

# MARA PURL

## *Whose Angel Key Ring*

### Reading Group Topics for Discussion

1. The novellas and novelettes in this series stand alone, while the novels are written in more of a serial format. Do you enjoy holiday stories? What are some of your favorite things to read during the holiday season?
2. In this novelette, we're south of Milford-Haven, in Santa Barbara, at an opulent estate overlooking the city and the ocean beyond. How does this setting contrast with the those in the two previous holiday novelettes? Do you find the elaborate details delightful or overbearing?
3. The story focuses on the Calvin family who run Calvin Oil. Father and son work together and have always been close. What secret does Zackery discover in this story that might change his relationship with his father? Is there a reason Zack is almost as close to the family butler as he is to his own dad?
4. What is life like for the president and vice president of a private oil firm? Do you find their careers interesting? How do you think the revelation about adoption will change the dynamics for the Calvins? Do you think they'll investigate?
5. Zackery Calvin has been dating Cynthia for two years. Why isn't their relationship stable? Why is Zack interested in the artist Miranda Jones? Does a match with her seem likely? And what is the appeal of Miranda's sister, Meredith?
6. In addition to being a novelist, Mara Purl is also a former journalist who covered corporate news for the Financial Times of London. Do you sense her interest in business in her writing? What do you think about fossil fuel dependence? Do we have good alternatives?
7. Why is this book called *Whose Angel Key Ring*? Do you believe a dying mother would leave a letter for her son? Do you believe such a family secret could be kept for such a long period of time? Do you think the letter is helpful or hurtful for Zack?

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