

MARA PURL

Where an Angel's On a Rope

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 most—or least—favorite things about the holiday season?
2. Though several books in the series take place in Milford-Haven, this one takes place in the Angeles National Forest in the San Gabriel Mountains, Los Angeles County. Were you surprised to discover a mountain range so close to L.A.? Did you know Southern California could experience winter weather?
3. The story focuses on astronomer Cornelius Smith, who grew up in Milford-Haven, where his parents still live. Did Cornelius do his best to escape his small home town? Or does he maintain a fond feeling for it? Do you think he'd ever live there again?
4. What does a professional astronomer's career include? Does Cornelius' job at NASA take most of his time and energy? Or do astronomers create proposals and look for funding, much as a freelance worker does?
5. Electric cars like the Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf, and the Tesla are now becoming popular. Did you know the forerunner of the Tesla was the EV 1 described in this story? If you could have, would you have bought one in the 1990s? Do you believe we need to protect Earth's environment?
6. In addition to being a novelist, Mara Purl is also a former journalist who has written articles on NASA and other scientific topics. Had you known about the observatory on the Angeles Crest Highway? Or did you assume the author had created it for the novella?
7. Why is this book called *Where An Angel's On a Rope*? Do you believe Cornelius received guidance? Was it spiritual? Was it intuitive?

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<http://marapurl.com/books/where-an-angels-on-a-rope>