1. Susan Hill created the cathedral town of Lafferton so that she was not tied to a real location and could mold the town to suit the plot. Why do you think that Lafferton was so significant within the parameters of this story?

2. Romance is twisted assiduously through the bones of this crime novel and we root for Freya Graffham's happiness from the start. Why do you think her love for Simon Serrailler was met with such endless discountenance?

3. The character of Dr Cat Deerborn is used throughout the novel to portray a sensible view, a kind perspective, a voice of reason. Why do you think Aiden Sharpe chose to send his recorded confession to Cat?
4. A number of characters within this novel existed for the sole purpose of creating likely suspects. Who do you feel could have been the murderer and were you surprised when their true identity was revealed?

5. One of the interesting questions woven through the fabric of this novel is 'are the mad bad or are the bad mad' and either way, are they totally responsible for their actions. Do you believe that one serial killer could ever be more culpable than the next?