



Mara Purl

*Mara Purl is the author of the popular **Milford-Haven Novels** – **What The Heart Knows, Closer Than You Think, Child Secrets, Cause and Conscience and Nobody's Fault**. One of the only novelists currently writing a “serial novel,” these five books are the first in her **Milford-Haven** series which will include twelve. She is also the co-author, with Erin Gray, of **Act Right**, the well known and indispensable book for actors.*

*Her novels are based on her successful radio drama **Milford-Haven, U.S.A.**, the first environmental radio soap opera, and the only American radio soap ever licensed and broadcast by the BBC, where the show reached an audience of 4.5 million listeners throughout the U.K. “Milford-Haven” won the Finalist Award at the 1994 New York Festivals International Radio Competition, which included 1,298 entries from 32 countries. New York’s Museum of Television & Radio and Chicago’s Museum of Broadcast Communications have placed all broadcast episodes of “Milford-Haven” into their permanent archive collections. “Milford-Haven” has its own web site at www.milfordhaven.com.*

*Purl has also been a professional producer for ten years, completing sixty episodes for the **BBC**, scores of radio commercials, and numerous videos, including one for the Native American Sports Council. With Emmy-winning director Dan Hamilton, she co-produced the audio book **The Hidden Legacy** on the subject of domestic abuse and incest, and with partner Erin Gray, their PurlGray Enterprises and Women In Film co-produced the anti-domestic violence Public Service Announcement **Step Forward**, which aired in nine states and for which Ms. Purl and Ms. Gray received the 1999 Women’s Peace Power Award, and they are presently creating a video for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. With Professor Emeritus Lee Salisbury, she co-produced **Stickeen** and **Travels in Alaska**, audio books of the John Muir classics.*

*As an actress, Mara’s regular role on the TV soap opera **Days Of Our Lives** opened the door for her to create her own soap. As a composer and musician who plays the koto (Japanese harp), Mara performs with the New York City Ballet, has played on numerous albums, and has released two CDs of her own.*

*Mara is also the creator of **STAR – Student Television And Radio**©, a complete teaching curriculum for which she has received grants from AT&T, The Kennedy Center, and Communities In Schools, whereby she is able to teach both gifted and underprivileged students. She has taught at eight high schools in California and Colorado, and is a guest professor at the Colorado College, the University of Colorado, and at University of Alaska, Fairbanks Summer Fine Arts Camp. Based on her teaching experiences, she is creating the interactive web site **STAR – Student Television And Radio** – with Dan Hamilton..*

*Mara's writing credits include two cover stories for **Rolling Stone**, staff writing with the **Financial Times** (of London), and an **Associated Press** assignment to cover the Apollo Soyuz mission, where she was the youngest reporter ever to win the NASA pool position in Mission Control. Along with their book “Act Right,” Ms. Purl and Ms. Gray have co-written over fifty speeches and have created domestic violence teaching materials including their PSA, and the domestic violence web site at familyinternet.com. They both serve as advisory board members of Haven House, the oldest shelter for battered women in the U.S., and are advisory board members of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Mara also serves on the boards of the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Crime Prevention Foundation and the Kennedy Center’s Imagination Celebration. In 2002 Mara was named Woman of the Year by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women.*

Mara’s rich artistic background includes growing up in Tokyo, Japan and a performing and literary degree from Bennington College. She lives in Los Angeles, California and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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