

MARA PURL

When Hearts Heal

Reading Group Topics for Discussion

1. This is the fifth of the core novels in the Milford-Haven series, and there are novellas and novelettes that are also part of the saga. Since this is the ultimate book in the novel pentology, it includes the conclusion of several plotlines. How do you feel about this?
2. Protagonist Miranda and Cornelius are happy newlyweds, building their lives and their home in Milford-Haven. They're also already actively engaged in benefitting their community. Do you feel they've taken on too much in their young lives? Or are they role models and natural leaders?
3. Miranda's sister Meredith has been both manipulative and aggressive in the past. Striving at last for honesty and authenticity, she still has a strident approach, yet is working hard on her relationships. Do you trust her now? Should Miranda?
4. Meredith and Zack Calvin each have previous relationships, yet have bared their souls and found they can be vulnerable with one another. Each also has at least one missing birth parent. Will the secrets of the past weaken or strengthen their bond?
5. Sally O'Mally is now married to her high school sweetheart Tony Fiorentino, but their facing challenges. Tony's wheelchair doesn't seem to slow either of them down, but they'll be raising the child fathered by Jack Sawyer, who also lives in town. Do you feel their home life and their marriage can endure these internal and external pressures?
6. Deputy Delmar Johnson has had to list the case of missing journalist Christine Christian as officially unsolved. But he continues to pursue clues that both he and Chris were following at the time of her disappearance. What do you hope he finds?
7. Samantha Hugo and Jack Sawyer have been enemies throughout the series, yet now are on the path to reconciliation. Do you think it's possible for them to overcome their anger after so many years? Will the discovery their son lives nearby draw them together or drive another wedge between them?
8. Author Mara Purl has now won more than seventy-five awards for her series and her books have been on multiple best-seller lists. Before writing her novels, 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 look forward to reading?
9. Why is this book called *When Hearts Heal*? Which characters are actively working on healing? Which connection surprised you the most? Does the town itself provide a healing atmosphere?

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<http://marapurl.com/books/when-hearts-heal/>