

MARA PURL

When Angels Paint

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. In this novelette, we get our first glimpse of Christmas in Milford-Haven, California, where there's no winter weather in the traditional sense. Did you get a sense of the holiday spirit in a small, coastal town?
3. The story focuses on artist Miranda Jones, who moved to Milford-Haven a few months earlier but already enjoys some special friendships and traditions. So you believe someone can move away from a vibrant city like San Francisco and feel at home in a small town?
4. What does a professional painter's career include? Does she just paint when she feels inspired? Or does she also take work for hire? How much does an artist need to study in order to have the skills to create work that pleases others and sells?
5. Miranda uses several different media in her work, including large murals and the miniature paintings featured in this book. She paints with oils, acrylics, and watercolors. Does she have a favorite? Does a particular style of painting appeal to you more than others?
6. In addition to being a novelist, Mara Purl is also a former journalist who has interviewed artists and researched their careers. For her novel series, she consults with two artists to get details correct. Do you find her depiction of Miranda's career to be realistic?
7. Why is this book called *When Angels Paint*? Do you believe Miranda received guidance? Was it spiritual? Was it intuitive?

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