



August Blog Tour - Week # One

Will wonders never cease? Now an author can be on "tour" while sitting at her desk! As global connectivity seems sometimes to compress our world, a virtual tour expands it.

Thus, through the generosity of blog-hosts, and via the wizardry of the internet, I've been connecting with new groups of readers in different parts of the country. I'm picturing this as a sailing voyage.



Because I want to make sure that you, my core group of readers, get included on this fantastic tour, here's a First Class Ticket.

How will this work? You'll get to come on board, sit at the Captain's table, and enjoy a delicious feast of words and ideas. Sometimes we'll talk about mystery, sometimes about romance; sometimes we'll talk about creating, sometimes about sitting back to enjoy. Always, we'll provide a mix of sweet and savory—humorous and serious. (To find out more about how the tour works, you can click here to read my introductory blog post <http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/01/launching-the-blog-tour-boat/>)

So grab your straw hat, flip-flops, and sun screen, then head for the dock and climb aboard the sailboat Milford-Haven. . . .

Blog Visit #1 – Transformation with Katy Sullivan

My first stop was both realistic and fanciful. My dear friend Katy Sullivan and I thought we'd treat you to your own private mini-movie. Katy is an accomplished actress, a singer, and an athlete who runs for gold all over the country. She's a speaker and spokeswoman. And she's also beginning to be a writer.



Katy and I share several passions. One is acting, and story-telling through drama. So we've written a scene where you can eavesdrop on one of our conversations . . . the kind of conversation that has us sitting in a booth at our favorite neighborhood restaurant all the way through breakfast and well into the lunch hour.

While we have different goals, we share another abiding passion: transformation. We have both loved participating in Landmark Education, where that word gained a special resonance. What does that mean? To us, it means moving from living at the effect of circumstance, to being at cause in our lives. It means taking responsibility for our own experience. It means laughing at our hang-ups and getting past them!

You can eavesdrop on our conversation by visiting Katy's wonderful blog Observations On an Eternal Optimist: <http://observationsofaneternaloptimist.wordpress.com/>

Blog Visit #2 – National Association of Baby Boomer Women



I was truly honored to be the featured guest at the National Association of Baby Boomer Women!

So what's a Boomer woman? A woman born between 1946 and 1964. Why is this group of people so interesting? First of all, because we number 35 million. Second, because we keep redefining ourselves, which turns out to be handy both in terms of a tough economy, and in terms of transforming the whole aging process.

These days, the millions of boomer women in the U.S. are among the most successful, creative, dynamic, driven, and healthy groups of people ever to walk the planet. We own more property, have founded more businesses, have hired more employees, and created more works of all kinds than any group of women before us.

How do we accomplish all this? I think one way is through the encouragement and inspiration available because of a woman like Anne Holmes and all she and her many colleagues are doing at NABBW. Their website is so full of information it's a library unto itself, FULL of ideas, resources, expert-written columns, and possibilities for dynamic connections . . . well worth your while to pay a visit.

To read the intriguing questions director Anne Holmes asked me, and my replies, click on <http://www.nabbw.com/blog/2011/08/mara-purl-launches-virtual-book-tour/>

To read my own blog about Anne and NABBW, visit my blog or click on <http://marapurl.wordpress.com/2011/08/02/blog-tour-visit-2-national-association-of-baby-boomer-women/>.

Blog Visit #3 – Romance Junkies



Now here's a group of voracious readers who like elegance with their fun, style with their prose, and a good, romantic story. With 2,500 loyal followers and 1 million hits a month, they honored me with a center-stage visit on their multi-faceted website!

Blogger Kim Atehue-Eusella asked a series of insightful, in-depth questions . . . on story structure, heroes and heroines, and on the matter of Women's Fiction novels, like mine, that don't fit within the bounds of traditional Romance. Click here to read the whole interview.

As a thanks, I also interviewed Kim on my blog.

Why do women read romance? Such an interesting question! I hope your visit to Romance Junkies speaks to your heart. . . .

Pool Par-Tea in Colorado Springs



The first Milford-Haven Socie-Tea this summer was a small gathering at the Country Club of Colorado, co-hosted by Bari Willson. We had one of our glorious Colorado blue-sky days until about half-way through our festivities, and then a cloud-show began to roll in . . . but not a drop of rain nor a clap of thunder until the moment we finished.

Guests---in bathing suits and, yes, fabulous hats (Bari won the contest with her Flamingo hat!)---were treated to the club's special iced tea, various snacks, and a beautiful cake decorated with shells---one of the themes in the new novels.

Each guest received a special bonus item---a printed copy of the new E-Book *When Hummers Dream* that downloads for 99 cents this month at Amazon.com. For those of you who joined us---thanks for the great questions! I enjoyed sharing stories with you!

We have at least three lovely (and fancier) parties coming up this fall, when the novel will be published. So stay tuned!

Connective-Tea in Florissant, Colorado

If only I really could describe the lovely Lenore Hotchkiss and her extraordinary home! At their "Rock Farm," Lenore and her husband AJ have created a multi-decked, multi-leveled, and multi-windowed abode that, on one side, is nestled amongst gargantuan creature-rocks and, on the other, opens to a mountain panorama that seems more painted than real.



This was the setting for Lenore's delightful event where a group of dynamic, creative women spent an afternoon connecting . . . hence a Connective-Tea! I had the distinct feeling this core group of like-minded women could change the world . . . and are already doing so.

Lenore and I were assisted by our dear friend and my fellow author Laurie Wagner Buyer. Here we are in Lenore's foyer, which features an array of Lenore's stunning wildlife photographs---a neat connection with my wildlife-painter-protagonist Miranda Jones. Also in the foyer were mounted fossils of sea shells . . . another connection to my novels, and to the ocean which suddenly seemed not so far away, even though this part of Colorado rises some 9,000 feet above sea level.

What a joy it was to share some of the Milford-Haven journey with these avid listeners. Each guest left with their printed copy of *When Hummers Dream*. And we all look forward to connecting again next fall, when we'll gather at a public spot in nearby Woodland Park to celebrate the publication of *What the Heart Knows*. Hope you'll be able to connect with us!

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 month of August.

<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 Tour First Lessons

Mostly what I have to say is WOW! What an experience!

The generosity, creativity, and connectivity I'm discovering with each blog that hosts my tour is so impressive and inspiring!

In the "Old Media" paradigm, there wasn't much opportunity for reciprocity. For example, when Jane Pauley interviewed me on "Today" some years ago, what could I do in return? (I sure wrote her a swell thank you note!)



In the "New Media" paradigm it's all about connection, synergy and reciprocity. It's a world of peers where appreciation begets appreciation. This being the case, I decided to double my blog tour by "blogging back" each blog host who scheduled me for a stop on my tour. This, too, has been a joy as I've gotten to know and respect new colleagues.

Perhaps reading blogs is something outside your realm of experience. Perhaps it's something you do frequently. Either way, I hope you'd join me on the tour. It's a journey meant to inspire and a sail through the blogosphere is a lovely way to complete the summer.

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!