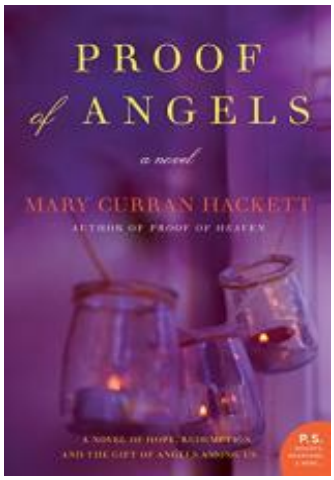
Proof of Angels

by Mary Curran Hackett



About the Book

From the critically acclaimed author of PROOF OF HEAVEN comes an unforgettable novel about hope, renewal, and the gift of angels among us --- friends, family, lovers?and even mystical others --- sure to touch your heart.

Sean Magee is a firefighter --- a hero who risks his own life to save others, running into dangerous situations few have the courage to dare. While fighting a horrific blaze, Sean becomes trapped by flames and is nearly overcome by smoke. Just when it seems that all is lost, he?s led to a window --- by what he swears is divine intervention. And then he jumps?

?into a new life. For years, Sean has shut down his feelings, existing in a state of emotional numbness. Coming through that fire, he knows that he can no longer be that man whose heart is closed to the world. But before he can face his future, he must confront his past and everyone in it: the family, the friends, the woman --- and the love --- he carelessly left behind.

Discussion Guide

1. PROOF OF ANGELS opens with several epigraphs: Which one resonated with you? Why? How do you think these quotes relate to the book?

2. Each character has a different approach to life --- Sean, James, Libby, Tom, Chiara and even Chief have certain ideas about why they are here and what their purpose is. Whose approach do you most relate to? Does anyone?s belief upset you? Why?

3. Do you see yourself or any of your loved ones in these characters? If yes, who? And why?

4. Do you think Sean really saw an angel? Or do you think he was hallucinating and got lucky in finding his way out of

the fire?

5. Do you believe in angels?

6. There are two types of angels discussed in this book: the type that is the mysterious ?being? that supposedly points Sean to safety, and then all the angels in his life who challenge him, push him, support him and give him insights, or rather, illuminate the truth of his life. Which type of angel are you more apt to believe in?

7. Have you experienced a miraculous or unexplained event? Have you ever felt the presence of an angel or a messenger? When? What happened? Could you rationally explain it, as Gaspar tried to get Sean to do? Or did you feel strongly that it was truly a miraculous intervention?

8. Have you had transformational moments when you saw the light? When you were saved? Or when a friendship or relationship made all the difference in your life?

9. Sean tells Tom at one point that everything in life happens for a reason. Tom doesn?t feel this way. Do you feel more like Tom or Sean? Do think that there is a purpose for everything, even if it is beyond our own understanding? Does every life have a special purpose or mission?

10. Both Sean and Libby must overcome their demons. They are, for the most part, their own worst enemies. Do you think people who are ?repeat offenders? at the game of life deserve a second chance? Would you forgive Libby or Sean for what they did to their loved ones?

11. Why do you think Chiara is so quick to forgive Sean? Do you think it?s possible for time to heal wounds and to just grow up and move on? Do you think that she took pity on his injuries? If he wasn?t injured, do you think she would have been so kind?

12. Chiara tells Sean: ?It?s dangerous to think you know what is best for someone else. To make a decision for two people without the other?s consent. To decide another?s life for them.? Do you agree? Has this ever happened to you?

13. Sean forms a few new friendships in this book; which one particularly resonated with you? Why?

14. In the end do you think Sean found proof of angels? Where? When? How?

15. What?s your proof? Or do you even feel like you need it?

Author Bio

Mary Curran Hackett lives with her husband and children in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Critical Praise

?Hackett here blends faith with reality in a novel that is uplifting as it faces hard facts.?

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