

A Kiss Before Dying by Ira Levin

1 (a) and (b)—*student's own answers.*

2 *Student's own answer.*

3 *Answer based on note below:*

PART ONE: *Dorothy*

young; rich; 19 years old; very possessive; afraid of being alone; always tries to make people like her; foolish; trustful; wants to marry her boyfriend; likes to dress smartly; careful about her clothes; good at Spanish; quarrelled with Ellen; a nice girl; youngest of three sisters; doesn't see her sisters very often; studying at Stoddard University; is pregnant; studies Economics, Philosophy.

PART TWO: *Ellen*

young; rich; intelligent; energetic; logical; brave; likeable; at Caldwell College; second sister.

PART THREE: *Marion*

is happy in her job; suspicious of her father when he tried to be kind; feels sorry for her father; doesn't really trust her father; dreams of a good, kind man to love her and take care of her; doesn't like people to visit her apartment; enjoys great nineteenth-century literature; likes serious novels and classical music: Proust, Flaubert, Dickens, Tennessee Williams, Bernard Shaw, Stravinsky, Bartok; likes the paintings by: Renoir, Van Gogh, Hopper and especially by Demuth; likes Italian and Armenian food; eldest daughter; went to Columbia University; 4 years older than Ellen, 5 years older than Dorothy; lives alone in a small apartment in New York City; works in a small advertising agency.

PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
1 Dorothy is pregnant.	(a) Boyfriend can get pills to cause an abortion.
2 The pills don't work.	(b) Boyfriend decides to kill Dorothy.
3 Needs to get poison.	(c) He buys a final-year Pharmacy students' textbook.
4 Needs to get into storeroom.	(d) A young woman believes he is a Pharmacy student because of the book and opens the door.
5 Needs a suicide note.	(e) He gets Dorothy to write a translation of a suitable bit of Spanish in a novel.
6 Needs to get photo back.	(f) Her asks her for it back so he can get a copy made for his mother.

5 *1312 W26th Street:* Gordon Gant (one of the people Ellen suspects of murdering her sister, Dorothy) lives here. His landlady is Mrs Arquette.
a disc jockey: Gordon Gant is a disc jockey on the Blue

River radio station.

Folger's Coffee Shop: Dwight Powell (another suspect, a former boyfriend of Dorothy) has a job here.

Evelyn Kitteridge: Ellen Kingship calls herself by this name when she goes to Blue River to find out about the murder of Dorothy.

Frederick Clausen: This is the name of an attorney who has an office in Room 1405 of the Municipal Building. Ellen pretends she has to go there about a job so Dwight Powell will go with her and she can confront him about Dorothy's death.

Dwight Powell's college notebooks: Dwight remembers he wrote the name of Dorothy's new boyfriend in one of his college notebooks. He takes Ellen to his home so he can find the notebook and give her the name. Bud overhears this conversation, so gets there first and murders them both.

6 Bud asked Ellen not to go to Blue River. Dorothy wrote to Ellen that her boyfriend was tall (blond and very handsome). Ellen knows Bud will be angry with her for visiting Blue River. ... the tall man in the dark coat who was listening to their conversation ... The tall man in the dark coat had already left.

7 (a) and (b)—*student's own answers.*

8 *Student's own answer.*

9 *Student's own answers. Suggested days to choose from:* the day Dorothy tells him she is pregnant/the day after Dorothy's death/the day he decides to pursue Ellen/the day he receives the letter from Ellen containing her theories about Dorothy's death/the day he proposes to Marion and is accepted/the morning of the visit to the smelting works.

Pages which give insight into Bud's character (in addition to the way he behaves) are pages 8-10, pages 67-70, page 81, page 85.

10 The cover picture shows a tear drop, a drop of blood and a drop of molten copper falling into a vat of the kind that Bud Corliss falls into at the Kingship's smelting works.

11 *Student's own answer.*

12 *Student's own answer.* [Filmography: *A Kiss Before Dying* (US 1956, UA/Crown (Robert Jacks)) starring Jeffrey Hunter, Joanne Woodward, Robert Wagner; *A Kiss Before Dying* (US 1991, UPI/Universal/Initial (Robert Lawrence)) starring Matt Dillon, Sean Young, Max von Sydow.]

13 *Student's own answer.*

14 *Student's own answer.*

15 *Student's own answer.*