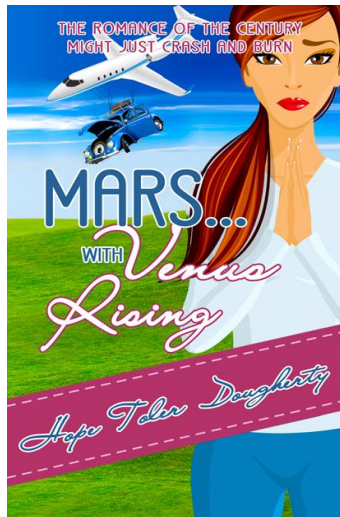


Discussion Questions



Also Available in Paperback:

MARS...WITH VENUS RISING

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About the Book

A meddling horse, paper bag floors and a flying saucer on the town square. The little town of Mars has it all—including a brand new resident who might spell heartache for one of its own.

Twenty-something Penn Davenport yearns for an exciting life in the big city and wants to shed the label of orphan that she's worn for years. To achieve that dream, she must pass the CPA exam then move away from the two aunts who reared her after her parents died in a plane crash.

When John Townsend—full of life and the joy of living—moves to town, he rattles Penn's view of herself, her life, and her dreams...which isn't such a bad thing until she falls for him and discovers he's a pilot.

TITLE: Mars...with Venus Rising

Discussion:

Question 1: Periwinkle, Penn's horse, is a source of solace and comfort for her. Have you ever experienced solace or comfort from a pet? Describe that time.

Answer 1:

Question 2: Penn enjoys wearing and derives comfort from her mother's lapis ring. Do you have an heirloom, perhaps a piece of jewelry, that reminds you of a loved one and brings you comfort or happiness? If so, describe the object and the loved one.

Answer 2:

Question 3: Jancie and Winnie sacrificed for Penn by uprooting their lives and moving from North Carolina to Pennsylvania to rear Penn. Share about a time when you've sacrificed for a loved one.

Answer 3:

Question 4: Describe Penn's personality, her strengths and weaknesses. Describe John's personality.

Answer 4: She's cautious and a realist. She is a perfectionist who doesn't want to fail. She loves her aunts and wants them to be happy. John is a free-spirit who sees failing as a stepping stone to success.

Question 5: John buys a fixer-upper with relatively no refurbishing experience. Have you ever jumped into a major project such as renovating a house with little or no experience? What were the results?

Answer 5:

Question 6: Describe how family is an important factor in this novel.

Answer 6: Jancie and Winnie sacrificed their retirement years to rear Penn. Penn's love for her aunts propelled her to do the thing she feared most, flying. By not coddling him, John's mother taught him to be strong and not to fear failure.

Question 7: Although Penn doesn't like the labels she's lived under since childhood (being an orphan is one example), she seems to cling to them anyway. What kind of labels are you clinging to?

Answer 7:

Question 8: Penn was a Christian from the beginning of the story, but she didn't view God as her strength or as an ever-present help in trouble until the flight to her aunt. Is God your strength and your help every day? If so, please describe a specific time when God has been your strength.

Answer 8:

Question 9: Penn discovered God's faithfulness in a real way during the flight and pushed through her fear of flying with His help. Has God ever sustained you through a fearful time? If so, describe that time.

Answer 9

Question 10: Penn recited several Bible verses to help her endure the flying ordeal—the Twenty-third Psalm, Psalm 56:3, Matthew 28:20 and Joshua 1:6. Which Bible verses do you use to conquer fear? What kind of fear is holding you back from the life God has waiting for you?

Answer 10:

