

# In the Midst



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2012

47 PAGES OF INDIE AUTHORS!

**Article - The Briton and The Dane: Legacy by Mary Ann Bernal**

**About the Briton and The Dane: Legacy**

Third book in Trilogy

## About The Briton and The Dane: Legacy

It was a time before England's Golden Age; before Chaucer's poetic tales; before the revered Lionheart took the Crusader Cross; before the legend of Robin Hood. It was after the invading Germanic tribes settled the land and petty chieftains vied for supreme sovereignty that a great King sought to unify the British nation. Travel back in time to Dark Age Britannia and the turbulent reign of Alfred the Great who successfully prevented the Great Heathen Army from conquering his beloved Kingdom of Wessex. Journey throughout a war-ravaged country where Lord Richard and his offspring swear allegiance to a visionary King; where a cultural renaissance not seen since the rule of Charlemagne defies the savagery of barbarian raids; where a decisive sea battle establishes naval supremacy.

### What readers are saying:

#### 5 Star Review:

After reading this third book of the Briton and Dane series, I started rereading the first and second book. I did that in order to review all the action and the many characters that make up this informative history of the reign of Alfred the Great. Author Mary Ann Bernal brings out so much of the times and characters of the times it bears a second reading. Of the three books I liked this one best. (But of course by the time I got to this book I knew most of the characters well.) Good Read.

#### Another 5 Star Review:

I could not wait for this book to come out. The character flow is fantastic and the writing allows you to place yourself in their shoes asking what would I do. Again, a book that made it difficult to put down. Even if you are not into history the story line captures you and puts you there. Fantastic

### About the author Mary Ann Bernal:

I fell in love with medieval England after I read Sir Walter Scott's Ivanhoe. Then came the great Hollywood epics such as Knights of the Round Table, Prince Valiant, The Black Shield of Falworth and The Vikings, to name but a few. Add to the mix Camelot and an incurable romantic Anglophile was born!

The Briton and the Dane novels are set in Ninth Century Anglo-Saxon Britain when the formidable Vikings terrorized the civilized world. The epic adventure runs the gamut of deception, treachery, intrigue, and complicated relationships during a time of war and conquest. Resource material such as book club discussion items, glossary of terms, period maps and character lists are available for download at <http://www.maryannbernal.com>.

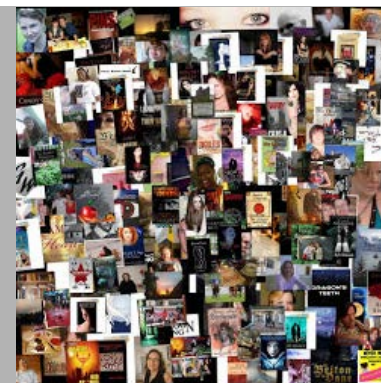
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Posted by **K Meador** at 10:05 PM No comments:



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THEIR JOURNEY BEGINS

## Article The Briton & The Dane - Birthright by Mary Ann Bernal

### About The Briton & The Dane - Birthright

*Second Book in Trilogy*

It was a time before chivalry, before knighthood, before the birth of the great Bard. It was long after the legions of glorious Rome left Britannia to the Barbarian hordes and Hadrian's Wall no longer divided the island that a great King sought to unite the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms of England.

Travel back in time to Ninth Century Anglo-Saxon Britain and the reign of Alfred the Great who successfully repelled the Viking threat and drove the formidable Danish King Guthrum out of his Kingdom of Wessex.

Journey throughout Britannia where Lord Richard and his children risk their lives in the service of their King; where treachery and treason threaten the uneasy peace; where the outcome of one battle determines the course of history.

### What readers are saying:

#### 5 Star Review

Written by an author with a great love and understanding of the period she writes about. The characters are well drawn and the plot unfolds very well and holds the interest throughout. If you love historic novels you will enjoy this very much.

#### Another 5 Star Review

I thought this book was very good indeed. Many different characters to get to know.

I was particularly impressed with the way the chariot races were explained, and felt as though I was actually there at times.

I look forward very much to the next book when the story continues.

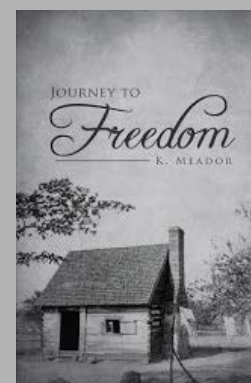
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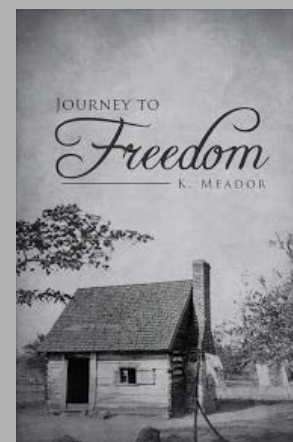
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JOURNEY TO FREEDOM - BARNES AND NOBLES





romantic Anglophile was born!

The Briton and the Dane novels are set in Ninth Century Anglo-Saxon Britain when the formidable Vikings terrorized the civilized world. The epic adventure runs the gamut of deception, treachery, intrigue, and complicated relationships during a time of war and conquest. Resource material such as book club discussion items, glossary of terms, period maps and character lists are available for download at <http://www.maryannbernal.com>.

US Link:

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Briton-Dane>

UK Link:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Briton-Dane-Birthright>

Posted by [K Meador](#) at 9:43 PM No comments: 

## Article - The Briton & The Dane by Mary Ann Bernal

### About The Briton and The Dane by Mary Ann Bernal

*The First Book in the Trilogy!*

After the last of Rome's legions left Britannia to the mercy of the invading barbarian hordes and before the age of chivalry, when knighthood was in flower and troubadours sang of courtly love, there lived a King whose love for his people and the land left a legacy coveted by his descendants who sought to wear his crown. Travel back in time to the late Ninth Century, to the tumultuous days in the reign of Alfred the Great who successfully defeated the Danish Viking King Guthrum and kept his precious Wessex free from Viking rule. Journey to the Burh of Wareham where Lord Richard oversees the training of Alfred's army; where his children, Stephen, David and Gwyneth, swear fealty to their King and support Alfred's vision to build a nation to rival the glory that once was Rome in a land ravaged by war and conquest.

## What readers are saying:

### 5 Star Review

The Briton and The Dane is the first book in a trilogy set in the ninth century. From the very first page this book caught and held the reader's attention taking them from the modern twentieth century back in time of warriors, kings, queens, princes and princesses, as well as, evil doers.

With the authors insight and historical knowledge, the reader is able to visualize the fortress, the ship and the warriors who dwelled within and without, and is entangled into the religious decisions and deception of that time. This reader is particularly fond of Erik and the internal battle he faces as he is forced to accept a religion not of his own beliefs. It will be interesting to see how the next two books handle this discord. The language the author uses also depicts the time period well and reminded the reader of the famous movies made for that era. It was lovely to read that dialogue!

The author intertwines many characters within this plot and provides both a map and a character list to help with any confusion. Personally, this reader did not refer to the map or list the author provided but it is available if needed.

The plot contains twists that will leave the reader wondering what is coming next. The plot moves along at a nice pace and brings you into the character's lives, thoughts and emotions. Treachery is amongst the kingdom as the plot builds, pitting family relations against

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each other.

In that age, it can only be assumed, that women have little role or say about their future; however, the author depicts great love and respect by the King in this story to allow his daughter to assume some decision in the role her future would take. For the reader, you will either like this or not, depending on your viewpoint of the story. Personally this reader enjoyed that aspect of the story!

It is with great delight that this reader is moving on to the second book in the trilogy and will therefore bid you farewell until the reader finishes the next one in line!

### Another 5 Star Review:

The Briton and the Dane is a novel that takes readers back to the time of King Alfred the Great. It is a time of rivalry between the Christian King of Wessex and the pagan Viking, King Guthrum. As the story begins, Gwyneth, daughter of Lord Richard (Buhr of Wareham under King Alfred's rule), meets and cares for a wounded Danish prince, Erik. The two fall in love. Things get a little complicated when Gwyneth realizes she loves the enemy. It gets even more complicated when Erik's past is revealed. As the cast of characters grows, readers are drawn into a world of violence, deceit, and seduction.

The book is well written. The dialog between the characters is told using the vernacular of the period. This may take some getting used to, as it is more formal than our modern day English. Throughout each chapter, the scenes jump around to show what is happening in each of the character's lives. Initially, readers may find it challenging to keep all the characters straight and remember all of the relationships. By the middle of the book, things should be clear.

Readers should know that as the story closes, there are still unresolved issues - unfinished love stories, ongoing battles, and an important character who after being wounded, suffers from amnesia. (Does it sound like a soap opera?) Readers will have to buy Ms. Bernal's sequel, The Briton and the Dane Birthright, to see how everything resolves.

The Briton and the Dane is a book that would appeal to readers who enjoy historical fiction, especially fiction set in the Ninth Century Britannia.

## About the author Mary Ann Bernal:

I fell in love with medieval England after I read Sir Walter Scott's Ivanhoe. Then came the great Hollywood epics such as Knights of the Round Table, Prince Valiant, The Black Shield of Falworth and The Vikings, to name but a few. Add to the mix Camelot and an incurable romantic Anglophile was born!

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US Link:

[http://www.amazon.com/The-Briton-Dane-Special-Edition/dp/0983346917/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1352690320&sr=8-2&keywords=the+briton+and+dane+by+mary+ann+bernal](http://www.amazon.com/The-Briton-Dane-Special-Edition/dp/0983346917/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1352690320&sr=8-2&keywords=the+briton+and+dane+by+mary+ann+bernal)

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Posted by **K Meador** at 9:32 PM No comments: 

May (2)

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TOTAL PAGEVIEWS

2257

## The Illustrated Woman by Mark Barry

### About The Illustrated Woman

(18 + ONLY)

Emily, a brilliant cello prodigy, enjoys the perfect suburban childhood and is destined for big things. Attractive, polite, friendly, multi-talented and intelligent, with devoted parents, Emily's life is a picture postcard sent back from a chaotic and disintegrating social world.

Then, at 15, at the whim of her worldly NBFF, she agrees to a tattoo. A simple rose on an emerald green stem. Simultaneously her first step toward identity...and a first tentative step into the abyss.

Three years later, Emily is a teenage single parent, disowned by her father and living on benefits in an inner city flat. Her life a pallid tapestry of helpless maternity, fake rum, smuggled fags, crime, Pound Goblins, Topshops, hip-hop, cold precincts, greasy spoons, prescription pills, bad food and a bewildering turnover of boyfriends. Heartbroken by yet another, and in fatalistic mood, she decides to chronicle her fall from grace by covering herself in an elaborate web of tattoos.

Enter Alan.

An awkward looking, depressed, but sincere older man who is happy to take on her daughter. He's a saviour, a way back to her past and she's tempted, but entwined in her life is Tyrone, a feckless, alluring, charismatic young rapper: Someone she can't quite get out of her head.

As her bodywork reaches a conclusion, with one story left to emblazon, Emily is forced to choose: Alan? Or Tyrone?

Who will be symbolised by the very last tattoo?

TIW is a love story and a wry satire of modern life. The vivid and frequent sexual descriptions mean that this book is suitable for adults only.

### What readers are saying:

5 Star Review:

The Illustrated Woman has a unique plot that will capture your attention, hold it, make you angry, make you cry, make you desperate and it will make you fall in love. It will remove you from your present world and transport you into the life of a single mother who turned her back on the world her parents desired her to have and created her own.

This book is not for the shy or timid. It is graphic and realistic. It is emotionally open and evasive. It is good and evil. It is stimulating and abusive. It is life and broken dreams. It is enthralling and deceiving. It is truth and lies. It is honor and immoral. It is beauty and ignorance. It is love and selfishness. It is desire and hatred. It is commitment and it is fear. It is enlightenment and it is disillusionments. It is about second or even third chances and it is unforgivable. It is choices and it is consequences. It is maturity at its worst and it is immaturity at its best. It is a book that will make you think...about circumstances, choices and consequences.

Emily learns early on that choices are her choices to make, not her mom and nor her dad's, thus leading her astray from the life her parents were molding her into. Acceptance...of who she is, what she wanted, who she wanted was denied creating a void in her that was filled with pain due to the rejection of a stoutly proud man...her father.

Tyrone: Attractive. Lazy. User. Her obsession. Her destruction. Her love. Her destruction. Her everything. Her on again, off again.

Penny: Obedient. Cooperative. Happy. Her life. Her daughter. Her one constant.

The Clients: Pornographic. Solicitation. Lust. Her way of paying for her Illustration.

Enter Alan: Quiet. Shy. Reserved. Suffering. Attentive. Listener. Consistent. Eager. Accepting. In love with Emily. Her, not quite sure what.

The Illustration: Her future. Her history. Her dreams. Her failures. Her life in ink. One half, pure; One half, not so much.

The Choice: Tyrone, Alan. Alan, Tyrone. Her choice. Their choice.

The Illustrated Woman is to be read as entertainment only and should only be read by adults of maturity. The Illustrated Woman has extensive usage of curse words, references to drug usage, explicit sexual relations incorporating power exchange, sexually abusive scenes, BDSM references and intense anger scenes.

And...I could not put this book down

Posted by [K Meador](#) at 4:30 PM No comments: 

## Hollywood Shakedown by Mark Barry

### About Hollywood Shakedown:

Buddy Chinn, the son of a lauded beat poet from the seventies, is happy to follow the dishonorable family tradition of booze, bets, books and broads.

Then, at Hollywood Park one winter Saturday afternoon, two tough guys persuade him to join them on a trip to Damascus, a sprawling mansion off Mulholland Drive, a palace surrounded by a forest of imported trees and lush vegetation.

There, he meets Mortimer Saxon, a, reclusive obsessive manuscript collector with an edge.

A sharp suited zealot searching for Buddy's dad's fabled Lost Manuscript; a one off, a unique piece worth thousands and thousands of dollars, an American literary icon similar in cult magnitude to Hunter S Thompson's "Call to the Post."

He asks Buddy whether he can help. Buddy hasn't a clue. Not a scooby.

Trouble is, Mortimer doesn't believe him.

Over the finest steak dinner Buddy has ever eaten, the collector makes him a proposition.

Find the manuscript and make one hundred thousand dollars.

Fail to find the manuscript and lose body parts on instruments restored from Inquisition times.

Worse, he's given two weeks and no choice.

Along with a British comic dealer friend, the two men go on a quest for the manuscript which takes them to the biggest library in the world in Venice Beach, a riotous chess tournament in Chicago, a pulsating FA Cup match in London and back again to the City of Angels.

All the time he's worried about his independent minded squeeze Monique, who, like a very independent minded cat, only ever comes home when she wants feeding.

Hoping against hope that the manuscript exists. Avoiding snipers, hitmen, hooligans, the attentions of strange seventies goons and an alluring, hyper-sexy bad girl with a fetishistic interest in low-life big guy writers.

Developing respect and admiration in an age of endangered male friendships, the odd couple face a race against time to find the manuscript, a contest which leads to a pulse pounding climax, one in which Buddy has to face his deepest, darkest fears.

Hollywood Shakedown is an offbeat thriller and quest novel, written in a Transatlantic beat style. The narrative transpires mostly in dialogue as a homage to the seventies greats. It contains one of the hottest women you'll ever witness without a camera and three of the nastiest villains you'll see outside state prison.

Hollywood Shakedown is one of the sleepers of the year.

Fans of beat poet Charles Bukowski (who makes a ghostly appearance), hipster Elmore Leonard and arch-ironist Martin Amis; cult directors such as Quentin Tarantino and Guy Ritchie and seventies TV shows such as "The Persuaders" and "Randall and Hopkirk" will get the drift.

## What readers are saying:

### 5 Star Review:

A fast paced novel that takes you into the very heart of human nature in regards to greed, laziness and love. What would you do when your life is on the line and you only have two weeks to produce results or die? What would you do if the one whom you love is in danger? What would you do if you were a person that most would consider a bum and a failure?

Meet Buddy and experience a two week rollercoaster trip into the madhouse and stress as he searches for the unknown manuscript....a script that will determine if he lives or dies.

The characters in this book are outstanding! The individuals involved here have personalities that are well defined and keeps you turning page after page. Not once was there a "slow" or "boring" spot.

Definitely a must read!

### Another 5 Star Review:

The author has expertly woven a tale of greed and lust into a compelling story of a ruthless man's quest to obtain a missing manuscript. The wealthy Mortimer Saxon coerces Buddy Chinn to do his bidding, tempting the alcoholic writer with money, but threatening his life and the life of his woman, Monique, should he fail. We are introduced to many worlds in this thriller, from racetracks and bars to chess tournaments and British football. Mr. Barry immerses the reader quickly into the intrigue, an enjoyable page turner that is difficult to put down. I look forward to reading more of this author's work.

US Link:

[http://www.amazon.com/Hollywood-Shakedown-Mark-Barry/dp/1478305304/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1352670751&sr=8-1&keywords=hollywood+shakedown+mark+barry](http://www.amazon.com/Hollywood-Shakedown-Mark-Barry/dp/1478305304/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1352670751&sr=8-1&keywords=hollywood+shakedown+mark+barry)

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