



BURIAL RITES

BY HANNAH KENT

1. Burial Rites is based on the true murder trial of Agnes Magnúsdóttir. Does this add or distract from your enjoyment of the story?
2. How is Agnes first introduced to the reader? How does this shape your view of her? Does it change as the book progresses?
3. What do you think of her relationship with the priest, Toti?
4. Margret treated Agnes with harsh kindness from the beginning of their relationship. How did their relationship develop throughout the book?
5. Do you believe Agnes's back story?
6. How does the weather and the landscape of Iceland play a part in the book?
7. What do you think are the significance of the dreams?
8. Agnes believed she was fated to die in this manner. Does everyone else believe in fate? Do you?

9. Why is Steina so insistent that she is like Agnes? What does she mean by this?
10. District Commissioner Blondal wanted to set an example to the town with Agnes. Reading the correspondence he received from Denmark, do you believe this was necessary?

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