



**Mara Purl** is the award-winning author of *The Milford-Haven Novels*, which, collectively, have won fifteen literary awards. The series so far includes four novels, *What the Heart Knows*, *Closer Than You Think*, *Child Secrets*, and *Cause and Conscience*. National awards include a **Silver Benjamin Franklin**, two **Foreword Book Of the Year Finalist**, a gold **USA Book News Best Book** for Fiction, and three **USA Book News Finalist Awards**, two Gold **Indie Excellence** and an **Indie Excellence Finalist**, and two gold **Beach Book Awards**. Regional awards include two gold **EVVY Awards** (Colorado). Her short-story collection *Christmas Angels* won the **CIPA Merit Book Award**. Unabridged audio books of the first two novels—performed by the author—won the **Silver Benjamin Franklin** and the **Gold USA Book News Awards**, respectively.

Mara's 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 collection. "Milford-Haven" has its own web site at [www.milfordhaven.com](http://www.milfordhaven.com).

Purl is also the co-author, with Erin Gray, of *Act Right*, which won the **Gold Evvy Award** in the Legacy category as a book that has continued to prove itself over since its initial publication in 2001. This trail-blazing book about on-set protocol is now a leading text for young actors in both academic and professional arenas, and their Act Right Seminar a regular presentation by professional organizations, universities and film commissions across the country. Her screen-writing includes *The Meridian Factor*, co-written with Verne Nobles, 150 radio plays, scripts for *Guiding Light*, and a television adaptation of Milford-Haven co-written with Katherine Shirek Doughtie.

As a producer, Purl completed sixty episodes for the **BBC**, one-hundred episodes for American radio stations, 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. 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. Mara was awarded the 2003 Peak Award for performing her one-woman play (co-written with Sydney Swire) *Mary Shelley - In Her Own Words*. She now performs audio books for other authors, and recently won the **San Francisco Book Festival Awards Gold Audio Fiction award** for *Spa Deadly* by Louise Gaylord.

Mara is also the creator of **S.T.A.R. – Student Theatre 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, University of Colorado, and University of Alaska. She recently taught her program at the American School in Japan, and her course is offered regularly by the North Hollywood High School Entertainment & Media Academy.

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. She is a member of the Authors Guild and of the Writers Guild West. 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 is married to Dr. Larry Norfleet and lives in Los Angeles, California and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

