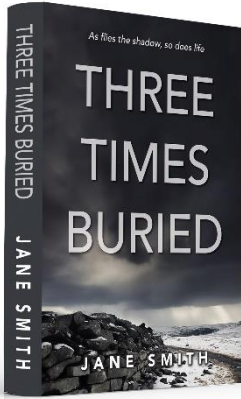


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# THREE TIMES BURIED *by* JANE SMITH

## Book Club Questions

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*As flies the shadow, so does life.*

In Scotland, 1826, Meggy McKessar comes to live and work at John Lovie's Aberdeenshire farm. John's widowed mother is warned Meggy will bring trouble, but she refuses to listen; all she wants is to for the rumours about John's sordid past to be forgotten forever. But when a sudden death casts suspicion on the widow's favourite son, the life she has so desperately tried to preserve threatens to fall apart.

Based on a sensational true crime, *Three Times Buried* is a sinister tale of torn loyalties, secrets, superstition and murder.

*'This story is well researched and written, the imagery dark, cold and vivid—a sinister tale of secrets and murder.'*

– Amazon customer

For more information about the book and the author, visit:

[www.janesmithauthor.com](http://www.janesmithauthor.com)

1. Do you think John Lovie was guilty? Why/why not?
  2. Life on a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Aberdeenshire farm was harsh. How much do you think the tough living conditions shaped the fates of the Lovies and McKessars?
  3. How did the historical setting contribute to your enjoyment of the story? Did you learn anything new or interesting about the time and place of the story?
  4. Discuss the role of superstition and omens in the story and how they contributed to the atmosphere and suspense.
  5. What were some of your favourite scenes or passages from the book? Why did they stand out to you?
  6. Which character(s) did you find most intriguing? Which character(s) did you relate to or empathise with the most? Why?
  7. Which character(s) did you dislike the most? Why?
  8. Widow Lovie turned a blind eye to some of her son's questionable behaviour. Do you think her wilful blindness was justified or understandable? Is it ever?
  9. John Lovie's mother is referred to as 'The widow' throughout most of the book. How does this affect the way readers might relate to her?
  10. Did the occasional use of Doric words affect your enjoyment of the book – and if so, how?
  11. *Three Times Buried* is closely based on a true story. Does knowing that affect how you read and enjoyed the book? In what way?
  12. If this book was made into a movie, who would you cast in the leading roles?
  13. How relevant or relatable are the themes or messages of the book to your own life, or to society today?
  14. How did you feel about the ending? Do you think John Lovie was really motivated by remorse?
  15. Do you think Meggy got justice?
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