



## April Showers of Books

Happy spring! We've had such wonderful showers in California . . . much more precipitation than usual, but, greedy as we are for water, we're not complaining! We'll be using it in the dryer months ahead. You know how they say everything happens first in California? It's true! Some of our May flowers are already here. My favorites are the jacaranda, the magical trees that burst into ultra-violet and cast a purple haze when their tall branches arch gracefully over a street. The air is filled with delicate tinges of orange blossom and jasmine. Intoxicating!



The long, productive winter has yielded a brand, spanking new crop of books! Or, to be more accurate, PRE-books, known in the trade as Advanced Reader Copies, or ARCs. of *What the Heart Knows*. They do look like books. They look almost exactly how my finished book will look. Except that in place of the final back cover, it has information reviewers and buyers find useful and necessary. We've already planted the seeds, and been watering them. This is sort of like delivering pots with green shoots that will soon start to bloom. The publisher will soon be sending out these special pre-publication editions. If YOU or someone you know reviews or blogs about books, let me know! We'll be happy to send you or them an ARC.

## Coming Events & the new Socie-Tea

As many of you know, for the past few years I've been co-creating and co-hosting special author tea events. We did **Hospitali-Teas**, **Possibili-Teas**, and **Generosi-Teas** . . . and we have many more in the planning stages. But what I wanted to do was create an actual membership society my readers could join, whether or not you're able to attend these events in person.



So . . . I'm thrilled to announce the new **Milford-Haven Socie-Tea!** Membership enrollment will open April 30th at the L.A. Times Festival of Books, and in the next newsletter I'll give you the link for joining. Membership will entitle you to all kinds of goodies, like better book prices and special bonus items.

During the summer I'll be doing small Author Tea events in California and Colorado that we call Authori-Teas. Would you like to co-host one with me? If so, pick your theme, and pick your charity. I always donate a percentage of book sales to a favorite non-profit. Guests at my Tea events can pre-order the beautiful hardcover for a discounted price and receive a special bonus item as well. If this sounds like fun, e-mail [Reya@HavenBooks.net](mailto:Reya@HavenBooks.net), who will continue to assist with my personal events.

An exciting list of events is in the planning stages for next fall. My marketing team **DM Productions** is cooking up some wonderful events. For example, I'll be doing a Virtual Book Tour throughout the month of August. And in September I've been invited to speak in San Luis Obispo, first to the SLO NightWriters, and then at the annual Central Coast Book Festival. Several other events are in the planning stages too. Meanwhile, what's right around the corner is the LA Times Festival of Books later this month, and Book Expo American in May!

## This Month . . . L.A. Times Festival of Books

**April 30th and May 1st** . . . it'll be an amazing weekend in Los Angeles. This is the annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, the largest book festival in the U.S. with 150,000 visitors! This year the **Milford-Haven Novels booth** will be **#922**, and that we will be doing something VERY special in the booth! **Mary Helsaple**, the gifted and multiple award-winning artist who does the watercolor cover art for my books will be **PAINTING LIVE** in the booth! Be sure to stop by to watch her wizardry. And you'll have a chance to join the new **Milford-Haven Socie-Tea** ---with the bonus for joining being a brand new hot-off-the-press Advance Reader Copy of ***What the Heart Knows!*** And you'll be able to purchase small original art pieces of Mary's as well!



Also please note that this event---the largest book festival in the U.S.---has moved from the UCLA campus to the USC campus---a totally different part of the city, close to downtown, and to the Staples Center. I look forward to seeing you there!

## New Press Room!

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'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 marketing team will be happy to schedule an interview.

## Next Month . . . Book Expo America!

May is the month for the largest book trade show in the country, Book Expo America, or BEA. This is where publishers connect with buyers, and authors debut their latest books to the trade. It's one of the key events of the year for the publishing business. This year it will again take place in the Big Apple, at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City. It will be a thrill for me to be there with my new publishers! I'll be signing the ARCs of my new book twice on Wednesday, May 25th. The first signing is from Noon to 1:00 pm in the official Autographing Hall. The second is from 2:30 - 3:30 in the huge Midpoint Trade Books booth, number 2439. If you're in the book biz, please stop by! I look forward to meeting you and signing a book for you!



## The World of Reading

Do you remember the very first time you read a book? Do you remember than a world opened for you when you did? Books were always an important part of my life. I remember "reading" to my dolls (making up stories while I looked at the pictures.) By age three I was reading for real, and my mom tells the story that at that age I was the youngest person in town to get a library card.



These days I often take the time to notice what others are reading. I belong to [Good Reads](#), where you can post what you're reading, see what others are reading, and share thoughts about books. In my frequent travels I see people reading constantly in airports and on planes. With all the freeway driving, I listen to a lot of audiobooks. Libraries report that borrowing is way up in print, ebook and audio formats. In general, we are all reading on more platforms than has ever been possible, and we're reading more than ever!

Why do we read? We read to learn, to escape, to get inspired, to get practical information, to study, to dream, to laugh, to cry, to gain insight and wisdom, to solve puzzles and figure out mysteries. We read to look more deeply into things, to glimpse worlds we wouldn't otherwise see. We read to make our lives better.

Why do you read? And what are you reading? Let me know by visiting the [Milford-Haven Novels facebook page!](#)

## New Plot Line – A Teaser from the last chapter

So you've been hearing about the NEW content in the NEW edition of *What the Heart Knows*. . . . I figure it's time to share at least a HINT of what to expect. . . .

I mentioned shells. Have you ever walked along the shore to collect them? I've been collecting them all my life, first in Connecticut when I was very young, then in Japan where I grew up, then near New York City where I worked as a journalist after college, then in California where I've lived ever since. Of course I've collected shells in Cambria. So if I love shells so much, why shouldn't my characters? In Book One, Miranda thinks she's hurrying back to her painting studio after a workout at "Burn It Off," when she notices a new store on Main Street called SHELL SHOCK. She gazes, entranced, into the boxes of shells that line the walls. So many gorgeous colors, magical openings, other-worldly shapes. Then she sees one she's never seen before. It seems to look like . . . a heart. And it is! It's a Heart Cockle Shell! Now, more than ever, she's convinced her heart knew what it was doing when it brought her to Milford-Haven. . . . And this is the beginning of something special for you, too. At the back of book one, you'll see a page called "Secret Of the Shells." There will be *much* more on this topic. . . .



## Answers To Your Questions

1 – Will the content of the books be the same as in the early editions?

– No! In honor of you, my readers, I've added SO much new material to *What the Heart Knows*, that you won't want to miss the new pieces.

– Yes! The basic story remains the same, a tale of artist Miranda Jones and her career and romance; a tale of Milford-Haven and its good (and bad) citizens; a tale of Santa Barbara and its beautiful people; a tale of journalist Chris Christian and of her mysterious murder.

2 – Will you still be able to purchase books online?

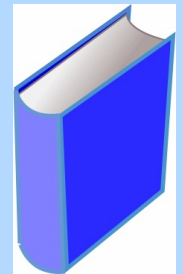
– Yes! We'll be sending you all the information you need for ordering.

3 – Will e-book editions be available?

– Yes! Bellekeep will be publishing the Milford-Haven Novels in e-book form for all platforms, so you'll be able to get versions for Kindle, Nook, Sony Reader, iPad, and whatever your favorite e-reader happens to be.

4 – Will previous readers enjoy any special benefit from having bought the early editions?

– Yes! Over the next couple of months, I'll be announcing some of the special things we're creating just for you.



## Early Editions

Are they still available? Most are . . . in very limited quantities. If you're a collector, and want to be sure you have these early editions for posterity, now is the time to purchase them! Visit Haven Books, and click "Order".

Here's the list:

*What the Heart Knows (Sold Out)*

*What the Heart Knows - Audio Book*

*Closer Than You Think*

*Closer Than You Think - Audio Book*

*Child Secrets*

*Cause and Conscience*

*Christmas Angels*

*Christmas Angels - Audio Book*



## Blog-O-Rama

Well, I thought it'd be impossible, but since Valentine's Day I've posted nine blog entries. I'm enjoying it! And, thankfully, so are many of you, which certainly makes my week. As you know if you've subscribed, my theme these days is the heart. I learned so much about the subject writing ***What the Heart Knows***, that I find I really do want to share some of the inner ideas.



The symbol for this book is the heart cockle, a remarkable shell filled with inner chambers. This is where we get the expression "warm the cockles of my heart"---the multiple rooms where our innermost thoughts reside.

The blog is about connecting these inner feelings to outer events. Some are calendar fixtures, like Daylight Savings and April Fools' Day; some are world events like the earthquake, tsunami, and radioactivity levels in Japan. Instead of writing from an "outer reporting" perspective (as I did when I was a journalist), I'm writing the blog from an "inner reporting" point of view, searching deeply to see how a heart-perspective might bring insight, wisdom, or solace. And the more this turns into a dialogue with you, the better, so I welcome your comments.

If you'd like to share this part of my journey, you can read or subscribe at [www.MaraPurl.WordPress.com](http://www.MaraPurl.WordPress.com). The most recent one is "Go With the Flow," as the mountain snows melt and the rivers gush towards the sea.

You're a vital part of this journey. As you help me progress, I hope perhaps I can help you progress too. Not one of us is truly alone. We're on this journey together. It's going to be an amazing year! I hope you'll join me and find yourself in . . . ***Milford-Haven!***