



December Books Perfect Gifts for the Holidays

Happy Holidays! There is no other time like December, is there? The atmosphere is charged with anticipation. Granted, we all have too much to do in too little time. And there tends to be too much in the way of commercial pressure to spend.

Yet everywhere we look, we also see sincere efforts to beautify with decorations, to include family and friends at special gatherings, and to reach out to those in need.

Surely the most special part of the holidays is the sense of giving. **It's a time to use our heads to give wisely; and a time to use our hearts to give generously.** And of all the things we might buy for others, a book might be one of the least expensive, yet the richest in what it provides for the recipient---a special door opening into a new world.

This month you'll find special prices and packages, as well as a **FREE holiday story** to inspire and warm the cockles of your heart. And my beautiful hardcover edition of **What the Heart Knows** will look gorgeous under the tree---yours or a dear one's.

So join me in Milford-Haven! Whether this is a return visit, or your very first one, enjoy novel number one, [What the Heart Knows](#), a book set in the beautiful autumn of California's Central Coast. And treat yourself to a holiday tale by downloading the beautiful short story [Whose Angel Key Ring](#). Happy Holidays in . . . [Milford-Haven!](#)



Your Cozy, Inspiring Holiday Story!

It's that time of year . . . time to curl up with a heart-warming story that reminds you why the holidays are so special.

First, stimulate all five senses with holiday treats. You'll love the gorgeous estate overlooking the magnificent scenery of Santa Barbara, and the details of the elegant rooms of the main house and the cozy warmth of the cottage overlooking the bluff. Your mouth will be watering as you read about the holiday dinner (and you'll find recipes at the end of the book.) And when you've heard, tasted, smelled and seen the elements of this special story, it's your heart that will be touched by this tale of a long-lost mother and the special key ring that unlocks her secret in . . . [Whose Angel Key Ring](#).

Warm up your Kindle because the new story is **FREE** throughout December! [Whose Angel Key Ring for Kindle](#). And if you have a Nook, the story is only \$1.99! [Whose Angel Key Ring for Nook](#).

You might recall my summer short story e-book became a Kindle best-seller. Want to help me beat that record! Just **DOWNLOAD NOW FOR FREE!** Just click on the e-book image with the red ribbon.

And if you enjoy the story . . . don't forget to post a comment! Thank you!



Holiday Book Tea!

Are you in Colorado? Still wondering what you'd like to receive in your own Christmas stocking? Looking for a way to give one final hint to your husband, daughter, son, significant other or best friend?

I have an elegant solution to these dilemmas. Join me on December 18th . . . **the last Sunday before Christmas** . . . for a delightful tea at All The Glitters fine jewelry store.

What will you find? You'd find [What the Heart Knows](#), a true gift from the heart, my new novel that seems to be sweeping the nation with good reviews and wonderful comments from readers.

But wait . . . there's more! All That Glitters has helped me to create a gorgeous charm suitable for Pandora (and all similar) bracelets! It's now available in both white bronze and in sterling silver!

While you shop . . . and munch delicious treats . . . I'll be sitting by the Christmas tree reading from my new holiday short story [Whose Angel Key Ring](#).



So join us! **SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH, 12 Noon till 4:00 PM.** 2518 West Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs. 719-475-7160.

Heart Cackle Charm

How about a special treat for yourself or for one of your favorite women? No matter where you are, you can still order one of these gorgeous charms! It's available in white bronze (blue ribbon), oxidized bronze (bronze ribbon), and now in sterling silver (silver ribbon)!

To purchase the charm with a book, click on the publisher's Order page. To purchase a charm on its own, send an e-mail to MaraPurl@MaraPurl.com.



Kirkus Review

This is a thrill -- another excellent review from an important trade publication! Here's what the reviewer had to say about *What the Heart Knows* . . .



Former *Days of Our Lives* actress Purl imbues her soap opera finesse into the fictional setting of Milford-Haven, a sleepy California coastal town where a cast of characters balance matters of the head and heart.

It's the mid-1990s, and nature artist Miranda Jones has left the urban hustle of San Francisco for the quaint allure of Milford-Haven, a town that seduces passersby with its homey aromas wafting from Sally's Restaurant, and where lighthouses and seashells afford its denizens a quiet serenity. Miranda's inspiration is her paintbrush, and the town's seascape is her muse. Sally O'Mally is an Arkansas transplant with a nose in everyone's business, especially Samantha Hugo's, the ex-wife of her boyfriend, Jack Sawyer. News reporter Christine Christian goes missing after a secret source leads her to a mansion under construction, and her oil mogul boyfriend, Joseph Calvin, the senior partner of Calvin Oil, is worried. In nearby Santa Barbara, Miranda's opportunistic manager, Zelda McIntyre, also sets her sights on the eldest Calvin, while Joseph's son, Zackery, is smitten with the mysterious Miranda. The plethora of lives that interweave in Milford-Haven is dizzying at first, but in true serial form, they slowly collide, enticing the onlooker. Simmering just below the gossip that pervades the resident's lives are heavy-hitting issues, including Samantha's deeply held familial secret, as well as her professional commitment to protect the environment from new construction stemming from Jack's building company. This may be Apple Pie, USA, but hearts are on the line, professions are at stake and a possible murder has tainted the landscape. Ending each plot line in a cliffhanger, Purl closes the saga with a peek at the next installment in the Milford-Haven series. A whirlwind of juicy drama with dangling-carrot closure.

ForeWord Magazine Review

Wow! An excellent review from the top indie publishing magazine! So gratifying when a reviewer really gets the book. . . . Here's what she had to say. about *What the Heart Knows*:



What the Heart Knows is an upbeat novel, billed by the author as "small town fiction," and the first book of Purl's Milford-Haven series. The book opens powerfully with the appearance of the first of many strongly developed characters, Christine Christian. A television reporter, Christian is lured to the construction site of a controversial mansion-to-be with the promise of the inside scoop. Her fate remains unanswered in the pages that follow, until the reader discovers the prologue for book two generously included at the close of book one. Teasing mentions of the reporter keep one reading to find the answer.

What the Heart Knows is set in the mid-1990s, before the tidal wave of personal technology devices, social media, and the need to be "connected" 24/7. Purl does not use external paraphernalia to bring her characters to life. Instead, she creates genuine relationships that make sense within the story; each character has a clear set of goals and morals, all served up through dialogue and inner thought processes. Sound old-fashioned? It is. The author puts in the work so the reader does not need to Google each reference to stay on top of the story.

In a time of high unemployment and the resulting panic, it is also a pleasure to encounter characters that have profitable businesses and strong careers. Each person evolves through insightful internal dialogue written by the author and "spoken" during times when the characters are alone, reflective, and seriously mulling over their current situations and future plans.

Miranda the artist pokes through the cast as the most likeable of the crew. She is creative, outdoorsy, and very concerned with the environment and animal welfare. Her thoughts while painting, sketching, or considering her work bring the reader deep inside her psyche and illuminate her seascapes and animal portraits. Of a cheetah named Lia who waits on the easel to be completed, Miranda says, "My job is to reveal her spirit, not to encase her in paint." This simple sentence conveys the values and vision of the artist both in her work and her life.

Sally O'Mally is the owner of the local breakfast spot where the residents of Milford-Haven meet for heart-to-heart conversations, drool over cinnamon buns, and catch up on local gossip. She is the most boisterous character, a smiling, seemingly happy woman. However, Sally harbors secrets, often spilling them out before she realizes she has opened her mouth. Her bubbly demeanor belies her sadness. Sally is involved in a clandestine affair with Jack Sawyer, the contractor for the mansion that is the plague of this otherwise idyllic coastal town. Sally wants the town to know about the romance, particularly when she learns that Jack's ex-wife is one of the well-respected locals.

The long roster of characters all have large roles in the story and the author kindly wrote a kind of glossary at the end of the book, including physical descriptions, jobs, and major ties to other characters. Multiple love stories, friendships, crushes, and storylines populate *What the Heart Knows*. The author keeps the romantic interactions to a PG-13 level, eschewing gratuitous sex, and nary an expletive muddies the dialogue.

Purl's characters are well-traveled, educated, and street smart. While she indulges in some clichés and predictable moments, these are redeemed in subsequent pages. For a prequel of book two in the series, *When Hummers Dream*, visit the author's website: www.marapurl.com. -- Dindy Yokel

How to Order Your Unsigned Book

It's time to have your very own copy of this beautiful book! So choose your favorite option for getting it into your hands quickly and efficiently.

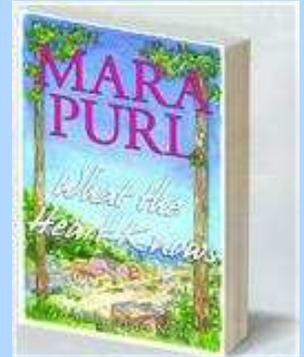
Amazon -- What the Heart Knows from Amazon

Barnes & Noble -- What the Heart Knows at BN.com

Books-A-Millon -- What the Heart Knows at BooksAMillion

And of course we LOVE Indie Bound and independent bookstores! If you'd like to support independent booksellers here's What the Heart Knows at IndieBound.

AND . . . the book can be bought or ordered at ANY bookseller, wherever you are.



How to Order Your Signed Book – and More!

Ten-Ten-Eleven . . . 10-10-11 . . . Monday October 10th. . . .

That's the official LAUNCH DAY for What the Heart Knows!

You already know to click on www.MaraPurl.com/launch. OR you can go directly to my publisher's website ORDER page BellekeepBooks.com/Order where you'll find several options.

- 1 - You'll be able to order your signed copy, and even have it personalized, if you like.
- 2- You'll be able to choose a PREMIUM package that will include a beautiful watercolor print by my cover artist Mary Helsaple.
- 3 - You'll be able to order a JEWELRY package that will include my new seashell charm (the one on my wrist in the photo)---described below.

Premium and Jewelry packages will arrive in beautiful distinctive wrappings designed just for the Milford-Haven Novels, so please allow an extra two weeks for delivery.



Other E-Books

Yes! The Milford-Haven Stories and Novels are available as e-books!

When Hummers Dream is the prequel to book one, so don't miss it if you have an e-reader! It's an official best-seller in the Kindle store and the numbers have continued to climb . . . now with than 15,000 downloads! And it's also available for Nook.

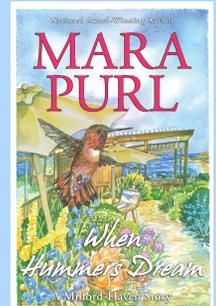
[When Hummers Dream Kindle edition from Amazon](#)

[When Hummers Dream Nook Book from Barnes & Noble](#)

What the Heart Knows is Book One of the series.

[What the Heart Knows Kindle edition from Amazon](#)

[What the Heart Knows Nook Book from Barnes & Noble](#)



Winter Tour Schedule in the Press Room

The full book tour schedule is posted and constantly updated. Enjoy finding out where I'll be day by day during the months of January and February.

An Thumbnail sketch:

January 26 - Tattered Cover, Highlands Ranch, Colorado

January 28 - Barnes & Noble, Albuquerque, New Mexico

February 2 - Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge, Phoenix, Arizona

February 9 - Vromans, Pasadena (pending)

February 10 - Barnes & Noble, Ventura, California (pending)



February 11 - The Curious Cup, Carpenteria, California (pending)

February 12 - Private Home for elegant Uni-Tea event, Santa Barbara, California

February 13 - The Book Loft, Solvang, California

February 14 - Pewter Plough Playhouse, Cambria, California (pending)

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 DMProductionsLLC.

Most Recent Blogs at www.MaraPurl.WordPress.com

Most Recent Blogs at www.MaraPurl.WordPress.com In case you missed them, you can click on these any time.

November 1 --- ***Fiction: Tricks or Treats?*** . . . about the purpose of fiction, which is neither to trick us into believing the untrue, nor to treat us with an over-sugared version of reality.

November 7 --- ***When Women Gather*** . . . about women getting together to pursue matters of the head (like all the non-profit work we do) and maybe even more importantly, where we let our hair down and share the funny and the serious . . . from the heart.

November 14 --- ***Whose Mysteries: Our Characters' or Ours?*** . . . about the challenge of digging deep enough to unravel inner and outer mysteries, and the satisfaction of solving them.

November 28 -- ***Thanksgiving Fully Present*** . . . about how much I used to love Thanksgiving in the future and the past, but now cherish it as our most special day of gratitude in the present.

December 5 -- ***A Season of Possibility*** . . . about how all things become possible at this magical time of year.

December 12 -- ***My Holiday Story*** . . . about how the holidays just can't be complete without reading a great holiday story, and how I came to write mine.

Go to www.MaraPurl.WordPress.com and Click SIGN ME UP if you'd like my blog posts to be delivered to your email in-box!

What Warms My Heart

Everywhere I've visited with readers this autumn I've experienced an off-the-charts feeling of resonance.

Couple that with what hangs in the air this time of year . . . the magical sense that all things are possible . . . and I feel such a sense of excitement that it really is like Christmas every day!

May your holidays be joyous and filled with special inspiration . . . the kind you get from family and dear friends, and from reading something inspiring.

And may the New Year's plans and resolutions that dance in your head be informed by the warmth and wisdom of your heart.

Happy Holidays!! I hope you'll join me and find yourself in . . . Milford-Haven!

