

Milford Haven Novels Newsletter

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Autumn Excitement!

It promises to be an exciting autumn . . . in an already exciting year!



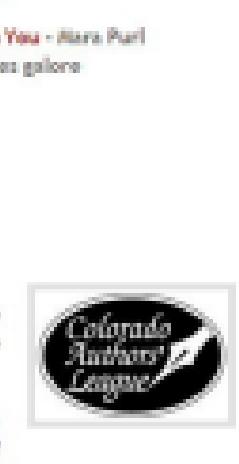
Though we do have some gorgeous golden leaves as September offers its first hints of the new season, it's exceptionally warm, and we've been handling some challenges in the Rocky Mountains, where I'm spending this month. First, the skies were hung with an unfamiliar haze as smoke continued to drift toward us from the awful fires in California, the Pacific Northwest, and Canada. Second, many of our homes were seriously damaged by an August hail storm that brought fist-sized ice balls crashing through windows, skylights, and smashing through roof tiles, not to mention trashing hundreds of cars. However, our losses seem almost minor, compared with damages caused by the fires, hurricanes, and various other disasters related to global warming. So, rather than complain, we're grateful, we help where we can, and we send our good thoughts to all.

We did have a most extraordinary summer, with travels, family-and-friend visits, performances, writing, book awards, and special times, some of which I'll describe in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, a special promotion starts today. A new novella in the Milford-Haven saga is close to publication. A new audio will shortly debut. And I'm preparing to perform on koto (Japanese harp) in Watermill in October. Life is rich, demanding, and yet, exciting. Here's the latest news!

New Awards for "When Otters Play"

Oh my goodness . . . so very thrilled, honored, humbled, and encouraged that my *Otters Novella* has now won four book awards! The wins have generated some nice press, too. Here is a sample of a recent posting that hit about a hundred markets nationally titled "See Otters: Playful friends or Harmful Predators?"



- Digital Journal

The **American Fiction Award** took my breath away. The category my book won was Women's Lit, a favorite, as it reaches directly to my core readers.

The **Global E-Book Award** is the most recent, and is a particular thrill because the award's founder, the late great Dan Poynter, was an early mentor and made a huge difference to indie authors over his remarkable career. I'd had three previous Global E Book Awards -- a Nomination for *When Huemans Green* and two Sream for *What Whales Watch* and *Where an Angel's On a Rope*. And now . . . a Gold!

As I'd shared in my Summer newsletter, *Otters* also won a Finalist (Silver) International Book Award. This one always means so much to me because of my international schooling in Tokyo and ongoing friendships with schoolmates who hail from forty different countries.

And to balance that wide reach, it was a special joy to win in my home town, capturing the Gold at the **Los Angeles Book Festival Book Awards**, in the Regional Literature category!

When Otters Play is available in both paperback, and ebook formats. This engaging story features a sea otter mom and her pup -- possibly the cutest creatures in the ocean. When I visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium and worked with their director of the Sea Otter Rescue program, I fell in love with these creatures, and wanted to take one of the pups home. Instead, I put this right at the heart of the story, where he gets to enchant my readers as much as he enchanted me. Here are ebook buy links, which also lead easily to print editions:

- Amazon Kindle
- Barnes & Noble Nook
- Kobo ereader

Special Promo for Sea Otter Awareness Week

In case you prefer a .pdf download, rather than an E-Book, **When Otters Play** will be FREE for one week in honor of Sea Otters Awareness Week September 24 - 30. Starting today!

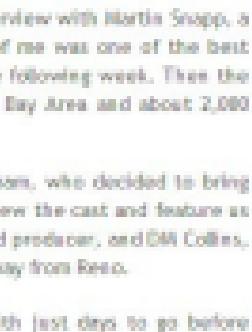


Give yourself a treat and read a terrific adventure tale, or give this captivating little book as a gift.

Here's the [Special Download Page](#). Enjoy!

October - InD Scribe

A very favorite annual event right down the street from my place in L.A. is the oldest, offbeatest **Ind Scribe Author Con and Book Festival**, and I'm excited and honored to be in this year's line-up.



IndScribe Con and Book Festival offers first class workshops, fun, interactive panels, balls and parties where everyone can dress up (or not) and spend time with their favorite celebrities in the writing world, luncheons and one-on-one opportunities with both authors and industry professionals.

I'm presenting at two workshops and a fabulous book signing. If you love romance, costumes, parties, and all things bookish, this is the place for you. Hope you can attend!

- Friday October 5th 4:30-6:30pm - **Author Platform & Branding**
• Mara Purl & Relynn Anderson

- Saturday October 6th 10:00-10:30am - **May the Care Be With You** - Mara Purl

- Saturday October 6th 1:30 - 3:30pm **BOOK SIGNING** with prizes galore

- What - Ind Scribe Author Con & Book Festival

- When - October 4-5-6

- Where - Burbank Marriott Convention Center

- Tickets - [www.IndScribe.com](#)

October - Colorado Authors League

One of Colorado's major author organizations is the Colorado Authors' League in Denver. I'm delighted they've invited me to give their keynote address this October.



Book awards can be very helpful to authors. From an external perspective, they help a book get noticed in the "noisy" world of publishing where between 600,000 and 1,000,000 books are released every year.

From an internal perspective, awards help to encourage us by confirming our writing is clear, engaging, and is making a difference in the lives of our readers.

Because I've now won more than thirty-five book awards, CAL asked me to share some recommendations. But they also asked that I tell some stories. What fun! I do have some funny things that have happened along the way to receiving some of my awards.

- When - Saturday October 13th 9:00 am - 12 Noon
- Where - Virginia Village Library Conference Room, 1500 S. Dahlia Street, Denver, CO

October - Watermill in New York

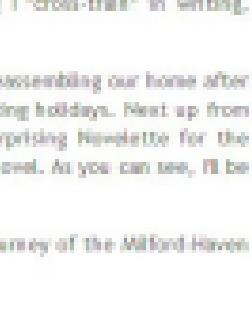


The iconic Jerome Robbins ballet "Watermill", for which I'm one of the original musicians, is coming back for another revival. I play koto, working with a small ensemble of fantastic musicians who also specialize in Asian instruments.

Though through the decades we've always performed at the New York State Theatre at Lincoln Center, the home of the ballet company, this time we'll be performing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which will be an honor, and a new challenge.

- What - Watermill, a modern ballet
- When - October 24, 25, 26, 27th
- Where - Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York
- Info & Tickets - [BAM website](#)

November - Subtext for Sisters in Crime



One of my favorite organizations is Sisters in Crime, a fabulous group of authors who focus on mystery. There are many chapters, and the one I belong to, of course, the Central Coast, I admire many fellow members for their fantastic writing.

So it'll be great fun to speak to these peers about a favorite subject: sub-text. This is where the gems are hidden. Readers get to dig them out. Writers get to hide them. So we'll have a good, practical session, but we'll have lots of fun with it too.

- What - November Program
- When - Saturday, November 17th 10:30am - 12 Noon
- Where - Ripon Library, 919 W. Main Street, Ripon, CA

December - When Angels Paint

The holidays are very special in Milford-Haven. It's a time when angels visit. Angels in Milford-Haven aren't so much heavenly entities as they are spiritual intuitives that guide, or even nudge, sometimes in very unexpected directions!

The first holiday newsletter was *When an Angel's On a Rope*. (You can get your copy here if you haven't yet read it.) Astronomer Cornelius Smith goes mountain climbing on a sunny winter day in the Angeles Crest, high above Los Angeles, but gets caught in a sudden winter storm. He has quite an adventure! And it's based on a real experience a friend and I shared, though not in winter. (You can read my blog about the real experience [here](#).)

What you and other readers don't know yet, is that while Cornelius is having his harrowing adventure on the mountains, artist Miranda Jones is also experiencing something strange in her studio. So just in time for the holidays, you'll be able to get "the rest of the story" by reading the companion newsletter, *When Angels Paint*.

- When - Saturday December 1, 2018 4:30 - 5:30 pm Pacific
- Where - [Facebook Event Page](#)

Last August - the Last Author You Extravaganza

What a joy and an uplift! It has been to attend this fantastic annual event in Denver. Friend, mentor, and **Author You** Founder Judith Belfer created this event several years ago so that serious authors could have breakthroughs in creating and marketing our work. From the notebook full of new techniques and brains full of new ideas, I loved being a speaker, and serving on the board, and never stopped learning valuable things.

This year Judith gave us higher altitude both literally and figuratively. We met in the delightful alpine town of Breckenridge, a gateway to Rocky Mountain ski areas located at 9,000 feet.

As always, I connected with favorite and noteworthy colleagues like Amy Collins, Kathy Kotter, John Kramer, Kelly Johnson, Daniel Hall, and several others. And I had great conversations and sessions with clients new and established, all while my husband enjoyed some of the best mountain biking in the country. Truly we ended on a HIGH note, and we all look forward to seeing what our amazing Judith creates next!

My Heart is Grateful . . .

. . . for the RESILIENCE, PERSISTENCE, and CREATIVITY of my colleagues in both my authoring and my performing communities. The core group who are now the Milford-Haven Players have proven their worth and were planning new projects: Linda Wilson, Dan Murray, Christopher Low, David Rosenblatt, and Sher Hallean.

I'm also grateful for the generosity of those who support creative enterprise, turning these projects into partnerships that spark growth, innovation, and progress. DM and Doug Collins for innovative marketing and great videos; Dennis Damon Young for beautiful photography; Victoria Zackheim for emergency helping and moral support; Verena and Ann Von Engel for their cottage which continues to be our home-base in SLO.

I'm grateful for the challenges of this year that are requiring "cross-train" in writing, acting, and music, as well as new levels of entrepreneurship.

After "Watermill" in New York, my husband and I will have fun reassembling our home after the repairs and renovations, and we're looking forward to relaxing holidays. Next up from Milford-Haven will be *When Angels Paint*, a beautiful and surprising novella for the Holidays. And stay tuned next year, another new novella, and a new novel. As you can see, I'll be busy!

Thank you, as always, dear readers for being with me on the journey of the Milford-Haven saga and beyond.

Always, love and gratitude, *from my heart to yours!*

- When - [Facebook Event Page](#)

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