

A Circle of Dead Girls by Eleanor Kuhns

Summary

The circus has arrived in Durham, Maine. Before weaver Will Rees is able to take in its spectacle, he spots Magistrate Hanson - the man he blames for his family's having to flee Dugard two years earlier.

On his journey home he encounters Shaker brothers searching for a girl from their Zion community. Despite women not being allowed inside the circus, Leah had snuck out to visit it. They quickly come across her lifeless body beaten and thrown into a farmer's field on the road leading to the circus.

Bored of his household chores, Rees begins investigating at the expense of his home life. He becomes entranced by the lives of the circus performers, including the charismatic horse rider and tightrope walker. Is his longing for his old journeyman's life causing him to take his eye off the case, and can he stay out of Hanson's way and keep his family safe?

Discussion questions

1. *"I either hated or heartily disliked most of the characters, with Lydia being an exception. I thought Will was a wuss who SO wanted someone to pay attention to him"* Do you agree with this person's opinion of Will? Why? Why not?
2. This is a fascinating view at life in another time, with many differences from today. Were people so very different? What makes those times different today? Could you live in those times?
3. What is it about the circus that fascinates people? What are your memories or circuses? Do you love or loath them?
4. If you could ask the **author** a question, what would you ask? Have you read other books by the same author? If not, does this book inspire you to read others in this series?
5. Would this book (series of books) make a good movie or TV series? Who would you cast in the lead roles?