

## Site Unseen

### Introduction and inspirations:

Nearly all of my training in archaeology has been in the northeastern U.S., and there are lots of places to check out the early history of New England. [Plymouth Plantation](#) in Plymouth, Massachusetts is fun; it's a living history museum, which means that there are interpreters or guides who dress in 17<sup>th</sup>-century costume and carry on daily activities. [The Maine State Museum](#) in Augusta has materials from early European settlements and Native American sites. Call them to check on hours and special events and remember: both will probably be pretty packed during the summer!

If you happen to be in the area, or just want to get a feel for the food, I'm a die-hard fan of the lobster roll. I'm a minimalist when it comes to lobster: the less you do to it, the better. To my mind, it should be loads of lobster meat, mayonnaise, chopped celery, *maybe* a lettuce leaf, on a grilled hot dog bun. Anything fancier, and you're tampering with perfection. I'd ask someone local where to go for the best ones. Wash it down with a [Geary's Pale Ale](#) or a [Shipyard Old Thumper](#) (and yes, I say "ship-yad," but you shouldn't, unless that's the way you talk already). Or lemonade will do just fine.

### Questions:

1. Emma says that archaeologists are at heart romantics, and yet she seems to be pretty practical, even hard-headed. What evidence is there that she is a romantic, not only at home, but about her job and the past?
2. With the skills it requires, archaeology seems to be the ideal job for an amateur sleuth. Is every occupation equally useful in detection? Why or why not?
3. Emma feels as though she has always succeeded through the intervention of others rather than by her own skills. Is this true? Is it possible to make it with one and not the other?
4. Emma finds herself suspected of murder. Have you ever been falsely accused of something? How did the people around you act?
5. When Emma follows up on her suspicions by searching an office she's nearly broken into, she crosses a line that she didn't believe she could cross in order to find the murderer. What would it take for you to do something like that?
6. In *Site Unseen* and the following books, the new student Meg forces her way into Emma's investigations on more than one occasion. Emma would never dream of endangering another person, particularly one of her students, and yet, she never quite manages to keep Meg on the sidelines. Why do you think that is?