



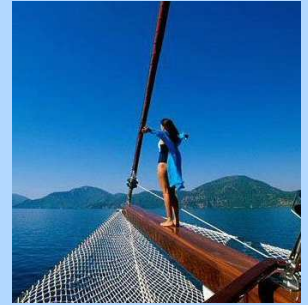
August Blog Tour - Week # Three

The view from my virtual office gets better all the time. A virtual coastline of friendly harbors, those already visited now filled with new friends, and a lovely sense of adventure ahead, prow thrusting into new waters for the final week of the tour until we return to safe haven.

My crew and I are beginning to feel like old salts. I'm getting the hang of things now, balancing on the author-beam that lets me write something long to enough to inspire, and short enough to keep you interested.

If you're just joining us, here's how this works. Come on board (click MaraPurl.com/Calendar), sit at the Captain's table (choose a link), and enjoy a delicious feast of words and ideas. Sometimes we're talking about mystery, sometimes about romance; sometimes we talk about creating, sometimes about sitting back to enjoy. Thanks to the variety of bloggers hosting us, we provide a mix of sweet and savory—humorous and serious. (To find out more about how the tour works, you can click here <http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/01/launching-the-blog-tour-boat/>)

So grab your straw hat, flip-flops, and sun screen, then head for the dock and climb aboard the sailboat Milford-Haven. . . .



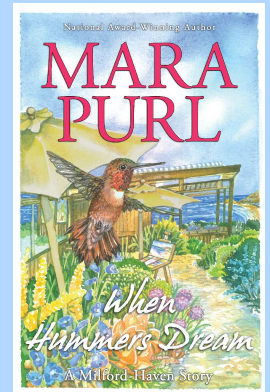
Latest Hummer Update

This first little book in the Milford-Haven Novels series---a prequel short story that introduces protagonist-painter Miranda Jones---has become the Little Book that Could

Even though *When Hummers Dream* is now 99 cents (no longer free) for your Kindle or Nook (or their apps, it continues to wing its way all over the country.

It made it up to #24 in the Kindle store general listing, and #9 in Romance, making it officially a best-seller!

The latest news is that "Hummer" has now hummed it's way onto more than 13,000 e-readers! I thank you and so does the hummer! If you don't have yours yet, it's not too late! And don't forget, you can now PRE-ORDER *What the Heart Knows* as either e-book OR hardcover!

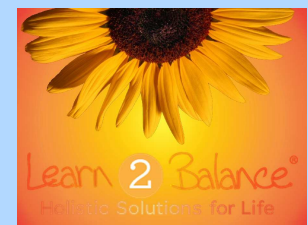


Blog Visit #15 – Girlfriend Books

You already know from a glimpse at the Girlfriend Books logo that this was a FUN site to visit! It's a site full of shopping tips, recommendations about great places to stay, and conversations of all kinds, including those about books books books.



Maria Micolucci is a clever shopping maven who also happens to adore books, and her readers are women. So it couldn't have been a better match for my Women's Fiction series.



Blog Visit #10 – Learn 2 Balance

Lori Hanson is a burst of sunshine, a stand for health and well-being, and a coach on balancing your life.

She's an award-winning author of three non-fiction books, a motivational keynote speaker, and a stress-and-eating-disorder coach. She founded Learn 2 Balance in 2008 and her core mission is. "To encourage people to live consciously and turn off auto-pilot. I teach people to learn to balance their lives." And sometimes it takes quite a bit of self-examination and some major "Aha!" moments before a lack of balance is even recognized.

Lori interviewed me for her VIP Connection series, as a way of expanding her followers' awareness by offering my thoughts on "Balancing Head and Heart".

I think you'll enjoy reading more in my blog about Lori. I also asked Lori to share with my followers the recipe for her healthy and fabulous Eggxactly Sandwich. I'll never forget the day she served it to me for brunch at her lovely home. Enjoy!

Blog Visit #11 – A Traveler's Library

The magic of travel is captured in this lovely blog site, where imagination finds its wings like a book flying off the shelf.



Vera Marie Badertscher founded her beautiful website in January 2009. She loves to read and she loves to travel, so this website made total sense. But it's because she loves to include and help others that the site is really interesting.

And as much as Vera is a practitioner of physical travel, she also travels through her reading, which is why we connected so well. A trip to my fictitious town of Milford-Haven can and does develop for some of my readers into real journeys into California's beautiful, evocative Central Coast.

During my visit to A Traveler's Library, Vera and I had a great conversation about the distinctions and overlaps between a fictional place and a real one. And I know you'll love reading more in my blog about Vera, whether you want to travel by plane or by armchair!

Blog Visit #12 – All Things Fulfilling

What's more important than fulfillment? It's as basic as the pursuit of happiness. In today's global economy, fulfillment has another meaning---that of the millions of packages flying to destinations as orders fulfilled.



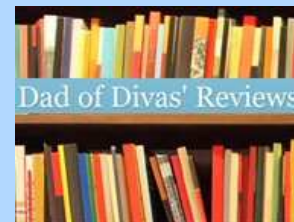
Sue Leonard founded her company Cornerstone Fulfillment Service in 1998 and has been helping to create success for indie publishers of books, music and art ever since. I like to say she's bringing her customers to the world, and the world to her customers.

She has a marvelous business ethic of being thorough and true to her word. But perhaps the most extraordinary thing you'll discover about Sue is her generosity. For example, she did not one, but four posts about me and my work on her wonderful blog, All Things Fulfilling. I think you'll enjoy reading my blog about Sue.

We did have a long, terrific conversation. To enjoy the various segments: Portrait of a Consummate Artist; Speaking the Language of Books; Speaking the Language of Head and Heart; and finally a fun piece about Sue's experiment with Kindle for PC Getting Drawn In as she read my new e-book "When Hummers Dream."

Blog Visit #13 – Dad of Divas

Shelves lined with colorful books leaning a little this way and that . . . shelves that make your fingers itch to touch the binding, twist your head sideways to read the spines, then pull forth a volume and leaf through the pages. There's a warmth in rooms with shelves like these, as though secrets and memories, adventures and possibilities are all friends waiting to talk to you.



I imagine there's such a room in the home of Chris Lewis and his family. Yet how does the young father of two tiny girls find time to read? Well, he makes the time because he has a passion for books, and feels it's part of his mission to bring books to his children, to himself, and to the world.

I was especially delighted when Chris featured a stellar review of *What the Heart Knows* on his blog *Dad of Divas*. And I was equally delighted to return the favor by writing about him in my blog about Chris, and about my own dad, also the father of two divas. . . .

Blog Visit #14 – A Latte and Some Words

Latte is my favorite hot beverage, an elixir that becomes word-fuel after the first few sips. So when I received an invitation to guest on the blog *A Latte and Some Words*, I knew I'd feel right at home!



Julie Pollitt is an author as well as being the mom of two young boys. Why did she decide also to become a blogger? (And how did she manage it??) For Julie the mutual inspiration and encouragement, and the fulfilling of her core purpose---a spiritual mission---made blogging the perfect tool for self-expression and connection.

So we wrapped up the week together by sharing a virtual latte and some thoughts and ideas about writing. Julie asked me some great questions which I enjoyed answering. And when I blogged her back, I asked her some good ones too. Maybe you can sip a latte yourself as you read my guest interview on *A Latte and Some Words*, and then follow it by reading the MP Blog on Julie. Just don't burn your tongue!

Full Tour Schedule in the Press Room!

The full blog tour schedule is posted and constantly updated. Enjoy finding out where I'll be day by day during the month of August.

<http://www.cisionwire.com/mara-purl/r/author-actress-mara-purl-touching-hearts-with-august-blog-tour,c9149149>



If you'd like to find out anything about the new book and the new book launch, join us in the Press Room! Here the media can find photos, press releases, and all the latest news about my books and events. The symbol is a link to allow you to subscribe via RSS feed to my news. We have some great new VIDEOS!

We're already getting a wonderful response from the press! Is there a newspaper in your town or city that you think might be interested in topics like: What do women read? What is Women's Fiction? Is there Men's Fiction? What's the difference between Women's Fiction and Romance? Is fiction relevant to today's world? And . . . many other related topics . . . let me know! My wonderful marketing team will be happy to schedule an interview. Contact Dianemarie or Doug [DMPProductionsLLC](http://DMPProductionsLLC.com).

Blog Tour Third Lessons

Hospitality is an important word all over the world, a key concept that opens doors and establishes a code of behavior, one that says a guest must always be welcomed. Well, the blogosphere has its own set of ethics, one we might call "www-welcome."

When I'm invited to write a post for someone else's followers, my goal is always to think about their world, and see how I can serve, how I can make a contribution that will improve their way of working or living or being. And what a privilege that turns to be! Just as when you visit someone's home, you bring a little gift of some kind, I'm gleefully enjoying bringing whatever gifts I have to others. Though this may sound altruistic, to be honest, it's a selfish pleasure! So now, I can hardly wait to see what my final week of blog-touring will bring!

I would love to hear what you're thinking, or how you're feeling. If you'd like to share this part of my journey, you can read or subscribe at MaraPurl.WordPress.com I hope you'll join me and find yourself in . . . Milford-Haven!

