

Detective Rob Miller

The Bisley Wood Murders

Biba Pearce



Discussion Topics

The Detective Rob Miller Mysteries Follow DCI Rob Miller and his team as they investigate murders across London and beyond. Choose your book below to download the accompanying discussion guide.

Be warned! There are spoilers in the guides, so make sure you've finished reading the book first.

The Bisley Wood Murders (Book 3)

- **The Exploitation of Trust:** How does Paul Daley manipulate his position as a charity volunteer and counselor at The Homestead to target vulnerable young girls?
- **Systemic Failure in Cold Cases:** What does DCI Purley's dismissal of Arina Parvin's disappearance reveal about jurisdictional oversights and police biases?
- **Jo Maguire's Driving Motivation:** How does the personal tragedy of Jo's missing sister, Rachel, shape her involvement in this investigation and her relationship with Rob?
- **Desperate Measures:** Was Tessa Parvin justified in staging Katie Wells's disappearance to force authorities to finally investigate her own daughter's cold case?

- **The Sacred Burial Ground:** Discuss the significance of Bisley Common as a burial site and the symbolic use of blue hair clips on the victims.

Discussion Guide

The Bisley Wood Murders (Book 3) — Discussion Guide Answers

1. The Exploitation of Trust

- **Helpline Access:** As a volunteer counselor and independent social worker for *The Homestead* children's charity, Paul Daley gained direct access to vulnerable young girls calling the helpline for support regarding abuse or domestic distress.
- **Predatory Manipulation:** He exploited his trusted role to identify at-risk girls, build rapport, and extract personal details under the guise of counseling before tracking and abducting them.

2. Systemic Failure in Cold Cases

- **Faulty Assumptions:** When eleven-year-old Arina Parvin vanished four years prior, DCI Purley closed the investigation under the assumption that her father, Ramin, had abducted her to Iran simply because he flew out of the country on the same day.
- **Jurisdictional Oversight:** By prematurely ruling the case a parental abduction, the police failed to search local woodland or review CCTV, leaving a serial killer free to continue targeting girls in the area.

3. Jo Maguire's Driving Motivation

- **Unresolved Family Trauma:** Jo's older sister, Rachel, vanished twenty years earlier after suffering domestic abuse, a tragic unsolved crime that inspired Jo to join law enforcement.
- **Personal Reckoning:** Discovering that Paul Daley was also connected to Rachel's death turns the investigation into a deeply personal mission for Jo, forcing her to confront her family's past while cementing her partnership with Rob.

4. Desperate Measures

- **Staging a Crime:** Frustrated by four years of police dismissal, Tessa Parvin staged the kidnapping of Katie Wells and planted a weighted backpack in the local reservoir.
- **Forcing Action:** Her goal was to replicate an established cold-case pattern so the authorities would connect the disappearances and finally search for her daughter's body. While her actions inflicted severe anguish on Katie's family, the stunt ultimately succeeded in reopening Arina's case and recovering her remains.

5. The Sacred Burial Ground

- **Delusional Salvation:** Daley viewed the quiet clearing in Bisley Common—near the historic Holy Well of St John the Baptist—as a "sacred" sanctuary. He delusionally believed he was "saving" abused girls from further suffering.
- **Ritualistic Posing:** He posed each victim under a shroud with blue hair clips fastened in their hair, treating the burials as acts of deliverance rather than violent crimes.