don't know, we treat him or her as God says." It occurs to Philip that the residents of Triville accept one another and live by these words. That makes their lives different from some of the people he knows who only tolerate each other for business reasons.

Question 3: How do we know many of the citizens of Triville want Philip and Eve to become a pair?

Answer 3: A couple of times when Philip comes to the beauty shop to ask Eve for a date, she's about to decline, but her customers accept for her. The residents seem to go out of their way to be friendly to Philip. Even Frank, who catches Philip kissing Eve in his general store, suggests they should see each other. When Eve tries to explain they only came in to use the scale, Frank laughs and says "...As far as I'm concerned, it's about time, but not here."

Question 4: Eve is attracted to Philip. Why does she want to stop seeing him and how does she solve that problem?

Answer 4: Eve's already devastated from her husband's death. She believes Philip will leave Triville after he's conducted his business, and she can't cope with losing someone else. Philip claims they'll see each other after he leaves, but she's doubtful. Finally, she makes a deal with him. She'll see him without all the kissing and hugging. That way, he won't be lonely while he's waiting to conduct his business, and she won't be as hurt when he leaves.

Question 5: What makes Eve different from the other women Philip's been dating?

Answer 5: He sees Eve as more genuine. In his mind Eve's personality sparkled like a diamond, the real thing, and he realized he'd been dating cubic zirconias.

Question 6: Philip's in the drugstore looking for a suspicious character who may have stolen Mr. Jacobsen's money. When he eats lunch there, he tells the waitress, Teresa, she's a smart woman enjoying success others only dream about. Why?

Answer 6: He sees wisdom in Teresa's statement, "Life ain't worth living if you ain't happy, and you won't be happy unless you love the spirit."

Question 7: Reverend Binder's wife, Nancy, works hard on projects at church and at home. She has a caring spirit and kind words flow from her like a river. Eve ponders this. How does she do it day after day? What does Eve conclude?

Answer 7: She believes Nancy resists close involvement. She says "she rendered her good deed then disappeared from the scene like a lightning bug appears, brings a moment of joy, and flies away." Eve believes Nancy and Reverend Binder accept the good and bad sides of the congregants, and the congregants try to follow their examples.

Question 8: Eve's aggravated at Bonnie Sue for flirting with Philip. In spite of that, how do we know Eve cares about Bonnie Sue?

Answer 8: When Philip and Eve try to keep out of Jack and Joey's sight in Bob's diner, Philip isn't as friendly as usual to Bonnie Sue. Bonnie Sue seems upset, and that worries Eve. She wants to cheer her up, so she explains that Philip's just tired. When Bonnie Sue brings Philip's plate, he flashes Bonnie Sue a big grin, and she's happy.

Question 9: How do we know Bonnie Sue cares about Eve, and what would be your definition of a hairicide law?

Answer 9 At the end of the book when everyone goes to watch Chief Grimes arrest the salesman who tried to run Eve out of business, Bonnie Sue sashays in front of the crowd. She tells the crooked salesman that Triville has a hairicide law and he broke it. She's obviously angry at him. I'd say a hairicide law is one against destroying a person's hair.

Question 10: When does Eve grieve over Jordan's death for the first time? Why was she able to tap into her grief then?

Answer 10: Eve grieves for Jordan when she tells Philip what happened. She sobs and sobs, but realizes for the first time since Jordan died, she's free to be herself. She'd been strong for her mom before the funeral because her mom was recovering from cancer treatments. After the funeral, friends stayed with her and she didn't want to break down in front of them. When they left, she returned to work and concentrated on her business because that's what she thought she should do. Since then she's focused on running the beauty salon and hasn't let her true feelings surface until now.

