

QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE BODY IN THE LIBRARY
Part 2

This book is a “whodunit.” The author offers clues, and we try to figure out who did it. This particular whodunit is about a young woman found dead in Colonel Bantry’s library. There are many twists and turns to the plot. The questions below hardly cover the story, but they are a start. They cover chapters 8 to 17 (pages 90 to 207).

Chapter 8

1. Who is Sir Henry Clithering? Why does Conway Jefferson want his help?
2. Who does Sir Henry recommend as sleuth?
3. Why does Miss Marple believe Conway Jefferson is interested in Ruby Keene? What does Miss Marple believe Conway’s son-in-law and daughter-in-law will soon want to do?
4. Sir Henry wonders why anyone would want to strangle Ruby and leave her in the Bantry’s library OR take her there and strangle her. Why does Miss Marple believe this was done?

Chapter 9

5. Why don’t Mark Gaskell and Adelaide Jefferson believe they have a right to object to Conway’s giving Ruby all that money? Do they like Ruby?
6. What is their opinion of Josephine Turner, whom they call Josie?
7. Who is Hugo McLean? Who is William Dobbin?
8. Does Miss Marple like Mark? Does she trust him?
9. What souvenir does young Peter Carmody keep in a matchbox? Do you believe it is important to the investigation? Why?
10. Who does Miss Marple believe the body in the burned-out car is? Does she believe Ruby’s murder and this other death are connected?

Chapter 10

11. Who does the burned-out car belong to?

Chapter 11

12. Do the police believe the car fire killed Pamela? Why or why not?
13. What two people have excellent motives for killing Ruby? What are the motives? Do these two also have good alibis?

Chapter 12

14. What was Frank Jefferson's relation to Adelaide's son Peter before he married Adelaide? What is a godson?
15. How does Adelaide feel about Ruby? What does Adelaide want to do to her?
16. Where does Mark believe Ruby was the night she was killed?

Chapter 13

17. What is the state of Conway Jefferson's health? Why does this matter?
18. What does Miss Marple find "wrong" about the dress Ruby is wearing when her body is found? Why is it wrong?
19. Miss Marple implies she knows who the murderer is. Why won't she tell Mrs. Bantry? Do you know who the murderer is?

Chapter 14

20. What falls from Ruby's purse? How does Conway react? What does Ruby say?
21. What does Florence Small tell Miss Marple?

Chapter 15

22. Who does Miss Marple visit while pretending to solicit funds for the church?
23. What is missing from Basil Blake's fireplace? Why is this significant?
24. Who is arrested for Ruby's murder? Does Miss Marple believe he's guilty?
25. How did Ruby's body end up in the Bantry's library?
26. Why do the police believe Basil Blake killed two girls?

Chapter 16

27. On page 191 we read that Basil Blake "did A. R. P. work." A. R. P. stands for Air Raid Precautions, which was a British wartime organisation that helped civilians during Second World War air raids. What had Basil done there? Does this change Colonel Bantry's opinion of him? Does it change yours?

Chapter 17

28. What do the police have Conway do to bring the killer into the open?

Chapter 18

29. Who are the killers? What are their motives? Why did they kill both girls?
30. Were the clues given adequate to solve the murder? Why or why not?