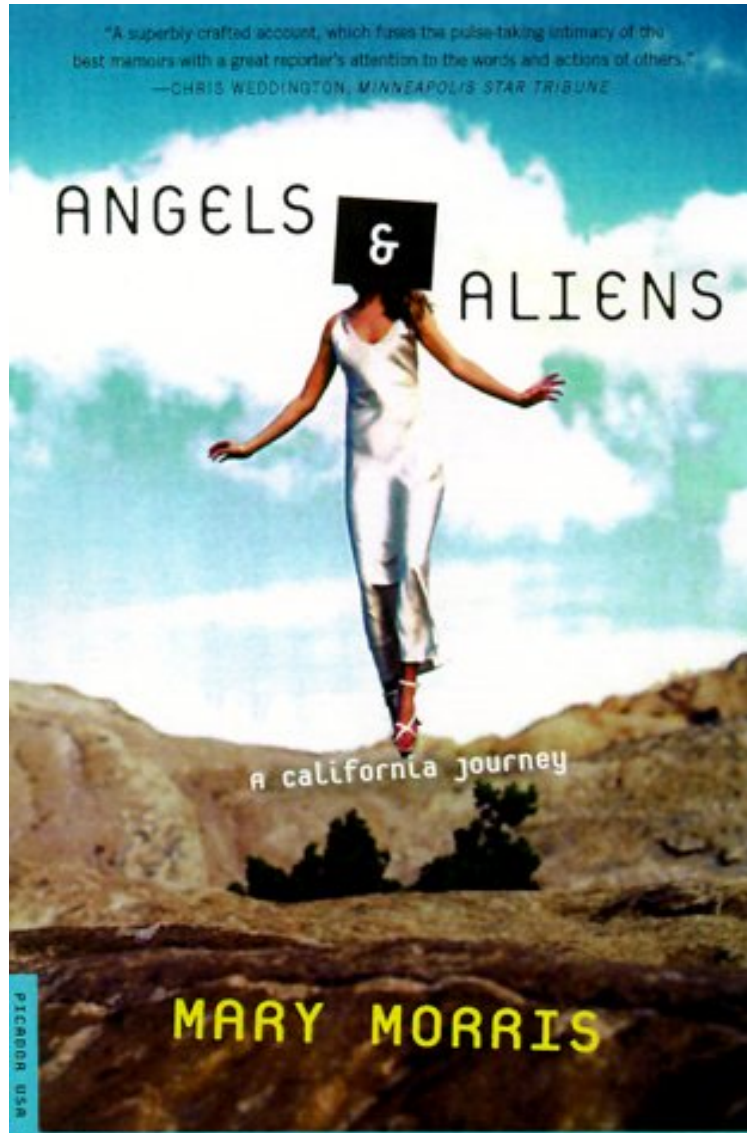


(Download pdf) Angels and Aliens: A Memoir

Angels and Aliens: A Memoir

Mary Morris

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Mary Morris : Angels and Aliens: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Angels and Aliens: A Memoir:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Moving on and up; a woman's personal fulfillmentBy jmhIt takes a brutally honest author, as Mary Morris is, and has done, to admit what she did for love. The sacrifices Mary made on behalf of her lover and father of her baby is basically the spinal cord for the novel. Her search for life's meanings and attempts to reconnect to a world so devoid of personal responsibility by this man open up painful recollections, yet

serves as a foundation to offer her fresh experiences and rich sources of humor and honesty which are skillfully revealed. Let me say right off that this is not just another "man bashing novel". It would be truly unfortunate for a reader to be unable or unwilling to see beyond the appalling behavior of her partner and not appreciate how brave she is to allow this information to be shared. The fact that he is professionally influential is a sad reflection on the perception of the public. Personally he is manipulative and deceptive, or, also known as "married with children." Providing for his "first" family and their priorities, he makes promises AND children (not by his first wife, obviously) he can not and will not keep. Do not ask him for his time, he has "too many commitments". Electing to buy an expensive pure bred puppy to give as a present to his legitimate son, he sends ROSES for his and Mary's daughter's first birthday. Never a cent to feed, clothe or care take her, he neglects all responsibility for his fatherhood. Left to babysit for only one hour, he forgets where the baby is in favor of a televised ball game. When confronted by Mary, wakened and shocked into an incredulously terrified alertness, he notices the baby poised at the electric socket, her little finger wet and ready to probe. He is, however, unwilling to divert his attention from the TV. Obviously relieved that mom has come to HIS rescue, he returns to the game oblivious to the consequences of his behavior. The attraction of this novel is, therefore, dependent on Mary's awakening. The pages will turn rapidly with anticipation and your senses will be alert, preparing for all possibilities. It is difficult not to relate, she effectively taps into so many facets of complicated relationships. The need to protect her child is life altering and she finds the strength to make the decisions that must be made. With an inquisitive nature, she allows herself to examine alternate beliefs and applications with a sense of humor and reasonable doubt. Willing to admit to her own faults, her history is offered with no apologies and some outright laughs. A traveler memoir author, her trip to the west coast with her baby daughter reads like a novel. True to the spirit of the west the angels and aliens were her companions along the way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **WILD ADVENTURERS** By okiiA VERY QUIRKEY WRITER. WRITING ABOUT ALIENS IN LAGUNA BEACH CALIFORNIA; WITH ALIEN MOTHERSHIPS ORBITING ABOVE EARTH, AND THE USE OF CRYSTALS. ALSO WROTE ABOUT A HOUSEBOAT TRIP DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, AND THE WALL OF CHINA TO THE BERLIN WALL. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **Moving Magnificent** By A Customer I loved it. Mary Morris travels West this time and gets it just right. With an unflinching eye for detail, Morris takes us on a journey through a Southern California that's every bit as pumped up with hope as it was during the Gold Rush. A single-mother and writer, Morris herself might be considered both the angel and alien of her title. There are New Age encounters to be sorted through and a true love hovering in the East that needs to be put to rest. Through it all, Mary Morris lets us into her heart with language that is both spare and poetic, deeply moving, and magnificent.

In *Angels Aliens*, Mary Morris once again sets out on the road, this time as a single parent, wandering with her baby daughter through Southern California. Posing as a believer, Morris infiltrates New Age groups, flies as an angel through the Crystal Cathedral, and becomes a member of the earth-based unit of the Ashtar command. Combining her gift as a story teller, which is apparent in her fiction, and the powerful sense of place she brings to her nonfiction, Morris gives us a traveler's tale for the millennium when there's no place to go but up.

.com Following the effective formula she established in her classic memoir *Nothing to Declare*, Mary Morris mingles travel in an exotic landscape--well, Southern California is exotic if you're from New York City by way of suburban Chicago--with memories of a troubled past and a frank description of current personal difficulties. In *Angels Aliens*, Morris moves to Orange County in 1988 with her infant daughter, Kate, whose father has remained behind on the East Coast, unwilling either to marry Morris or let her go. As is often the case with one-sided accounts of relationships on the rocks, it's hard to imagine what the author sees in her selfish, controlling lover; most readers will cheer when she finally forces him to lay his emotional and financial cards on the table. Her account of life in La-La Land has predictable moments (freeway driving as existential statement, crystal-wielding massage therapists), but Morris is surprisingly nonjudgmental about oddball cults like the Crystal Cathedral, which flies six parishioners/angels overhead in its annual Christmas pageant, and Uforum, which runs a support group for people convinced they have been abducted by aliens. No matter how strange the behavior, Morris's sharp, stripped-down language makes it recognizably human. --Wendy Smith From *Publishers Weekly* "Belief is something I've left behind," writes Morris (*Nothing to Declare*), who teaches writing at Sarah Lawrence. "I've been a Jew, a Buddhist, a believer, a doubter. But lately I haven't given much thought to any of this." Yet, an improbable odyssey in California restores Morris to a kind of belief. Facing 40 and pregnant, Morris finds out the hard way that her lover, Jeremy, a distinguished professor of international law 20 years her senior and the divorced father of two, is reluctant to commit to a second marriage. In this rambling but ultimately engaging memoir, the author provides an account of her life after she moves from New York to Orange County, Calif., with baby Kate to live in a rented bungalow overlooking Main Beach. She describes the daily tedium of waiting by the phone for Jeremy's call, unable to pull away or to believe her lover's (as it happens, false) assurances that there is no one else. Beset by financial problems exacerbated by Jeremy's failure to provide child support, Morris assuages her loneliness by visiting nearby spiritual communities. A bad back drives her to the Edenic

Light Center, where a teacher heals her aura. Morris also encounters a UFO abductee support group, and she becomes involved with "light workers" who predict the end of the world. She finally extricates herself from Jeremy, who tacitly acknowledges his true feelings by legally relinquishing parental rights to little Kate. In this quietly introspective book, Morris views the New Age advocates she meets with a refreshing degree of nonjudgmental objectivity and a sense that their quest for certainty is similar to her own. Throughout, her prose is as clear and well composed as her insights. Agent, Ellen Levine. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A superbly crafted account. Few readers will wander once Morris gets them in her grip." --Chris Waddington, Minneapolis Star-Tribune "Mary Morris tugs at your arm with gracefully sensuous description." --Rob Pegoraro, Washington Post Book World