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Indie Author Spotlight: Mary Ann Bernal

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To enter, [leave a comment on this post](#) telling us why'd you like to win! Make sure to leave us a way to contact you (email, Facebook, or Twitter work best). Good luck! Contest ends 7/29/12, and is open to U.S. and Canadian residents only.

Historical fiction wordsmith Mary Ann Bernal is our Indie Author Spotlight today. IABR visits with Mary Ann as she tells us a bit about herself, her work, her favorite authors, and her creative process.

Find Mary Ann on her [website](#), [blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [LinkedIn](#), [The Literary Underground](#), and [GoodReads](#).



Her *Briton and Dane* trilogy is available for purchase through

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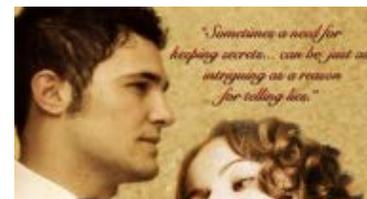
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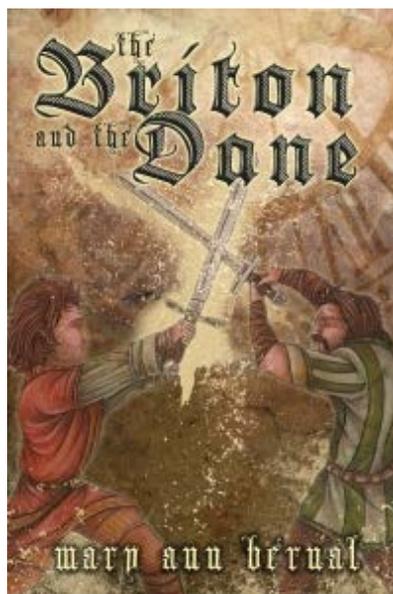
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Amazon ([US](#) and [UK](#)), and [Barnes and Noble](#). Her short stories are available on [The Literary Underground](#).

Let's take a look at what Mary Ann has to say!

In which genre do you write? Historical Fiction.

Tell us about your creative process. Initially, I would start an outline for a story, but that process quickly went by the wayside once my characters decided on how the story should evolve. However, before I set pen to paper, I have my characters named and maps drawn. I envision the story in my mind's eye, which is subject to change as the chapters develop. I also determine a daily word count goal, which I adhere to, for the most part.



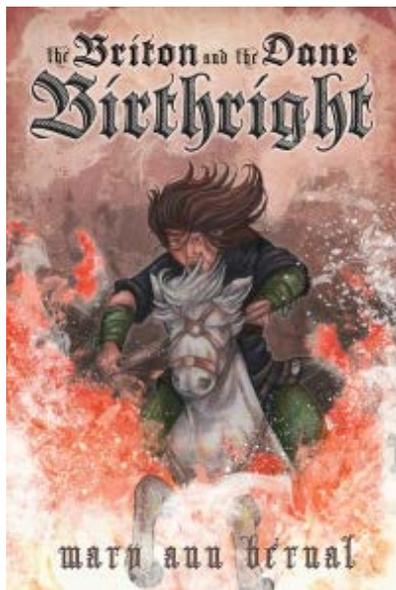
What was your first (published or unpublished) work? *The Briton and the Dane*, the first book in the trilogy.

Which of your works is your favorite? Why? *The Briton and the Dane: Birthright*, the second book in the trilogy.

Even though I love all my characters, I am especially partial to Arista whose story is told in Birthright. Arista not only survives the heathen onslaught, but manages to rebuild a life she had thought lost. There is also the Festival of the Ancient Games, and the pièce de résistance is the highly anticipated chariot race, and my champion does win.

Tell us about your latest, or current, work. *The Briton and the Dane: Concordia* is set to launch in 2013. The story follows Concordia's plight when she is captured by Saracen

pirates while sailing the Mediterranean Sea, but her life is spared as she is reunited with the exotic Moor who once held her heart. However, will love be enough to sustain Concordia when she is denied her Christian beliefs? Will she be rescued from the Infidel's grasp or will she spend her days enslaved in a foreign country where followers of the Christian faith are condemned to death? No spoilers here; you will have to read the book to find out.



What inspires you creatively? Why? My inspiration comes from period movies and mini-series that continue to pique the interest of modern society. I am thoroughly fascinated with the Dark Ages and love to breathe life into characters living in a time alien to our way of life. The legend of King Arthur still entertains and the TV series Spartacus has captivated audiences worldwide. I think putting issues plaguing society today in a bygone era subtly gets the message across, and since Gene Roddenberry pursued this line of thought in the original Star Trek series, I'm in good company.

Who are your favorite authors? Why? Josephine Tey, author of *Daughter of Time* does an excellent job in presenting a nonbiased account about the disappearance of the princes in the tower, which sheds reasonable doubt about Richard III's complicity.

Steven Saylor, author of *Roma* weaves a wonderful tale about the city's origin by following the descendants of Lara who lived in 1000 B.C. The individual stories throughout the centuries adds a human element to black and white historical facts.



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What is your favorite book (that you have not written yourself)? Why? Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* – required reading in my sophomore year of high school. Knights in shining armor rescuing damsels in distress added to the mystique of love and betrayal in a bygone era, and an incurable romantic Anglophile was born.

In the spirit of James Lipton, Bernard Pivot, and Proust:

What is your favorite word? Faith.

What is your least favorite word? Defeat.

What turns you on? Positive thinking.

What turns you off? Negative attitudes.

What sound do you love? Breaking waves.

What sound do you hate? Fingernails scraping a chalkboard.

What is your favorite curse word? B.S.

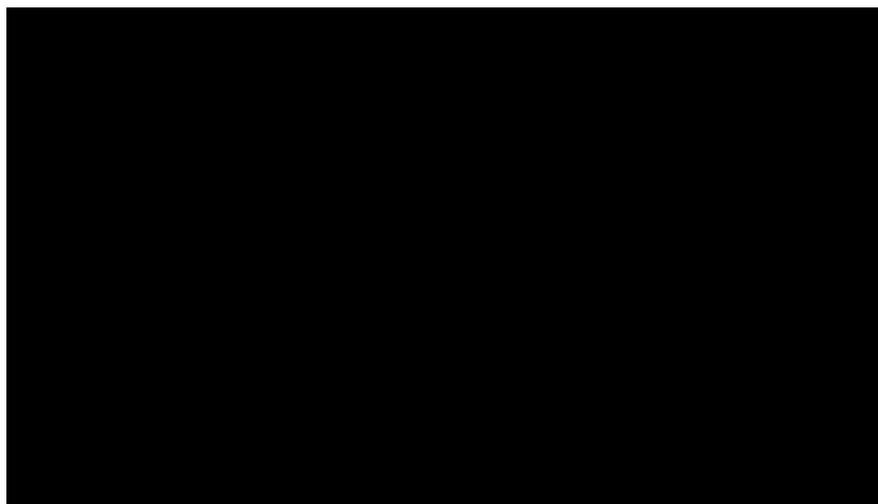
What profession other than that of a writer/author would you like to attempt? Air Force Pilot.

What profession would not like to do? Actuary.

If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the pearly gates? "I am proud of you for never giving up."

Thank you for joining us on Indie Author Book Reviews today, Mary Ann! It was a pleasure getting to know you better!

Learn more about *The Briton and the Dane* trilogy with the official trilogy trailer:



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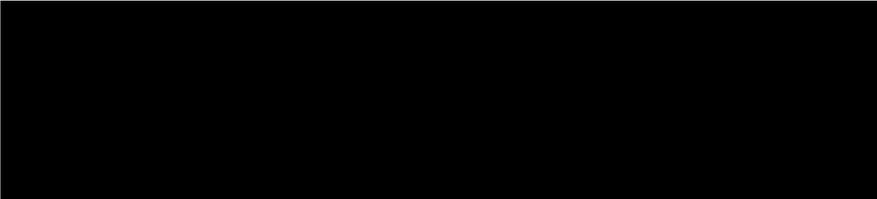
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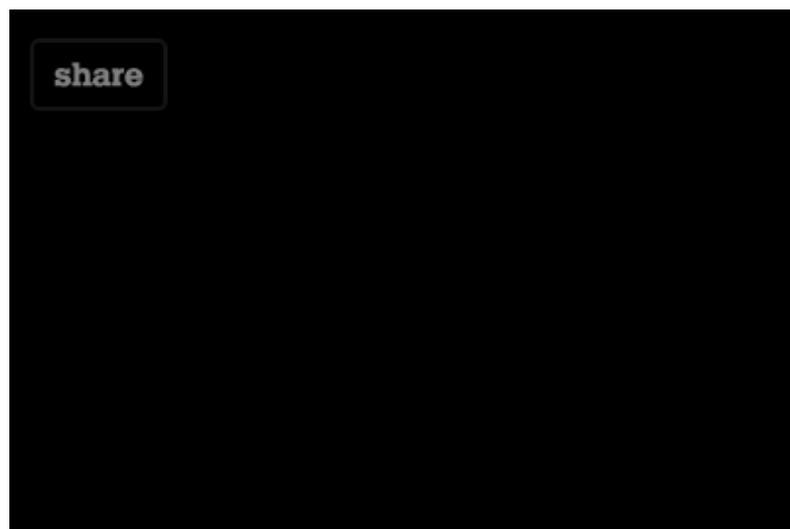


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