

Questions for your book club

- Did you guess who the killer/s were? What made you suspect them?
- The idyllic Devon setting clashes with the act of evil that takes place there. How did you feel the backdrop added to the story?
- Did you sympathise with Arlena Stuart as a victim?
- Stephen Lane declares early on in the story that there is an undeniable presence of evil in the air. Aside from Arlena's murder, can you think of any other examples of evil that occur?
- How is beauty linked to evil in the story? Is it seen as more of a curse?
- Could there have been a satisfying ending if Arlena had lived? Did she need to die in order for her husband to reunite with Rosamund, a partner deemed more suitable by everyone?
- What kind of character do you think Arlena is? She is almost universally disliked, and yet our only perspective of her comes from other characters.
- Did you find the murder itself believable? Or was the method too elaborate?
- How do complex familial relationships contribute to character dynamics in the book?