



Press Questions & Talking Points

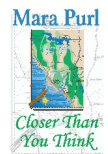
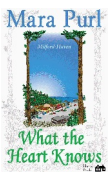
Mara Purl's
Milford-Haven Series

Short Stories:
Christmas Angels
CIPA Merit Book Award

Novels
What The Heart Knows
Benjamin Franklin Award
Silver – Adult Fiction
Closer Than You Think
Evy Award
Gold – Fiction

Audio Drama

Milford-Haven, U.S.A.
BBC Radio Drama
NY Festival Finalist Award



March 2007 – Purl wins top fiction award for Colorado
At the Evvy Awards, presented Friday in Denver by the Colorado Independent Publishers Association, *Closer Than You Think* won First Place for Fiction.

Key subjects in this novel:

- ◆ What do we truly want? Do we think it's "out there"? It is more likely to be closer than you think.
- ◆ Young female protagonist of wildlife artist with growing professional success, but devastating blockages to the possibility of a functional romantic relationship
- ◆ Going backstage with the Doobie Brothers at a major concert.
- ◆ What is it like for Vietnam Veterans to reclaim their lives and create the dreams they thought were lost?
- ◆ Accomplished middle-aged woman is a leader in the environmental field, but wrestles with having given up her son for adoption years earlier, as revealed in her personal journal entries.
- ◆ A reporter has now been missing for weeks, but no body has been found. The Sheriff's Deputy works on the case in his off-hours, convinced foul play is involved.

Background of this Novel Series:

- ◆ *Milford-Haven* began as an original radio drama Purl created. It was a hit on BBC Radio with 4.5 million listeners in the U.K. and won the Finalist Award at the New York Festivals.
- ◆ Listeners began requesting books based on the radio which led to the adaptation and development of the novel series. Twelve books are planned for the novel series, with additional short story collections.
- ◆ The Novels are also being published as audio books performed by the author, the first of which also won the Ben Franklin Award.

Background on the Author:

- ◆ Mara Purl was a reporter for the *Associated Press*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Financial Times of London*, *Working Woman Magazine*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, to name a few.
- ◆ She is also a performer on-camera and on-stage, with her regular character on *Days Of Our Lives* having been her starting point for soap opera.
- ◆ Awards include: for her books: Silver Benjamin Franklin, two Gold Evvys, CIPA Merit; for her radio show, the New York Festivals Award; for her play, the Peak Award; for public service, Woman of the Year 2002 by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women.

Talking Points Pertinent to This Title

- ◆ Double meaning of the title "Closer..."
- ◆ Personal & professional goals
- ◆ Small town as microcosm
- ◆ Achieving our dreams
- ◆ Adapting scripts for fiction
- ◆ Doobie Brothers: a real concert in a novel
- ◆ Vietnam Veterans issues
- ◆ Wildlife artists' work – how &