

Girlfriend on Mars by Deborah Willis

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS HERE** (Ideally 10 questions to guide discussion of the title):

1. This is a debut novel by Deborah Willis. Have you read any of her short stories? If not, based on her writing here, would you search them out?
2. What did you think about Amber’s character? Do you understand why Kevin is in such torment while she’s away?
3. Would you tune in to watch “MarsNow?” Who would you be cheering for?
4. What did you think of the ending? Was it satisfying?
5. Do you think that Amber and Kevin’s relationship would last in the real world? Why or why not?
6. Amber and Kevin are both suffering from climate change anxiety but react in opposite ways: Amber is trying to “do something”, while Kevin has given up in despair. How do you personally relate to these reactions?
7. There are many philosophical questions that are asked through the characters. One of these is “What does it mean to be real?” What is the author trying to say about our perception of reality?
8. There are a lot of parallels between the fictional Geoff Task and the real Elon Musk (although Elon Musk is also referred to). What do you think of the current reality of space travel, available to the super rich?
9. What aspects of the story are most believable? What aspects, if any, are most unbelievable?
10. What parts of the novel are the most off the wall for you? Why?