



June Books Leafing Out

Ahhh . . . Summer! The sycamores and oaks alongside the trails and overhanging the houses in my neighborhood have leafed out providing perfect housing for the mockingbirds, and canopies for we humans against the heat that'll arrive later. For now, we're still enjoying the traditional Southern California June Gloom (see my June 6 blog) and loving the misty mornings and sunny afternoons in the 70s. Sorry to brag so much about California, but these are the idyllic days.

Meanwhile my books are keeping pace by leafing out as well . . . so far in the form of Advance Reader Copies, which are ambassadors for the hardcover that arrives in the fall.

The ARCs are on their way now to reviewers and to prospective endorsers, so if you are someone---or know someone---who should receive a copy let me know!

As you know, I've been traveling a lot. I'm about to head for the hills . . . the Rocky Mountains, that is, where I'll spend July and August with family, with friends, and with the requisite hours of solitude to write write write. . . . In July I'll be doing some smaller Socie-Tea events. And in August I'll be doing a Virtual Book Tour. So it'll be a busy, productive summer. Happy summer to you, and I'll keep you posted!



Coming Up – Mara's First FREE Preview E-Book

BIG NEWS! First, am SO excited to share with you that my fantastic new publishers and I are releasing my first E-Book in August! Second, for the whole month, it'll be FREE!

The title of the e-book is *When Hummers Dream*. It's a short story---which happens to take place in August---featuring my protagonist, artist Miranda Jones, in my favorite little coastal town of Milford-Haven. The story involves Miranda and a hummingbird she paints after he gets in trouble. . . .

Also included in the e-book will be the Prologue and Chapter 1 of *What the Heart Knows*, so you'll get a jump on the September novel. How can you get it? Beginning August 1, you can download my new e-book for free. On Amazon.com, it'll be a Kindle Single. On BN.com it'll be a Nook Book. In the July newsletter, I'll give you all the details including the links.

Meanwhile, I can't show you the whole book cover yet (another glorious watercolor by [Mary Helsaple](#)). But here's a preview of the star of the story---the hummer himself. He's a Rufous hummingbird, by the way, one of the species that inhabits California's Central Coast in summer, then in October migrates all the way back to Mexico.

So get your Kindle, Nook Kobo, Sony Reader, iPad App, or whatever reader you have ready to receive your FREE summer read. . . .



Mara & a Fabulous Team at Book Expo America

May Book Expo in New York City . . . was, as always, a high-powered few days in the Big Apple.

For the signing in the Autographing Hall, which surely must be every author's favorite place to be, thanks again to Dave Holton for famously running the smoothest autographing show on the planet, and thanks to Andrew, one of his team, for again being my point person behind the scenes. Thanks to Bellekeep Books' Associate Publisher **Margot Atwell**. And special thanks to Bellekeep Publishing Associate **Patrice Samara**, and education specialist **Sam Glyn Nava** (pictured, with me) for being my New York marketing geniuses. With their help, this was one of my most successful signings ever!



This year the Milford-Haven Novels were featured for the first time in the Midpoint Trade booth. It was so special having the chance to connect in person with each member of the superb Midpoint team. We're very excited about the new books we'll be bringing to book stores, libraries, on-line vendors, and ultimately to you, readers all over the country, starting just two months from now!

Connecting with Book Expo America Readers

As always, my favorite thing at BEA was connecting with my readers! Thanks to each and every one of you who stood in line to receive an Advance Reader Copy of ***What the Heart Knows!*** What a joy it was to meet you and find out a little about your busy, productive lives. Don't forget to send me your comments when you've read the book! (PS - Thanks for the comments about my purse! I'll keep you posted as we expand our merchandise!)



Are you in this photo with me? If so, send me an e-mail with your mailing address to receive a FREE copy of the hardcover when it's published in September!

Summer Socie-Tea Events

So far, we're planning two ***Milford-Haven Socie-Tea*** events in Colorado this summer.

One will be a Pool Par-Tea for members of the Country Club of Colorado, co-hosted by Bari Wilson. Plan to wear your bathing suit and a fabulous hat so you can enter to win the hat contest! (A free copy of my new novel is the prize!) We'll be serving iced tea, of course, and some refreshing goodies. Tentative date is Thursday, July 28th from 4pm to 7pm at the Adult Pool. Please RSVP to Bari at BoysnBari@gmail.com.

The other will be a Possibili-Tea for friends and guests in Woodland Park at the home of Lenore Hotchkiss, date and time To Be Announced.



If you'd like to co-host a Socie-Tea event, please e-mail me, or e-mail Reya@HavenBooks.net. We'll make plans!

Additions to the 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 have some great new VIDEO from the book festival!



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 DMPProductionsLLC.

The Author's Platform

How do authors get publishing deals these days, anyway?? It's not easy. Of course it requires excellent writing. And it also requires a "platform"---something for the author to stand on.

I recently had the pleasure of speaking on this topic for members of Author U. The four planks of the platform I recommended were Vision and Influence (which I call Macro elements, meaning things that go way beyond yourself and include others), Expertise and Passion (Micro elements, meaning things you work on within yourself.) I posed some deep questions that I left with the audience. And I told stories from the heart . . . about my own journey, the mistakes I've made, the triumphs that've made it all worthwhile, and a few of the big lessons.



Other speakers at the event whose work I recommend are **Alyson Stanfield**---author of *I'd Rather Be In the Studio*---who blogs, coaches, and speaks so dynamically. And **Judith Briles**, who shared her astounding professional journey, author of twenty books, E.F. Hutton's first female stock broker, the first author ever to write on money advice for women, and a speaker who recently completed a thirty-year career as one of the top speakers in the U.S. She's now focusing on her book shepherding business and creating breakthrough programs for authors at Author U.

New Plot Line – A Teaser from Book One

Here's another PREVIEW from my upcoming novel [What the Heart Knows](#). . . .

This month, I want to share one of my most unusual characters with you---Cornelius Smith---a character I've been writing since the original radio drama days, and researching even longer. The name is a tribute to my late friend Cornelius Bumpus, a well-known musician who at the time played with the Doobie Brothers. He later spent several years performing with Steely Dan, and also did several albums of his own. I had the pleasure of co-writing a song with him, *Nothing to Stop Me*, which was featured in one of the Milford-Haven episodes. We sang the song as a duet, and it's still a favorite jazz ballad.



My character Cornelius is quite a different sort of man, who is primarily inspired by a dear friend, Dr. Laurance Doyle, an astronomer with NASA. Like Cornelius, Laurance was born and raised on the Central Coast, and in real life, he was the first to introduce me to this region that captured my heart.

Though this may seem odd for a writer of Women's Fiction, I'm quite a Science Fiction person. Some of you may know my affiliations with *Star Trek*---a story for another time. In addition, I wrote a sister-drama to Milford-Haven titled *Haven Ten*, set one hundred years in the future. (When a producer and I pitched the story to the Sci Fi Channel, they said we were too early, they weren't ready to consider any original dramas yet. By the time they were ready, another write pitched them a piece called "Babylon Five", and we lost our window.)

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-lessons

Gradually something wonderful has been happening as I've continued to write my weekly blog. First of all, I'm learning, and that's ALWAYS good. The discipline is wonderful, and so is the connecting with the larger community of readers, writers, and thinkers. Thanks so much for the comments you've posted so far, and please continue.



Something specific that I've been learning is that every single thing in life can be looked at from the perspective of the heart. I keep writing this in my novels; I keep saying this in my blogs; and gradually I'm now able to shift to the heart-perspective more and more readily.

How does this transform things? I see "bad" behavior more compassionately, because I can see the frustration that might lie behind it; I sense resonance with those who might not be able yet to articulate their approval; I find more patience, more understanding, more opportunity in my interactions. I don't recommend abandoning what your head knows; I highly recommend balancing that information with what your heart knows.

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!**