



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  
*Closer Than You Think*  
Evy Award  
Gold – Fiction

Audio Drama

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

### March 2007 – Purl wins top fiction award

**Mara Purl, author of the popular Milford-Haven Novels, won the Gold Evvy Award for "Closer Than You Think," designating it as First Place winner for Fiction. The Evvy is granted by CIPA, the Colorado Independent Publishers Association. Though considered a Colorado prize—with entries competing from several states, a rigorous point system, and professionals in the literary and publishing fields judging Fiction, the coveted award has become a challenging prize to attain.**

“Make new novels but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold.” This seems to be author Mara Purl’s theme song at the moment. The newly awarded novel is part of Purl’s *Milford-Haven Novels* series. Last year she won the Silver Benjamin Franklin Award—a national award given annually at Book Expo America—for her first novel, *What the Heart Knows*. Now she's won the Gold Evvy Award for her second novel, *Closer Than You Think*. Before receiving either award, both books were chosen by **Reading Group Choices** whose publications and website offer excellent books for their book club clientele.

“*Closer Than You Think* takes readers deeper into the story,” the author 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.”

The novel has several special features that have been piquing the interest of readers, reviewers, and award committees. Readers actually go back stage with the Doobie Brothers, watching a concert from both backstage and audience perspectives. As friends of the author, the band members granted permission for her insertion backstage, and excerpts of their songs are found in the audio book version of the novel. The book also features a Vietnam Veteran storyline, and National Veterans Foundation—a real organization—was given space for their information in the books’ end papers.

Most importantly, the core issues of the book make it a favorite for Purl’s “Women’s Fiction” audience—romantic relationships, balancing personal issues with career goals, and creating a nurturing environment readers come to recognize as their own “haven.”

*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.

