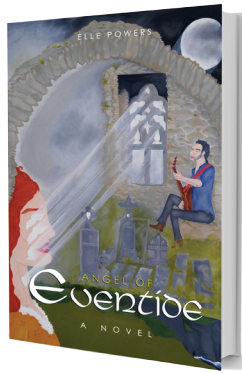


Reading Guide

Angel of Eventide

by Elle Powers



ABOUT THE BOOK

Seamus, aka “Sea” (SHAY), is an angel of death who forsakes his calling when he meets a little girl scheduled to drown. Maren, a mystic, sees the angel and catches him off guard, thereby saving her life. Obligated to correct his mistake, Sea chooses instead to protect the girl, separating himself from his supernatural home, identity, and family.

As Maren comes of age, his job gets tougher, as it seems heaven and earth come against their design to be together. And as though keeping her alive wasn’t hard enough, loving her becomes Sea’s greatest challenge yet.

With a knack for blending story, romance, and spirituality, Powers takes both mortal and immortal characters into our deepest longings and fears. In *Angel of Eventide* we find hope in the face of dying and promise for our days of living.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Angel* means “messenger” (from the Latin *angelus* and Greek *angelos*). What message is Sea sent to give and how does the message change throughout the book?
2. Is Sea the true hero of this story? If not, who is?
3. “Being alive—now that was the scary stuff” (p. 26). In what ways is life more scary than death?

4. Compare/contrast the angels of this novel to contemporary, biblical, or other concepts of angels.
5. (a.) Explore Sea's identity and character as it relates to traditional ideas of death personified. (b.) Discuss the masculine and feminine Da. Are they one and the same? Is this the God of the Old Testament/New Testament Bible?
6. Do you think Maren flirts with death, as Sea says, or is she merely unlucky? How much does she influence these brushes with death?
7. Sea quite enjoys things: food, clothes, cigarettes, guitar, etc. Why would it be important for an exiled angel to feel like he owned something? Is Maren one of these "things"?
8. How do Maren's or Sea's spiritual beliefs (especially as discussed in chapter seven) liken to or differ from your own?
9. Is teenaged Maren the same as or different from the little girl Maren?
10. Certain parts of the book seem to indicate that there is some choice in dying. In what ways do we have control of how/when we die?
11. Maren has always seemed to think Da is out to get her. Is this true? In what ways do we act like God is out to get us?
12. Consider Sea's discussion in chapter eleven of "dreadful ends" and why Da allows them. If there is a story the world is following, is it destined to end dreadfully?
13. There seems to be a theme of acceptance in *Angel of Eventide*. Discuss these instances of "giving up" or "letting go" and their opposites (insistence, holding onto) as they occur in the book. How do each turn out?
14. Do you think Sea rebelled when he refused to go back with Hugh? Did he do wrong when he refused to kill Maren?
15. Sea seems to like reasons. He wants his experiences to be significant, justifiable. From Da we learn that even the meaningless has meaning (chapter twelve). Perhaps we don't always know the meaning, but how can believing in a design for life help us endure the seemingly pointless and random, particularly painful, experiences?
16. In chapter twelve, Da calls Sea and Wesley lost boys. How, in their respective ways, are they lost?

17. How do the elements—wind and rain—play a part in Sea and Maren’s story?
18. How would things have been different if the no-touching rule had not been in effect? How did it work in their favor? How did it not? “That old guilt crept back in—how he had touched her *without touching* her for years” (p. 237). How had Sea “touched her without touching her?”
19. Is Maren’s desire for Sea simply a teenage crush or is it true love? If not a husband/lover, what does Maren want from Sea? What commitment can one expect from an angel?
20. Do you believe that we choose to be born, as Sea insists? The narrative seems to back him up, asserting that each one of our choices affects everything else (i.e., the butterfly effect). How does this phenomenon and the idea of “choosing life,” as it were, work within the subject of suicide?
21. Sea alternately feels shame and release. Alistair’s seduction of Leith makes him feel guilty, but then that night he sleeps nude with Maren. All at once he feels ashamed again. Then, the guilt seems to fade away. Why does Sea’s self-reproach come and go? How do his black-and-white views complicate his situation?
22. Explore Sea and Maren’s discussion of Lucifer’s fall and Da’s plan to win back the world (pp. 244-46).
23. How does the hurling match set a precedent in Sea and Maren’s relationship?
24. What secrets do Maren and Sea keep from one another? How is this nondisclosure indicative of how they interact?
25. How has terrorism become more of a focus today when we travel or gather in public places? What do we do differently as a result?
26. “Now the story was collective. It belonged to the world . . . and it bonded them” (p. 290). How does tragedy unite us?
27. *Deus ex machina* means “God in the machine.” It is a plot device used in Greek tragedies, in which a deity arrives on the scene to save the day. (It is highly criticized in modern art, even when the “god” is not so distinguishable.) Did Da resolve the conflict by showing up in person? How has Da been a part of everything that happens in the story? What is he up to in his scenes?
28. Look back at chapter three, when the narrative first brings up the Nephilim. According to Hugh, the Flood came to destroy the Nephilim. If indeed these are the children of angels, take some time to consider these “mighty men of old.” If not the children of angels, what else could they be? Is there still evidence of the Nephilim today?

29. In *Angel of Eventide*, nature comes against what is not right. It's water that wants to destroy Maren, not Da. Is this something you can accept—that nature is fallen and abides by twisted laws. Why or why not?
30. The ending is somewhat cryptic. Some readers think Maren dies. Others think she cannot die. What do you think happened?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

With an English degree and a fondness for British literature, Elle Powers entered the publishing world as a maker of books in 2001. Since then, she's been a steadfast bibliophile (a trait she attributes to genetics, being kin to Edgar Allan Poe). She writes from a turn-of-the-century farmhouse (which is six years older than *Peter Pan*), encircled by the Blue Ridge Mountains. When she's not scribbling, you may find Elle wandering the Virginia hills with a novel in hand and a dog by her side. She is currently writing a fictional memoir featuring Cousin Edgar.

Angel of Eventide

by Elle Powers

Publication Date:

21 September 2017

Genres:

Fiction

Metaphysical & Visionary

Fantasy / Romance

Paperback:

330 pages

Publisher:

Author Academy Elite

ISBN 13:

978-1-64085-096-5