

MARA PURL

Why Hearts Keep Secrets

Reading Group Topics for Discussion

1. This is the third novel in the Milford-Haven series, and there are novellas and novelettes that are also part of the saga. Since this is the third in the novel pentalogy, it's the most entangled of the novels, with multiple storylines creating complexity. How do you feel about this?
2. Protagonist Miranda has been alone and often lonely throughout the saga so far. How do you feel about her finding her voice, resolving things with Zack, and recognizing the depth of her feelings for Cornelius?
3. The story focuses on artist Miranda Jones and astronomer Cornelius Smith. Do you feel it's realistic for people with such different careers to understand one another? Do you feel they're so right for each other that their romance is inevitable? What obstacles are they likely to face?
4. How do you feel about Sally O'Mally? Do you feel she waited too long to separate herself from Jack Sawyer? Were you surprised that Tony Fiorentino has moved to Milford-Haven? Do you think they can work out a relationship, even with the challenges each of them faces?
5. Deputy Delmar Johnson has a heavy workload at the Sheriff's Department, but on his own time continues to investigate the missing journalist Christine Christian. There is more of their story in the novella *What the Soul Suspects*. Is he doing a good job as a protector of Milford-Haven?
6. A protagonist should have some solid, recurring qualities, but also should grow and learn from her experiences. In this book, Miranda "finds her voice." What does that mean?
7. Were you surprised by Meredith's bold move toward Zack? Do you believe she might be able to inspire him to be more honest than he has been, if they begin a relationship? What might be their obstacles?
8. Author Mara Purl has now won more than sixty awards for her series. Before then, she created a hit radio drama for the BBC. What do you consider to be her strengths as a writer? What other parts of her series do you wish she would write?
9. Why is this book called *Why Hearts Keep Secrets*? What are some of the secrets that are revealed? What are some that are not yet revealed?

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<http://marapurl.com/books/why-hearts-keep-secrets/>