Home About Me Reviews Giveaways Contact/PR

« Phantom Book Promo & Giveaway

Sweetheart Cottage Dolls House »

★ Where The Heart Lives by Mara Purl Interview

Published November 9, 2012 | By Rach



This is a double blog tour which means I have interviewed Mara, and Mara has also interviewed me. Check out Mara's blog http://marapurl.wordpress.com/ to see my answers.

Title: Where The Heart Lives Author: Mara Purl Genre: Women's Fiction

Length: 384 pages Publisher: Bellekeep Books (November 5, 2012)

Is the heart smarter than the head? Artist Miranda Jones begins to trust her heart enough to escape from her life of privilege and start over in Milford-Haven, the small town of undiscovered beauty on California's Central Coast. She connects with environmentalist Samantha Hugo-a brilliant PhD twenty years her senior who gave up a son years earlier; and with restaurant owner Sally O'Mally who left Arkansas to create her own dream. Each woman wrestles with her own core issues while balancing demanding careers with the attentions of interesting men. None is aware that journalist Christine Christian has just been murdered while investigating a half-built house. Though the book stands alone, it is also Book 1 in the critically acclaim popular series, a multi-generational saga. Based on Purl's BBC Radio drama Milford-Haven U.S.A.

Interview:

How many books will be in the Milford-Haven Saga?

You know how popular trilogies are these days? I'm doing something a little different — a pentalogy: five books. And these will be followed by five more. So it'll be ten books all together.

It's been an interesting journey figuring out the structure of the novel series, and it has involved two key elements: the number of books, and the serial adaptation. The story began as a radio drama. The radio drama had 100 episodes ... so how many books would that be? After many versions and iterations, I arrived at 10, which now seems easy! The most difficult element of adaptation was that the original radio drama was a soap opera a form that's designed never to end. Yet, of course, a book series would need an actual conclusion.

I wanted the structure to come organically from the story itself, not be superimposed externally. So I thought about where the story begins: with journalist Christine Christian. What are the key question journalists ask? Who, What, When, Where, Why, So this is where the pentalogy came from. And these first five books will answer the Who, What When When I why of the Heurt. Book one was What the theorem of the Christian where one of the When I want to the Christian Christia

One more thing to mention. So that my readers won't have so long to wait between installments, I'm also writing short stories that expand and enhance the saga. Book one had a prequel short story When Hummers Dream, which became my first e-book best-seller. Book two has a brand new prequel short story called When Whales Watch that your readers can download right now for free!

What inspired you to write your first novel and to continue writing

"Story" has been my favorite thing since childhood. Each day, starting at about age five, I would write a story; and each evening, I would perform the story for my family. You know the hearth in front of the frieplace? I though that was a stage, o I though! I was supposed to do a show every night! I thought everyone did! I don't think I've ever gotten over that initial drive to write and share stories.

As a writer, I enjoyed working in mary different styles and formats. I was a journalist (Financial Times of London, Associated Press, Rolling Stone), I wrote screenplays (The Meridian Factor, optioned by Fox), essays (published by the Christian Science Monitor), non-fiction books (Lef Right with Lin Gray). And then I wrote the one hundred radio plays for my BEC radio drama Miljord-Hauer U.S.A. In the back of my mind, even while I was writing in these other formats, I always knew I wanted to write novels. I also knew I of have to I we more and have deeper insights to offer before I could write the novels I really wanted to write. So It is a great ply to be writing them now. It feels like a calling, not just a job.

Is Milford-Haven based on a real place?

Yes! It's actually based on two real places, one in California and one in Wales. On California's Central Coast there's a real town called Cambria a beautiful, charming village of artists and craftsmen, entrepreneurs and non-profit founders. I spent a summer there performing a wonderful play and became fascinated by life in a small town. I grew up in a huge city Tokyo so for me, a small town was as foreign and unusual as anything I could imagine. I also left tuntirively that a small-town setting would be perfect as a microcosm for story telling. So I decided to create a fictional town loosely based on Cambria.

Now I had the challenge of choosing a name for my fictional town, and I began with research. Cambria is a Welsh name, so I examined a map of Wales, and discovered that its coastline is, in fact, quite similar to the rugged Central California coastlar jeepon. In Wales there's another real town called Milford Haven (no hyphen). It caught my attention particularly when I began rehearsals for another play in which I'd just been cast. It was playing the role of Imogen in Stakssepares Cymbellien. In it, Imogen receives a letter from her beloved that says, "Meet me in Cambria, in Milford Haven." Well, that was it!

The next chapter of this real-life story is just amazing. My radio drama was discovered by a BBC executive producer and became the first American radio serial ever broadcast by the BBC. Of course, we were all "over the moon" with excitement. But one thing I did not forsee was that the real two in Millord Haven would want me to visit there. When I did my London press tour, I also took the train to Wales. When I arrived, imagine my amazement at being greeted by the Town Fathers, who gave me a parade down Main Street, and a reception in Town Hall! It was astonishing, and more heart-warming than I can possibly describe. So, I have a forewer connection to the people of Millord Haven, Wales, and am doing research now for a historical novel that will connect the original Millord Haven with my American Millord-Haven. Sometimes file is stranger than fection!

When you're creating characters do you incorporate traits from people you know?

Yes, sometimes I find a particular trait in a real person just so fascinating that I can't resist incorporating it into a character. I do not, however, "copy" a person wholesale, as it were. I focus on a particular talent or prodivity and imagine how it might work its way into a fictional personality. In general, I'm fascinated by human behavior and choices, and I think a writer of fiction almost has to be, in order to write realistic, compelling characters. So, I might notice a particular behavior and work backwarf from there, imagining how a person might have arrived at that behavior, thus detecting something about their background and experiences and what makes them "tick."









href="http://stressed rach.co.uk"><imq src="http://img846.i mageshack.us





FOLLOW ME ON Pinterest





What was the first thing you did after the debut of the first book you wrote?

I think I did a dance around my office, then did a dance around my husband, then did a dance around my cat. Then I closed my eyes and felt an over-whelming surge of gratitude. I've come to identify this (in a seminar I teach) as "completion energy." There is simply nothing like the feeling of completing a project, particularly a book project where the pages are between covers in a beautiful package. The next question is ... what to do with that "completion energy?" I try to channel it into writing the next board.

If an aspiring writer asked for advice what would you tell them?

I spake resembly at two writers' conferences—the Central Coast Writers Conference, and the Women Writing the West Conference and love these nutruing writer communities. We remind each other why we do what we do, despite the long, solitary hours of work. So one thing I say to beginning writers is that this works best as a calling—not a fling, not a way to make a living immediately. But the next thing I d say to mew writers is that the practice of a daily flow of writing can be a transformative, even scarced practice. It can put you in touch with yourself in a way you never imagined. So it has great value, even if it doesn't become your career. If you reach a point that you field writing is your core work, then give yourself to it and write consistently. The flow of the writing is will bring you to your own narrative toice which is what you'll need to find!

Do you have a favorite song, album, or playlist to write to?

Do you have a tavorite song, album, or playist to write to?

Levate special playists for my writing, music that will take me "into the zone." For example, I just finished my new short story When Whales Watch, and my playist for that included the amazing breakthrough album Songs of the Humpback Whale.—the first real recordings of this species captured by Dr. Roger Payne, who I had the pleasure of speaking with several times. Even though my story features a different species, these remarkable sounds from nature pulled me into the depth of the whale's world, as it were. Almost all my playists feature works by Pat Metheny, one of my major lavorites. And them my new novel Where the Heart Lives actually features the Doobs firothers. My characters go to nee of their concerts and also go backstage. This is based on my own long-time friendship with the Doobies and my long that the state of the players of the player as themselves in my radio drama, and in my novel. What the Novel is the player is the player of the player of the player is the player of the player in the player in the player is the player in the play

What book are you reading now?

I'm on book tour right now, driving the California coast, so I'm listening to audio books. I'm doing a final sound check of an audio book I just performed by Louise Gaylord, called Dark Lake. I'm listening to Julia Cameron's non-fiction audio book. A Prosperous Heart. And I'm listening to Debbie Macomber's Sooner or Later. Debbie's a wonderful person. We keep running into each other at Book Expo each year in New York, and we hold write a women's fiction series about small coastal Lowns. Mine started twenty years ago, and hers ten years ago, though she was writing women's fiction long before I was.

Visat are your current projects?

Of course I'm already a work on book three of my Milford-Haven saga, which is titled Why Hearts Keep Secrets. I'm also working on its prequel short story, titled When Blues are Butterflies. I'm writing a new holiday short story, and, at my publisher's request, I'm writing a sequel short story too. I also am now back to writing my blog, which I really love. And I'm working with my friend and co-author Erin Gray on an update of our best-selling non-fletion book Act Right. Gees, writing this list makes me realize... as soon as my tour is completed, I better get back to work! But meanwhise, as I travel from indie bookstore to indie bookstore on the California coast, I am so enjoying connecting with readers both in person and on line. Readers are the other half of the writing equation. I couldn't of the work without readers, and I so appreciate your introducing me to a new community of readers through your wonderful blog! Many thanks.



The short story When Whales Watch is FREE to my readers during the blog tour! you can pickup your copy at http://marapurl.com/2012blog/. And for those who don't have e-readers, on that same special page there is a free pdf download.

In addition to that special bonus download page, there are other goodies my readers can enjoy on Mara Purl's website.

Visit http://marapurl.com/books/when-whales-watch/you will find a free song called "Save the Whales" that you can download, and in addition there are several "behind the scenes" videos throughout the site.

And one more thing — Mara Purl would love to do a special giveaway to whoever sends the most beautiful postcard to her. She will post it on Pinterest, and will also be happy to send you a copy of the new hardcover. Mara's postcard page is http://marapurl.com/share-



- Five Stars A Must-Read
- Favorite!
- Four Stars Loved It
- Three Stars Liked It
 Two Stars It Was Okay
 One Star Didn't Like It

Apps
Baby Products
Back2Best
Blog Hops
Blogger Opportunities
Board Games
Books/E-Books
Clothing

Cookery Crafts DVD Food

Food Fragrances Gaming Garden Gifts Giveaways Guest Posts Hair & Skincare Health

Health
Home
Hyglene
Just For Fun
Life
Music Mondays
Outdoor
Pet Care
Poom
Press Release
Promotion
Relationships
Reviews
Safety
Saturday is Caption Day
Silent Sunday
Software

Silent Sunday Software Sponsored Posts Sweets Tips Toys Uncategorized

M Archives

November 2012
October 2012
September 2012
August 2012
July 2012
June 2012
May 2012
April 2012
March 2012
February 2012

January 2012 December 2011 November 2011 October 2011





facebook



Name: Stressed Rach

Status: ohh I have just secured another giveaway:) Fans: 4417

ote your Page too

• NetworkedBlogs