

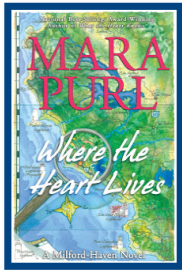


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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2012

GUEST BLOGGER: AUTHOR MARA PURL

I'm pleased to welcome Soap Opera Star and Author (and California girl) Mara Purl as my guest blogger on *Flip Flops & FABs* today.



Mapping the Journey of your Heart - by Mara Purl

There are two reasons the book cover of my new novel features a map. One has to do with "head," and the other with "heart."

We all know what it's like to plan a trip. Mostly we use our "heads" to accomplish the task. By that, I mean that we choose a destination, block out some getaway time, figure the distances and choose from a logical array the method of transportation. From California, for example, this probably means Europe by air; Grand Canyon by car;

Baja by boat.

Anticipation is half the fun: imagining the trip, choosing the wardrobe, planning evenings with friends, and holding back *some* of those evenings for secluded romantic times with our true love, and allowing ourselves to imagine—even if only for a few moments at a time—what it'll *really* be like to have no phone ringing, no e-mail dinging, no Tweets chirping, no Facebook facing, no Pinterest pinging, and no websites webbing.

My husband and I visited with friends recently who were planning their annual birthday getaway. Out came the atlas and maps, along with the trusty orange highlighter which already marked previous explorations. We could see they were already having fun even before leaving their own dining room table.

Even so, trips—like the one my husband and I just completed as I traversed the first segment of my book tour through New Mexico and Arizona—require us to engage our "heads". We have to consider budget and mileage, modest versus luxurious digs, number of hours in the car, number of days our friends can stand to have us as house guests, and the all-important number of days away from *real* work. It all becomes as linear as the lines we draw from point to point on the map.

I thought a lot about all this as I wrote my brand new novel, *Where the Heart Lives*. This is book two in the Milford-Haven Novels saga and in it, my protagonist Miranda Jones makes a long driving trip through southern California to take wildlife photos she'll later use in completing commissioned paintings. It was intriguing to look with fresh eyes at the familiar territory I've inhabited for three decades. The travelogue aspect of the book is a wonderful match with Kathy Holmes fabulous blog. As a California Girl who writes fiction, I'm honored to be guesting here again. And the journey is also a match for this special all-Indie book tour. Yes, it's true, I'm visiting only independent book stores this time around, and in fact the map of the California segment of the tour matches the book cover's map.

And now we come to the "heart" of the story. If you look closely, you'll see that my new book cover also has another image—a magnifying lens that hovers over the map. It isn't just our heads that tell us we sometimes need to take a closer look. More often than not, the urge to delve deeper comes from our hearts. Intuition whispers, "look over here," and instinct nudges us to satisfy our curiosity, sometimes over the strangest little thing.

And so in this novel, Miranda reflects on where she is on the map of her life. Now that she's given up the big city of San Francisco for the small town of Milford-Haven, how will she keep herself on the professional map? She's met an interesting man named Zack, yet she's not sure what map he's traveling, nor does she know whether they'll be able to read the same landmarks as she remaps her emotional life.

Miranda's adventures in this book—and those of her friends in Milford-Haven and beyond—all invite you, the reader, to consider some of these same questions for yourself. In your heart of hearts, what did you always want to do? Are you doing it yet? If not now, when? And if not here—in your present location—where?

See that woman in her bathing suit and hat sitting on the beach on Kathy's blog page? Be her for the next five minutes. Take this special time and ask yourself... how would you map the journey of your heart? To help you find some inspiring (and fun!) answers, try my new book. You might just discover... *where the heart lives*.

I'm so excited by your book and blog tour - you make California come alive

ABOUT KATHY



Kathy Holmes is a California beach girl who has moved across the country more than once - from California to Florida to Las Vegas to the Pacific Northwest. These experiences have influenced her unique point of view in her writing.



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FAVORITE REVIEW

"Kathy Holmes has done the impossible: created a chick lit novel that transcends the genre and, instead, becomes something else all its own."
- The Book Pedler

through your writing and tour. Thank you, Mara, for stopping by.

For more information about Mara's blog tour and/or free download, please see KathyHolmes.net.

FAVORITE AGENT COMMENT

"Cyn is *Fabulous!*" - Agent X