

Subj: **Milford-Haven December Books Perfect Gifts for the Holidays**  
 Date: 12/3/2012 9:15:02 P.M. Mountain Daylight Time  
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## December Books for the Holidays

**Happy Holidays!** There is no other time like December, is there? The atmosphere is charged with anticipation! Granted, we all have too much to do in too little time. And there tends to be too much in the way of commercial pressure to *spend*.

Yet everywhere we look, we also see sincere efforts to beautify with decorations, to include family and friends at special gatherings, and to reach out to those in need.

Surely the most special part of the holidays is the sense of giving.

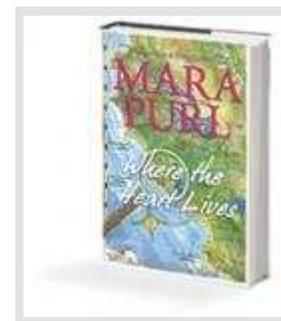
**It's a time to use our heads to give wisely; and a time to use our hearts to give generously.** And of all the things we might buy for others, a book might be one of the least expensive, yet the richest in what it provides for the recipient---a special door opening into a new world.

This month you'll find special prices and packages, as well as a **FREE adventure short story** to uplift heart. And my beautiful hardcover edition of [Where the Heart Lives](#) ---or a set of books one & two---will look gorgeous under the tree---yours or a dear one's.

So join me in Milford-Haven! Whether this is a return visit, or your very first one, enjoy novel number two, [Where the Heart Lives](#), a book set in the beautiful winter of California's Central and South Coast. And treat yourself to a true adventure tale by downloading the beautiful short story [When Whales Watch](#). Happy Holidays in . . . **Milford-Haven!**

## This Holiday's GIFT to you . . . a whale of a tale!

**Can whales watch the humans who watch them?** That was the question that kept resounding in my heart. It wouldn't leave me alone until I wrote this story! In fact, as is often the case for



authors, I felt I did more listening than writing.

**Memories** . . . formed part of the basis for this story. Memories of my time as a crew member on a Greenpeace Voyage to save whales. We traveled 6,000 miles in the North Pacific and put ourselves in harm's way to save sperm whales.

**Research** . . . is a major part of the story, as I avidly read scientific tracts, searched for others' experiences, then interviewed mariners, divers, photographers, cinematographers, harbor masters, excursion boat owners, marine biologists, and even a NASA astronomer! What fun . . . and what an expansive journey.

**Imagination** . . . created the actual story elements. Yet the tale seemed to come from an abiding conviction that this story COULD happen. And ultimately I took a leap of faith and wrote about this species in California coastal waters . . . where it was rumored they NEVER came. Yet as the words began appearing on my screen, a final piece of research surfaced (pun intended.) Yes, in 1996---exactly when the story is set---there WAS a rare siting of sperm whales off the California coast!

So, you tell me . . . is this story "true"? One thing I can promise . . . it's a whale of a tale! And it's **FREE** through December 31st! I have a special **DOWNLOADS** page where you can find links to all e-readers, and in case you don't have a reader . . . a pdf download you can print and read on paper. So . . . join me just off the coast of . . . Milford-Haven!

## Your Cozy, Inspiring Holiday Short Story!

It's that time of year . . . time to curl up with a heart-warming story that reminds you why the holidays are so special.

First, stimulate all five senses with holiday treats. You'll love the gorgeous estate overlooking the magnificent scenery of Santa Barbara, and the details of the elegant rooms of the main house and the cozy warmth of the cottage overlooking the bluff. Your mouth will be watering as you read about the holiday dinner (and you'll find recipes at the end of the book.) And when you've heard, tasted, smelled and seen the elements of this special story, it's your heart that will be touched by this tale of a long-lost mother and the special key ring that unlocks her secret in . . . **Whose Angel Key Ring.**



Warm up your Kindle because the story is only **\$.99** [Whose Angel Key Ring for Kindle.](#)

And if you have a Nook, the story is only **\$1.99!** [Whose Angel Key Ring for Nook.](#)

And if you enjoy the story . . . don't forget to post a comment! Thank you!

## Holiday Book Tea!

**Are you in Colorado?** Still wondering what you'd like to receive in your own Christmas stocking? Looking for a way to give a big HINT to your husband, daughter, son, significant other or best friend?

I have an elegant solution to these dilemmas! Join me on Saturday, December 8th . . . **in plenty of time before Christmas** . . . for a delightful tea at [All The Glitters](#) fine jewelry store.

What will you find? FOOD glorious food! This a REAL holiday TEA with all the trimmings! Both savory and sweet delectables . . . wonderful hot teas and coffees.

What else will you find? You'll find *What the Heart Knows*, and *Where the Heart Lives* (books one and two) true gifts from the heart. My newest novel seems to be sweeping the nation with good reviews and wonderful comments from readers, and book one became a best-seller last May. So you *know* these books have good value and make beautiful, thoughtful gifts.

But wait . . . there's more! All That Glitters has helped me to create the second gorgeous charm suitable for Pandora (and all similar) bracelets! It's now available in both white bronze and in sterling silver!

While you shop . . . and munch delicious treats . . . I'll be sitting by the Christmas tree signing your books, telling tales of my recent book tour, and even reading from my new short story *When Whales Watch*. And did I mention . . . FOOD!

So join us! **SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH, 12 Noon till 4:00 PM.** 2518 West Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs. 719-475-7160.



## Heart Cockle & Placuna Charms

How about a special treat for yourself or for one of your favorite women?

Each charm in my series is a **sea shell**, and each connects to one of my novels, though you may enjoy the charms whether or not you've read my books. They're utterly unique . . . so you won't find them in the Pandora, Chamelia, Reflections, Troll or any other lines. But the GREAT thing is, my charms WILL fit all these bracelets!

No matter where you are, you can still order one of these gorgeous charms! They're available in white bronze, oxidized bronze (which looks like pewter), and now in sterling silver!



To purchase the charm with a book, click on the publisher's [Order](#) page. To purchase a charm on its own, send an e-mail to [MaraPurl@MaraPurl.com](mailto:MaraPurl@MaraPurl.com).

## Kirkus Review

This is a thrill -- another excellent review from an important trade publication! Here's an excerpt from what Kirkus Review had to say about *Where the Heart Lives* . . .



The second volume of this ongoing saga follows numerous intersecting lives in a small, fictitious town on California's Central Coast.

Purl (*What the Heart Knows*, 2011) returns to picturesque Milford-Haven and assorted neighboring towns (Santa Barbara, Cambria, etc.) Milford-Haven stories first appeared in 1992 as a BBC radio show, *Milford-Haven, U.S.A.*, garnering an audience of 4.5 million listeners.

The town is filled with back stories—dark secrets, hidden agendas, failed romances and budding love, not to mention the unsolved mystery from Book 1 concerning the disappearance, and likely murder, of journalist Christine Christian.

Skillfully interspersing the moment-to-moment thoughts of her characters with their actions and dialogue, Purl effortlessly moves from one personal story to another. Just about everyone plans on showing up to a Doobie Brothers benefit concert at the Central Coast Bowl in support of veterans, which helps tie together the . . . storylines. This volume should hold readers over until the next trip back to town. Like visiting friends and catching up.

## ForeWord Magazine Review

Wow! An excellent review from the top indie publishing magazine! So gratifying when a reviewer really *gets* the book. . . . Here's what she had to say. about *Where the Heart Lives*:



The publishing industry typically represents glitz as a function of metropolitan sophistication and Hollywood fame, yet in *Where the Heart Lives*, Mara Purl strategically presents a glamorous alternative to big city vibrancy. In the second installment of her already popular Milford-Haven series, the California Central Coast is once again the locale for her magnetic cast of characters.

Set in the mid-1990s, *Where the Heart Lives* essentially explores displaced or discontented people pursuing their individual dreams. And it soon becomes clear that the ambitious residents of this getaway town lead lives as convoluted as those of any stressed-out city-dweller. Woven into Purl's evolving tale is the ongoing investigation of a missing

television journalist, the search for a long-lost son given up for adoption, and the romance of merging relationships in diverse walks of life.

Of particular interest is Miranda Jones, a gifted artist from an affluent San Francisco family. Rather than remain committed to the upscale gallery where her paintings sell, she follows her gut to achieve a deeper fulfillment in Milford-Haven. Seeking much more than monetary reward, Miranda listens to the dictates of her heart and allows spiritual motivation to guide her actions. With a passion for landscape and wildlife, Miranda interprets her own photography on canvas, an endeavor that exposure to her natural surroundings only enhances.

The contrast between a “should do” approach to living and “must do” need to override one’s so-called voice of reason is a signature thread running throughout this series, and is especially evident in Miranda, the most colorful character in this novel.

The artist’s hidden attributes are often reflected in her own work, and allusions to her psyche frequently emerge in descriptive passages like this one: “The massive head-and-shoulders of a Siberian tiger hunched there, amber eyes staring back at her. Powerful . . . unconcerned. . . . He might be seated in a docile pose—but he certainly isn’t tamed.”

Mara Purl is an award-winning author, screenwriter, and actress. In addition to her Milford-Haven novels and stories, her acclaimed “Milford-Haven U.S.A.” was the first American radio drama licensed by the BBC in 1992.

Purl’s success is based on her ability to appeal to readers on a more elevated level than traditional romance fiction generally prescribes. Though she never loses the common touch in her storytelling instincts, in every potential stereotype emerges a well-developed character with a standout personality.

-- Julia Ann Charpentier, ForeWord Reviews

## How to Order Your Unsigned Book

It’s time to have your very own copies of these beautiful hardcover books! So choose your favorite option for getting it into your hands quickly and efficiently.

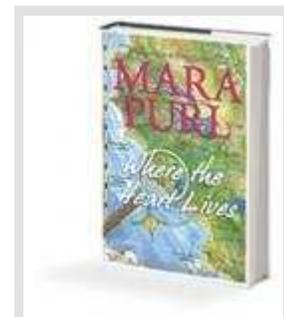
Amazon -- [What the Heart Knows from Amazon](#); [Where the Heart Lives from Amazon](#)

Barnes & Noble -- [What the Heart Knows at BN.com](#); [Where the Heart Lives from BN.com](#)

Books-A-Million -- [What the Heart Knows at BooksAMillion](#); [Where the Heart Lives at Books-A-Million](#)

And of course we LOVE **Indie Bound** and independent bookstores! If you’d like to support independent booksellers here’s [What the Heart Knows at IndieBound](#). [Where the Heart Lives at IndieBound](#).

AND . . . the book can be bought or ordered at ANY bookseller, wherever you are.



## How to Order Your Signed Book -- and More

Go directly to my publisher's website **ORDER** page [BellekeepBooks.com/Order](http://BellekeepBooks.com/Order) where you'll find several options.

1 - You'll be able to order your signed copy, and even have it personalized, if you like.

2- You'll be able to choose a **PREMIUM** package that will include a beautiful watercolor print by my cover artist Mary Helsaple.

3 - You'll be able to order a **JEWELRY** package that will include my new seashell charm (the one on my wrist in the photo)---described below.

**Premium** and **Jewelry** packages will arrive in beautiful distinctive wrappings designed just for the Milford-Haven Novels, so please allow an extra two weeks for delivery.



## Other Milford-Haven E-Books

*Yes! All the Milford-Haven Stories and Novels are available as e-books!*

[When Hummers Dream](#) is the prequel to book one, so don't miss it if you have an e-reader! It's an official best-seller in the Kindle store with more than **15,000** downloads! And it's also available for Nook.

[When Hummers Dream](#) Kindle edition from Amazon

[When Hummers Dream](#) Nook Book from Barnes & Noble

*What the Heart Knows* is Book One of the series.

[What the Heart Knows](#) Kindle edition from Amazon

[What the Heart Knows](#) Nook Book from Barnes & Noble

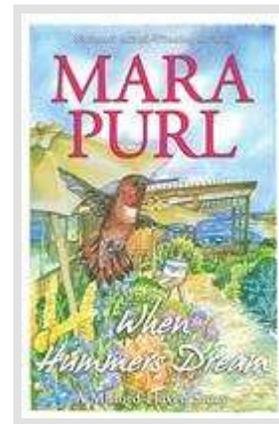
[When Whales Watch](#) is the prequel to book two, a whale-watching tale with a major plot twist! It became a Kindle best-seller the first week of publication! Don't miss it!

[When Whales Watch](#) Kindle edition from Amazon

[When Whales Watch](#) Nook Book from Barnes & Noble [PENDING]

*Where the Heart Lives* is Book Two of the novel series.

[Where the Heart Lives](#) Kindle edition from Amazon



[Where the Heart Lives](#) nook Book from Barnes & Noble [PENDING]

## Blog Tour & Book Tour MARA-thon!

This past autumn was one of the most extraordinary of my career. In September, Milford-Haven cast & crew, friends & supporters gathered to celebrate major milestones in California. In October my husband accompanied me on my Western States book tour. In November I did the California coastal book tour. During October and November I did an extensive blog tour. And during December I'm doing the "blog back" portion of the virtual tour. This is a true **MARA-thon!**



Because there is SO much to share, I decided to make the ENTIRE MARA-thon available permanently on my website. Click on [Blog Tour at MaraPurl.com](#) to enjoy remarkable blog hosts you won't want to miss. Click on the CALENDAR for the Events Photo Gallery. Click on the MEDIA button to view several interesting behind-the-scenes videos. And keep checking [MaraPurl.com](#) for new content on my own blog.

So much goes into creating my novels and stories . . . and I learn so much from connecting with readers and booksellers, fellow authors and people in all walks of life during these fascinating tours. **It's never too late to join me on this year's MARA-thon!**

## What Warms My Heart

This autumn, the tour for the new novel took me through Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona . . . then up and down the California Coast. Each wonderful stop along the way allowed me to connect with friends who've become readers and readers who soon became friends. So . . . ***what warms my heart is YOU.***



We have so many ways of connecting in this technological age . . . social media . . . texting . . . added to e-mail and phone. **But no matter the wizardry of our devices, two things cannot be replaced: our times together in person, and our quiet times of reading. One opens doors; the other opens windows.** Both bring us joy and new possibilities.

So during the holidays my wish for you is that you have joyous times together with family and friends. And that you have quiet times of reflection and insight as you read something inspiring.

And may the New Year's plans and resolutions that dance in your **head** be informed by the warmth and wisdom of your **heart**.

Happy Holidays!! ***I hope you'll join me and find yourself in . . . Milford-Haven!***

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