

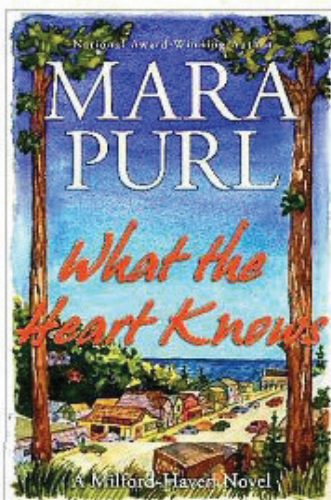
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What the Heart Knows by Mara Purl

In Book Reviews - Becky on August 31, 2011 at 2:50 pm



Mara Purl, actress-turned-author, has offered this story both as a radio drama for BBC Radio and a paperback under a small press. She's now offering the Milford-Haven series for the first time in hardcover. *What the Heart Knows* is the first book in the series.

In the early chapters of the book, I felt like I was walking on to the set of *General Hospital* or *The Young and the Restless*. Just like the soaps, each character is being drawn out and readers become sucked into the middle of the drama comprising the landscape of Milford-Haven.

We first meet Christine Christian, a reporter, digging into a story about a new mansion and whether or not the builder is meeting environmental regulations for the building. Christine meets her untimely death by one of the men who works on the house; you soon realize he works for more than Jack.

We are also introduced to Jack Sawyer, who's the premier contractor/builder in Milford-Haven and who has a past (and an unknown child) with Samantha Hugo, director of the town's Environmental Planning Commission. Samantha's best friend, who is also the main character of the Milford-Haven novels, artist Miranda Jones, is pursued by oil magnet Zack Calvin for her art and possibly more.

Then there's Sally, owner of the local restaurant, who's having a secret affair with Jack. She is a girl with southern roots, but she is one tough cookie.

These are just some of the main characters Mara introduces in *What the Heart Knows*. While the story is a great series opening, there are more things left unresolved, which I'm not a big fan of; however any soap opera fan will attest to the importance of a cliffhanger ending. To see what happens to the residents of Milford-Haven next, readers will just have to wait for the next book in the series, *Where the Heart Lives*, scheduled for spring of 2012.