

Discussion Questions for
Murder Comes by Mail
by A. H. Gabhart

- Have you ever heard the saying, “No good deed goes unpunished?” What do you think people mean when they say that? Do you believe that’s true?
- Michael does a good deed that then does go bad for him. Do you think he could have done anything differently?
- Michael feels as though Detective Whitt from the larger Eagleton police force doesn’t respect his job as deputy sheriff in the small town of Hidden Springs. Do you think that, in some cases, it is true officials in larger cities think those same officials in small towns aren’t as capable?
- Did you like the work relationship between Michael and Betty Jean? Have you ever worked closely in an office with other people and developed enduring friendships?
- When they were kids, Michael and Alex promised to always be there for one another no matter what. Promises like that can be easy to make but hard to keep as life takes people down different roads. Have you ever made that kind of promise to a friend? Were you able to keep it as the years passed? Do you think Michael and Alex will be able to keep their friendship promises to each other?
- Michael loves Alex yet he’s afraid to ask her for a commitment. Do you think the two will ever find a way to be together in spite of their different ambitions and life choices?
- Michael feels responsible for the people in Hidden Springs and wants to keep them all safe. Would you want the policemen in your town to have this sort of feeling and motivation to enforce the laws? Why do you think men and women choose to become policemen? Do you have any police officers in your family?
- Each of the Hidden Springs mysteries has a cat character. In *Murder Comes by Mail*, did you like Aunt Lindy’s cat, Grimalkin, having a part in the final scenes? Do you like the cat’s name?
- Michael is the main character in the Hidden Springs mysteries. Do you like him? Why?
- Which of the other characters do you like best? Why?
- What do you like best about reading a mystery series? The continuing characters or the plot? Do you think you need a certain type of setting for a cozy mystery?

- Mysteries come in all sorts of styles. Some are whodunits. Others are suspense rides. There are the detective novels and cozies. Still others are a combination. What kind of mystery do you like best? How would you categorize *Murder Comes by Mail*?