



What the Heart Knows

Mara Purl. Bellekeep Books

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Former *Days of Our Lives* star Purl presents the first novel in her Milford-Haven series, which, like most women's fiction, features a setting of unadulterated beauty—the small coastal town of Milford-Haven, CA in the prosperous mid-90s—and a cast of successful, sexy, sometimes quirkily independent characters. Protagonist Miranda Jones—a young, beautiful artist nearing the end of her "struggling" phase—has recently escaped from city life. The town and community provide many possible future story lines, and Purl introduces 26 characters here. Readers will find details galore—simple activities or outfits get a whole paragraph—and the novel's many inner monologues reveal scheming, secretly confused, or flawed personalities. Thus far, Milford-Haven offers depictions of daily life, hints of possible future romance, the threat of scandal, and carefully parsed out mystery. Considering all of the problems and questions so cleverly left unanswered, the novel is poised to convince readers to continue with the series.