

Cascade

Discussion Questions

1. In *Cascade*, Lenaia Talavera is torn between her feelings for two good men. She must choose, just like we all have to choose the path our lives will follow. What do you normally factor in to your decisions? Whom do you consult when you aren't sure?
2. Most of the stories in the Earth Hunters series center on outdoor adventure. Where have you always wanted to have an adventure? And why?
3. Griffin Wall is focused on making Pastor Marty pay for his sins. Have you ever thought about getting revenge for a wrong done to you? I'm sure you've never taken it to the level that Griffin does, but can you relate to his emotional pain?
4. Have you ever been on a volcano? It always makes me feel small to realize the immense power of God buried in the magma under the rock. Do you think that's an appropriate reaction? Why or why not?
5. Near the end of the novel, Lenaia realizes, "Her fear of a future she couldn't control had led her to this point where she was facing no future at all." Do you struggle with giving God control over your life? How do you deal with things when they seem out of control? Who do you turn to?
6. For most of the novel, Lenaia rejects God sovereignty over her uncle's death. She thinks God should have given her uncle more time to redeem his life. Have you ever told God that His plan can't possibly be the right one? At that time, did you turn to God or away from Him?
7. Jayna Rowan seems to have everything Lenaia wants—husband and baby on the way. When was the last time you were jealous of someone else's life? How did you work through it?
8. Lenaia feels responsible for Dan Planke's death in the beginning of the novel because the family came out to see her. Do you think his wife, Summer, was able to forgive her? Do you think Lenaia could forgive herself? How easy is it for you to forgive others in your life?
9. Compare the two pastors in the novel. Pastor Doug Winslet of Harvest of the Saints Church preaches forgiveness (even of ourselves) over judgment. Pastor Marty Smith of Christ's Devoted Church believes in the need for atonement for our sins. Which church do you identify with more? Why? What does the Bible say about forgiveness versus atonement?
10. Pastor Doug asks Lenaia, "Does God owe you an explanation?" When have you wanted an explanation from God? Did you feel like you got one? How did you move on?
11. I had so much fun imagining Lenaia's adventures. This isn't a question, but more of a bonus challenge: Create an imaginary once-in-a-lifetime adventure for someone you love—give them clues to see if they can guess their destination before you tell them all about it.