



## Press Questions & Talking Points

Mara Purl's  
*Milford-Haven Series*

Short Stories:  
*Christmas Angels*  
CIPA Merit Book Award

Novels  
*What The Heart Knows*  
Benjamin Franklin Award  
Silver – Adult Fiction  
USA BookNews Award  
Silver – Fiction  
*Closer Than You Think*  
Evy Award  
Gold – Fiction  
USA BookNews Award  
Silver – Fiction

**March 2008 – *Child Secrets* Book Three in the Award-Winning, critically acclaimed Milford-Haven Novels has just been named Finalist for the ForeWord Magazine's Book Of the Year Award. Author Mara Purl will shortly speak at CIPA College in Denver, Colorado, followed by a Borders Books event in Southern California.**

Key subjects in this novel:

- ◆ Childhood experiences make a lasting impression on a personality
- ◆ Young female protagonist of wildlife artist with growing professional success, but devastating blockages to the possibility of a functional romantic relationship
- ◆ Professional artist travels into nature to capture details of wildlife
- ◆ Two high school sweethearts now in their 40s begin to reconnect; but he's a Vietnam veteran, and she is pregnant by another man.
- ◆ Accomplished middle-aged woman is a leader in the environmental field, but wrestles with having given up her son for adoption years earlier, as revealed in her personal journal entries.
- ◆ A reporter has now been missing for weeks, but no body has been found. The Sheriff's Deputy works on the case in his off-hours, convinced foul play is involved.

Background of this Novel Series:

- ◆ *Milford-Haven* began as an original radio drama Purl created. It was a hit on BBC Radio with 4.5 million listeners in the U.K. and won the Finalist Award at the New York Festivals.
- ◆ Listeners began requesting books based on the radio which led to the adaptation and development of the novel series. Twelve books are planned for the novel series, with additional short story collections.
- ◆ The Novels are also being published as audio books performed by the author. The first of which also won the Silver Ben Franklin Award for audio. The second won the Gold USA BookNews Award for audio.

Background on the Author:

- ◆ Mara Purl was a reporter for the *Associated Press*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Financial Times of London*, *Working Woman Magazine*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, to name a few.
- ◆ She is also a performer on-camera and on-stage, with her regular character on *Days Of Our Lives* having been her starting point for soap opera.
- ◆ Awards include: for her books: Silver Benjamin Franklin, two Silver USA Book News, two Gold Evvys, Gold USA Book News, CIPA Merit; for her radio show, the New York Festivals Award; for her play, the Peak Award; for public service, Woman of the Year 2002 by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women.

### Talking Points Pertinent to This Title

- ◆ Deep meaning of the title "Child..."
- ◆ Personal & professional goals
- ◆ Small town as microcosm
- ◆ Healing our past
- ◆ Imprints of childhood evident in adults
- ◆ Adapting scripts for fiction
- ◆ Vietnam Veterans issues
- ◆ Wildlife artists' work – how & where
- ◆ Sibling Rivalry

