

MARA PURL

What the Soul Suspects

Reading Group Topics for Discussion

1. The novels, novellas and novelettes in this series mostly tell a realistic story about life in a small town. But this is a paranormal story. What makes it different? Could you stay with Chris Christian as she tried to understand why she feels out of sorts? She had a head injury, which might have been a mishap, an accident, or a murder. Which do you think it was?
2. Though several books in the series take place in Milford-Haven, this book takes place in several Central Coast locations. Did you find it interesting to learn more about the entire region?
3. The story focuses on Chris Christian, a successful journalist. She began her career as a newspaper reporter in New York. A few years later a job offer took her to Los Angeles, and then she became a top broadcast journalist in the Central Coast. Do you consider journalism to be a valuable profession? How do you distinguish between authentic news and “fake news”?
4. Deputy Delmar Johnson is pragmatic and rigorous in his approach to solving crimes. But others in his family have a “Gift.” Was Del right to doubt their experiences? Do you think he successfully balances his intuition with his professional findings?
5. This novella has an unusual timeline, where Delmar is experiencing “real time” while Chris has come unstuck from time and travels to places guided by a series of insights, or lessons. Do you find this plausible?
6. In addition to being a performer, Mara Purl also spent several years working as a professional journalist. Do you feel her understanding of research and investigation makes her writing more realistic?
7. Why is this book called *What the Soul Suspects*? Do you believe Chris or Delmar learned a lesson about intuition? Do you believe in the spiritual guidance they each experience in this book?

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