

Grave Consequences

Introduction and inspirations:

Did I say I got nearly all of my field training in the northeastern U.S.? I spent a lot of time in England, too, mostly in London and the Southeast. Part of the time I spent at the [British Museum](#), which is an odd and wonderful place. Go there and you'll see a lot of famous stuff, a lot of controversial stuff, a lot of history; you'll also get a feel for where [Elizabeth Peters' Radcliffe Emerson](#) also worked. Another fantastic place is the [Museum of London](#), which I adore. The museum has rooms organized by period so that you can see artifacts that would have been used in daily life.

If you get to Cambridge, England, the [Ashmolean Museum](#) is just staggeringly good, especially if you have a jones for pottery and porcelain. And I do. The [Jorvik Viking Centre](#) in York is a little slice of fried pie; kinda hokie to start, but lots of good archaeological education by the end. Fantastic gift shops for the archaeology geek.

Okay, I've heard that English cities are enjoying a cuisine revolution, but generally, I'm happy with a [ploughman's lunch](#): cheese, bread, salad, and "pickle". Yes, the pickle is unprepossessing: it's brown, lumpy, liquid, and acidic in the way that very few nice things are. But trust me, and shove it in with a piece of aged cheddar, and you'll learn to believe. If I can't get something more boutique-y, I drink [Director's Bitter](#) in the Southeast and [Old Peculier](#) in the North. I admit to occasionally drinking [Ribena](#), especially hot, on a damp day.

Questions:

1. In *Site Unseen* and the later books, Emma is someplace where she feels confident and is among friends. In *Grave Consequences*, she's a fish out of water, not sure of the archaeological crew and unfamiliar with English archaeology and social customs. Have you ever been in this situation? Was it completely frustrating, or were you able to make it work for you?
2. One of the things that Emma encounters in Marchester is the English class system. Do you think America has a class system? Does birth, money, accent, education, or where you live come affect your life?
3. Mistaken identity comes into play several times in this book, and in real life it can be downright disorienting. Describe a situation in which you were confused with someone else or you mistook a stranger for a friend.
4. At one point while she is excavating Mother Beatrice's grave, Emma is disturbed by strange dreams, although she tells the mystically-inclined Morag she has not had any odd experiences while working on the grave. Describe a situation that you couldn't explain

readily with everyday reasons.

5. When Emma discovers who the murderer is, she is faced with the choice of going to the authorities (which would hurt her friends) or keeping quiet (which would leave questions in everyone's minds). Did she do the right thing? What would you have done?

6. One of the themes in this book is how the various characters know things, through religion, science, mysticism, and intuition. Another theme is how "difficult" or authoritative women fit in—or don't—with society. Are women more prone to one view or another? Are men? Why?