

MARA PURL

Whose Hearts Align

Reading Group Topics for Discussion

1. This is the fourth novel in the Milford-Haven series, and there are novellas and novelettes that are also part of the saga. Since this is the fourth in the novel pentalogy, several key storylines are reaching resolution. How do you feel about this?
2. Protagonist Miranda found her true love in the third novel, and in most romantic novels that would be the end of her story. But in this book she begins a new chapter of her life, living with her soul mate, creating a home with him, and connecting their families. How are her life issues different now?
3. The story focuses on artist Miranda Jones and astronomer Cornelius Smith. Now that they're settled, it causes both competition and encouragement for Miranda's sister Meredith, and for Zack Calvin, who used to date Miranda but now is seeing Meredith. How is this affecting family dynamics? Do you see a way forward for Meredith and Zack?
4. Sally O'Mally has also moved forward with her complicated life. Though pregnant by Jack Sawyer, she now romantically involved with her former love, Tony Fiorentino. Do you feel they can surmount both his disability and his becoming a stepfather to Sally's child?
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. Samantha Hugo has spent months looking for the son she gave up for adoption, and finally learns his identity and that he lives nearby. Do you feel she deserves to have a relationship with him? Or do you think she should only connect with him if he chooses?
7. Zelda McIntyre has been both a help to Miranda and sometimes a thorn in her side. She seems to be more vulnerable now that she's hoping for a lasting relationship with Joseph Calvin. Should she be trusted? Would she make a good mate for the oil magnate?
8. Author Mara Purl has now won more than seventy 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 *Whose Hearts Align*? Which characters are now aligned? Is there a deeper meaning to the word that connects the theme of the book as well as the book cover?

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