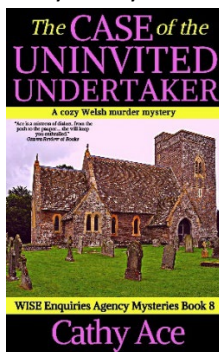


BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

The Case of the Uninvited Undertaker

by Cathy Ace



GENERAL:

- 1) In this book you met the four women who staff the WISE Enquiries Agency. With whom did you most readily identify, and why? Do you think the women have a good group skill-set for their chosen occupation? What about their “additional member”?
- 2) These women are at different stages in their lives and come from very different backgrounds. They also have differing family responsibilities and relationships. Do you think that women have to juggle family, life, and a career in a way that differs from men? Why/why not?
- 3) Are any members of your group Welsh, Irish, Scottish or English? Any ancestry from those areas? Each woman has a different sense of her own “national” identity – do you? What influences that for you? Do you think that differs between men and women, or does age and background play a more vital role? (How about having a meeting with distinctly Welsh, Irish, Scottish or English food and drink?)
- 4) There’s an interplay in these books between old traditions and new technology. By their nature traditions tend to remain the same, whereas technology brings new challenges. How do you find that new technology has changed your own life? What traditions do you adhere to?
- 5) The class structure in Britain is quite unique to that world. If you’re a British group, how do you think that affects your lives, if at all? If you’re not a British group, what takes its place?
- 6) These women all display some measure of strength, and some measure of vulnerability or weakness in the books. What were the most noticeable to you?
- 7) If you were to cast actors (dead or alive) to play these roles, who would you choose, and why?

Questions specifically relating to “The Case of the Uninvited Undertaker”

- 1) This book touches upon a thought-provoking topic: addiction to prescription pharmaceuticals, and how those who are addicted, or are affected by addiction, react to the situation. There’s also the question about how best to help those who are addicted. Despite the challenges, how about airing this one out?
- 2) Annie and Tudor are facing a challenge which basically revolves around whether they can “afford” to live together, or not. Can two really live as cheaply as one? And what about when there are pets to consider? And other lifestyle choices? Have you faced such challenges? How did you cope? Would you do things differently if you had to do it again?
- 3) “Schadenfreude” is a German word that means “pleasure derived by someone from another person's misfortune”. Is there ever a time when this is a good thing?
- 4) The celebrations for the Summer Solstice in this book are Welsh by tradition. What happens, if anything, in your part of the world to mark the longest day of the year? How does it differ from, say, twenty years ago? Is more or less done now? Are local traditions being revived in your area for this or any other specific occasions? Is that a good or a bad thing? What are their roots and origins?
- 5) If an old friend comes to call and asks for help – how far would you go to help them? What if a family member did the same? How do the bonds of friendship differ from the bonds of blood?

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Thank you for choosing to read this book!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Ace". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.