The Narrow Bed

Reading Group Questions

1. Kim, the protagonist of The Narrow Bed, is dryly sarcastic, and struggles to engage emotionally with her family, husband and lover. Is she a likeable character?

2. What effect does it have on the novel that Kim a stand-up comedian?

3. Sophie Hannah has said that her experiences on social media informed parts of The Narrow Bed. What do you think this novel has to say about social media and communication in a technological age?

4. 'Books are everywhere in this investigation,' says Charlie Zailer. The killer gives mysterious, hand-made books to the victims, and sends journalist Sondra Halliday books and short stories to read. What do you think is being said in The Narrow Bed about reading and how it shapes our world views?

5. How are ideology, obsession, and extreme opinions presented?

6. The key to catching a serial killer is understanding his or her pattern. Why do different characters see different patterns in this case? What other patterns are there in the book?

7. Simon Waterhouse asks: 'Without understanding why, what was the point of knowing who?' Discuss. How well do you understand the killer's motive?