

**Discussion Questions for *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman* by P.D. James**

(Some questions taken or adapted from <http://raforall.blogspot.com/2010/02/bpl-book-discussion-questions-for.html>.)

**Discussion Questions**

1. Is the book's title a good one?
2. What was or is a suitable job for a woman, in 1970 or today? What is this novel saying about the place of women in society? How has the role of women in detective fiction changed since 1972?
3. Did you figure out whodunit?
4. How is this story tied to its time and place? How would it be different set in another time or place?
5. Were there too many or too few details? What did you still want to know after you closed the book?
6. Who were your favorite or least favorite characters? Why?
7. "Family obligation" is a big theme in this book. What do you think James is saying about the state of the family?
8. Was this novel believable? Why or why not?
9. How did you feel about the novel's ending? What will happen to Cordelia? Will she make it on her own?
10. Book from this series have been made into TV movies. Has anyone seen them? If so, did you enjoy them?
11. Does this book relate to current society? Is it still relevant?
12. Were there any passages or scenes that you remember well or particularly liked?
13. Has anyone had any experiences that relate to places or experiences in the book?
14. This is one of the author's earlier novels. How did you like the writing style and organization of the book? Have you read others? How has her style changed?
15. Would you recommend this novel to a friend?
16. Are there any questions you would like to ask?