

BOOK CLUB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR BOOK CLUBS

Winterset

TIFFANY ODEKIRK

1. Winterset Grange Manor is more than just a setting—it's a character in the story. Kate initially sees it as a place of refuge, while Oliver views it as a broken inheritance. How do their perspectives on the house evolve by the end of the novel? How do you feel about their decision to rename the house?
2. Before reading *Winterset*, were you familiar with priest holes? How does Kate's decision to hide in them shape your view of her character? What does this choice reveal about her courage and desperation?
3. Oliver is initially focused on reclaiming his inheritance and restoring his estate. How does that focus shift as his relationship with Kate deepens? What does he ultimately value most by the end of the novel?
4. Kate judges Oliver harshly at first, believing him undeserving of his estate and blaming him for Winterset's ruin. Later, she learns his reasons for staying away, and this—combined with his kindness—alters her opinion of him. How do moments of vulnerability between Kate and Oliver deepen their romantic relationship? Were there any scenes that felt particularly pivotal in changing their dynamic?
5. Isolation—whether physical, emotional, or social—shapes both Kate's and Oliver's decisions. How does their loneliness drive their actions? How do they begin to overcome it?
6. Oliver spends much of the story trying to prove his worth—by restoring Winterset, hosting the ghost story reading, and wearing expensive clothes and hats. How do these 'masks' both protect and hinder him? How does this need for approval connect to his deeper longing for belonging?

Want more book club
suggestions?

SIGN UP FOR OUR
NEWSLETTER!

SHDWMTN.COM/BOOKCLUB-EMAIL



7. If the novel had been told solely from one perspective—either Oliver’s or Kate’s—how would your understanding of the story change? Whose perspective did you find more compelling or relatable?
8. How does the story challenge traditional gender and class expectations? In what ways are Kate’s choices constrained by her role as a woman? How are Oliver’s responsibilities shaped by his status as a gentleman?
9. There are many similarities between Oliver and Markham: both are second sons, both lost their fathers to the same illness, and both inherited nearby estates. Yet they make very different moral choices. What do you think leads one person to choose good while another chooses harm?
10. Kate and Oliver never discover Mr. Moore’s true identity. Did this unresolved mystery bother you? Why do you think the author left this question unanswered? How might knowing his identity have changed the story?
11. What do you think were the main causes of the strain between Oliver and Damon? How do their individual perspectives on their conflict differ? In what ways do these differing viewpoints affect their ability to understand and forgive each other? Did their reconciliation feel authentic and satisfying to you?