



August Blog Tour - Week # Four

Last week of the tour . . . several more wonderful visits, then sailing into port, a glorious return to safe haven.

I can't say it hasn't been a little exhausting! But the adventure, the new relationships, the shifting perspectives, and the sense of accomplishment far outweigh any temporary fatigue. Plus I have a whole new set of muscles! And since the feasts we've been serving up are "virtual," I'm even getting home "virtuous" . . . no extra pounds.



If you missed some, or even all, of the Amazing August Blog Tour, no worries. Just click www.MaraPurl.com/Calendar, find AUGUST, and you'll discover two options. Click on links to read the blogs "live" and/or make comments (please do! It helps my blog hosts!). Or, you may click on the PDF TRANSCRIPTS, which will give you downloadable files you can save to read later.

You may often have heard me complain that our society is shifting from being a group of literati to being a group of numerate. Well, allow me to indulge in sharing some numbers with you. Just for fun, I decided to look back and count up the number of words I wrote during this tour. Imagine my amazement to discover it was 50,000! (I could've written a book! Oh yes, I *did* write a book!)

Startling though this number was, here comes the shocker. Thanks to my stupendous blog hosts and their own loyal groups of followers, my Blog Tour reached over **17,000,000 blog readers**. What?! Did I add it up right? Yup. Seventeen million folks have now enjoyed a taste of Milford-Haven, be it morsel or a full entree.

As we tie up to the dock and head for the hills, I hope your summer has been as richly rewarding as it could possibly be, and that you'll be joining me in Milford-Haven for novel number one, ***What the Heart Knows***, a book set in the beautiful autumn of California's Central Coast!

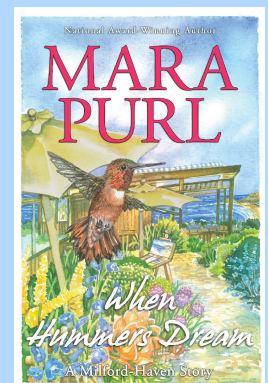
Latest Hummer Update

As summer ends, and the tiny bird begins to think about migrating south, he leaves a huge wake of followers. 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!



Almost Here! *What the Heart Knows*

Well, since last February I've been teasing you with peeks into storylines, experiences behind the scenes, and descriptions of upcoming events. The first autumn nip is tingling the air, and copies of the new hardcover novel are being boxed and shipped even as I write this! I hope you're as excited as I am to see the beautiful new edition!

The next time you hear from me, you'll receive ordering information for the hardcover and the e-book edition from all your favorite booksellers. Meanwhile, you can now PRE-ORDER *What the Heart Knows* as either e-book OR hardcover
From Amazon

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1936878011/ref=s9_simh_gw_p14_d3_g14_i1?pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_s=center-2&pf_rd_r=03GP646DAX045XMVTXTQ&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=470938631&pf_rd_i=507846

From Barnes & Noble

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/what-the-heart-knows-mara-purl/1102998412?ean=9781936878017&itm=2&usri=mara%2bpurl>

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. The moment you click onto the page you smile. First, there's the cute woman clutching a book, ready to spring up and over the slogan: "Books We Know You'll Love." And from there, you can enjoy clicking through a menu of book icons with headings like "domestic goddess," "friends in need," "financially savvy," and my personal favorite, "fiction lovers."

I got to share a neat story here: [Mara Purl visits Girlfriend Books.](http://www.girlfriendbooks.com/?p=1050)

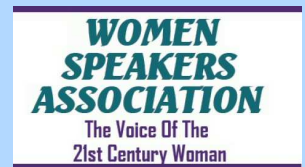
<http://www.girlfriendbooks.com/?p=1050>

And you can find out more about Maria and her site here: [Mara's Girlfriend Blog.](http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/23/blog-tour-visit-15-girlfriend-books/)

<http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/23/blog-tour-visit-15-girlfriend-books/>

Blog Visit #16 – Women Speakers Association

Women are up to something interesting in the world these days. We like to connect, rather than compete; we like to compliment and complement because this way of behaving creates a background of relatedness, which lays the groundwork for agreement and synergy.



When WSA invited me to create a post for its members, I wrote the [Who, What, When, Where, Why of creating a Speaker's Platform.](http://womenspeakersassociation.com/2011/08/mara-purls-post/) (<http://womenspeakersassociation.com/2011/08/mara-purls-post/>) Drawing not only on my journalist experience, but also from one of the key themes from my novel-series, it was fun distilling this information down to a few bullet points that will help others who are creating a speaking career.

Not surprisingly, when I spoke with founder Liora Mendelhoff, I truly found a kindred soul. Animated and articulate, Liora talked about her extensive background in the speaking industry, and also gave me a fascinating perspective on two paradigms. "I've been in the speaker-author world for over 20 years," she explained, "and have watched it evolve. A major shift is going on. Predominant mind-sets have expired. It was masculine-oriented, money-focused. Butts-in-seats was the model, and eventually values went out the window." To read more about the dynamic Liora and her amazing organization, I think you'll enjoy reading the rest of my blog post:

<http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/24/blog-tour-visit-16%E2%80%94women-speakers-association/>

Blog Visit #17 – Boomer Brief

When wickedly smart and savvy PR executives Charlotte and Bob Hill looked around at blogs, they saw a gap. "We didn't see anyone talking to Boomers about the things we were interested in, so we decided to do it ourselves."



Their site has now become one of the top-rated blogs in Dallas, and in the U.S. And it's not easy to get an invite to guest on their millions-of-hits blog. So it was a coup, and an honor to be front-and-center, boomer-to-boomer.

I also want to brag on Charlotte because when she reviewed *What the Heart Knows*, I knew she got every single thing I was writing about. That's an extraordinary feeling. Her review and my interview appeared on Charlotte's amazing post [Take A Chance on Love](http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/25/blog-tour-17-boomer-brief/). Don't miss it, or their whole remarkable site. And to read more about this dynamic duo, enjoy reading Mara's blog about Boomer Brief. (<http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/25/blog-tour-17-boomer-brief/>)

Blog Visit #18 – Essential Garden

What to two women who've just met talk about at 30,000 feet? Well, when I met the fabulous Linda Naylor, we talked about this fascinating chapter of life, the one we're living right now, where we're actually living the dreams we've had for so long, and fulfilling on long-imagined goals.

Naylor, we talked about this

TheEssentialGarden



For her, this meant she flew to New York every week to attend a class designed to train her to create this special blog. Given her already-full schedule, that was a huge commitment. Of course it's smart to train yourself to get really good at something. But this was also a heart matter: she was pursuing her passion. We celebrated this in one another, feeling a sense of synergy, support, and excitement that we're living lives of possibility by listening to our hearts. So it was very special to be invited to guest on her brand-new blog, *The Essential Garden*

(<http://theessentialgarden.wordpress.com/2011/08/26/food-and-writing-at-30000-feet-mara-purl/>),

which normally focuses on garden-to-table fresh foods, the joys of growing and cooking them. And I think you'll enjoy finding out more at my blog about Linda

<http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/26/blog-tour-visit-18-essential-garden.>

Here's something exciting. Linda will be hosting a Milford-Haven Socie-Tea for me in Cincinnati this coming November! All the details will be on my website, so if you're in the area, join us!

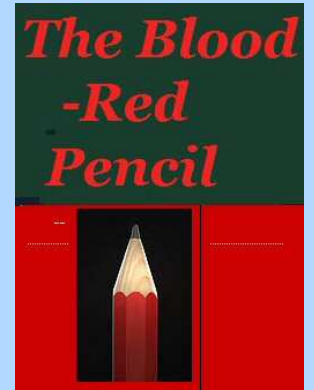
Blog Visit #19 – Blood Red Pencil

There's something glamorous about being a writer. But the truth of the actual writing process is probably as unglamorous as it can be. Why? Because half or two-thirds or three-quarters of what we do is edit and re-write.

Editors generally mark our manuscripts with red pencils (or the virtual equivalent). But given how they mutilate our precious prose (thereby vastly improving it!), the red ink can look and feel more like a blood-letting. So, from the moment I heard about the blog Blood Red Pencil, my head began to nod almost involuntarily in recognition that this was a gathering place for kindred souls.

It's always an honor to be invited by one's peers to offer a contribution. And it's a bit daunting too. But this turned out to be tremendous fun because they asked me to share **how I adapted my radio drama into novels**. I think you'll enjoy this abbreviated version of a l-o-n-g tale!
<http://bloodredpencil.blogspot.com/2011/08/aug-27-writing-novel-from-radio-show.html>

And to find out more about the multi-talented and accomplished blog members—founder Dani Greer, and award-winning author Heidi Thomas among them—enjoy my blog about Blood Red Pencil.
<http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/27/blog-tour-visit-19-blood-red-pencil/>



Blog Visit #20 – Betty's Blogging Place

One of my earlier blog visits (#5) was to a terrific site called Words In Progress, founded by author Betty Carlton. Well, it turns out the highly prolific author-and-blogger also runs Betty's Blogging Place, and decided to invite me to appear on this site as well.

After some very kind introductory remarks, Betty decided to share an excerpt from my upcoming novel What the Heart Knows. So this is your only chance for a sneak peak!
<http://bettysbloggingplace.blogspot.com/2011/08/mara-purl.html>

Thanks again to Betty, who I wrote about in my Visit #5 Blog.
<http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/10/blog-tour-visit-5-works-in-progress/#comment-90>



Blog Visit #21 – Unsinkable Western History

One of the joys of my author-life is membership in Women Writing the West, a group of superb, dedicated writers. Though we only get together once a year, we support each other in myriad ways, including, for example, hosting each other on blog tours. Our unsinkable admin is the remarkable Joyce Lohse, who's also an award-winning author of a remarkable series of biographies about western pioneers. Joyce also writes a fascinating blog with its distinctive name. To find out more about Joyce and her work, read my blog about Joyce.
<http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/30/blog-tour-visit-21-unsinkable-western-history/>

When we first discussed the possibility of my guesting on her blog, the connection between her work and mine didn't seem obvious, as I don't write Western history. But then we realized what was a terrific fit for her blog was the topic of *research*.

With very recent history, it's hard to remember when, exactly, certain things were introduced into mainstream society. Now, for example, cell phones are a fact of life. But in 1996, could a character be relying on a cellular device as his primary means of communication? Turns out, if he has enough money, he could buy the first razor-thin flip phone in 1996, so this was a perfect fit revealed by my research. I shared a much funnier story about Jimmy Choo shoes with Joyce that you can read on my post there. Indeed, in her extreme generosity, Joyce posted three segments of our conversations, and I think you get some good info and a few good laughs by reading them:

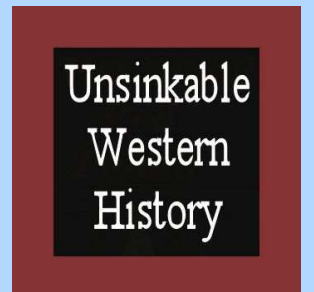
<http://joyce4books.wordpress.com/2011/08/30/mara-purl-visits-during-her-virtual-tour/>

Segment #2

<http://joyce4books.wordpress.com/2011/08/31/mara-purl-interview-segment-2/>

Segment #3

<http://joyce4books.wordpress.com/2011/09/01/mara-purl-interview-segment-3/>



Blog Visit #22 – Original Impulse

A sip of rich, dark java from a Mellor press while sitting at a tiny table in a café overlooking the Seine. That sounds like a perfect ritual in the life of an artist, doesn't it? And this leads to the intriguing question: does creativity come strictly from within us? Or do we need some external elixir to prime the pump?

Cynthia Morris is an American author-blogger-teacher- who travels and works as a creativity coach and travel guide. "I blog as a way to share my work as a coach for writers and artists. I address common challenges in the creative process with my (hopefully) unique and inspiring solutions." You can find out more at Mara's Blog about Cynthia. <http://marapurl.wordpress.com/?p=620&preview=true>



For my visit to her beautiful blog, Cynthia suggested I focus on *place* or *setting* in the Milford-Haven Novels. We agreed immediately that in some ways fiction really is location, location, location. This is certainly the case with my novels, which take their name from their location, and in which my fictional town in some ways becomes another character. Since Milford-Haven is based loosely upon the real town of Cambria, California, Cynthia asked me which things I kept the same, and which things I changed, and also why that particular setting is so perfect for my story. That led to an interesting discussion, and many more probing questions. I think you'll enjoy the whole dialogue at Original Impulse. <http://www.originalimpulse.com/blog/mara-purl-interview/>

So this marked the richly delicious end of my American blog tour. But . . . was it in fact the beginning of my European blog tour? Aha! An idea is born. . . . Stay tuned!

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 months of September, October and November at www.MaraPurl.com/Calendar. I'll be sending out regional newsletters to keep you posted.

<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.

Blog-a-palooza!

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!