



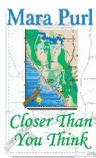
Mara Purl's
Milford-Haven Series

Short Stories:
Christmas Angels
CIPA Merit Book Award

Novels
What The Heart Knows
Benjamin Franklin Award
Closer Than You Think

Audio Drama

*Milford-Haven, U.S.A.**
BBC Radio Drama
NY Festival Finalist Award



September 2006

*The Milford-Haven Novels, the Doobie Brothers and the National Veterans's Foundation Join Forces. Author Mara Purl's latest book, **Closer Than You Think**, features the Doobie Brothers, appearing as themselves, and a Vietnam Veteran character.*

Mara Purl was so inspired by the Doobie Brothers first reunion concert in 1997 that she centered her novel around events that actually occurred both on and off stage. Now the book is appearing as a tribute, both to the band she loves and to the veterans she respects.

To show their support for the project, the **Doobie Brothers** have endorsed Purl's project both by allowing themselves to appear as characters in the book, and by placing an ad for the website and concert schedule to appear in the back of the book.

The Doobies Ad appears opposite an ad placed by the NVF. The **National Veterans Foundation** is one of the charities the bank supports through fund-raisers. Both ads are being extended by Mara's publisher as a courtesy in thanks for their endorsement of her story.

"It all started at that concert at the Hollywood Bowl," remembered Mara. "The late Keith Knudsen was a good friend, and he was the mastermind for this special reunion concert. The entire purpose of the evening was to raise awareness and money for veterans. As it turned out, it was so inspiring for both the audience and the band, that the Doobies reunion was permanent."

Closer Than You Think is Book 2 in the Milford-Haven saga. Last Fall's book one *What the Heart Knows* recently won the **Silver Benjamin Franklin Award** at Book Expo America.

"*Closer Than You Think* takes readers deeper into the story," author Mara Purl explained. "We know the characters are each searching for something important. They begin to realize what they're looking for may literally and figuratively be closer than they think."

Mara's book of Milford-Haven short stories also won an award. *Christmas Angels* -- which also features Mara's Vietnam Veteran character -- won the CIPA Merit Book Award for 2005. *Milford-Haven* has a long, unusual history, having begun as an original radio drama Purl created that became a hit on BBC Radio with 4.5 million listeners in the U.K. It won the Finalist Award at the New York Festivals.

Mara Purl honed her researching and writing skills with the *Associated Press*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Financial Times of London*, *Working Woman Magazine*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, to name a few. But she's spent equal time as a performer on-camera and on-stage, with her regular character on *Days Of Our Lives* having been her starting point for soap opera. She was named Woman of the Year 2002 by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women.

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