

**TSSM**<sup>TM</sup>  
Creating VCE Success

SAMPLE

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES  
**Burial Rites**

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SAMPLE

## AUTHOR NOTES

*Burial Rites* is the first novel written by Australian author Hannah Kent. The story is based on that of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last woman to be executed in Iceland. Kent learnt about Agnes while on a Rotary Exchange to Iceland at the age of 17.

While on her Rotary Exchange to the small fishing village of Saudárkrókur, Kent experienced severe homesickness and isolation. To help combat these feelings, she turned to writing. Early in her exchange Kent's host family took her to Vatnsdalshólar. It was here she first learned of Agnes, the last person to be executed in Iceland, and became intrigued.

In her own notes at the back of the book Kent points out that her novel "is informed by many years of research" and that while it contains some elements of fiction, "most members of the family at Kornsá, and Agnes' parents and siblings, are taken from historical records." (p. 333-334).

Kent is currently completing her PhD in creative writing at Flinders University. She is the co-founder and publishing director of the Australian literary journal, *Kill Your Darlings*.

*Burial Rites* has been translated into twenty languages.

### ***Burial Rites Prizes and Awards***

2014

- Ambassador for the Emerging Writers' Festival in Melbourne
- Winner of the Indie Awards Debut Fiction of the Year
- Winner of the Victorian Premier's Literary Award People's Choice Award
- Winner of the FAW Christina Stead Award
- Winner of the ABIA Literacy Fiction Book of the Year Award
- Winner of the ABA Nielsen Bookdata Bookseller's Choice Award
- Shortlisted for the Stella Prize
- Shortlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction
- Shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literacy Award for Fiction
- Shortlisted for the ALS Gold Medal

2013

- Shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award
- Shortlisted for the NIB Waverley Award for Literature

2011

- Winner of the Writing Australia Unpublished Manuscript Award