



More ▾

Create Blog Sign In



The Writing Desk: Writing, support and useful links for writers

[Home](#)

[About / Contact](#)

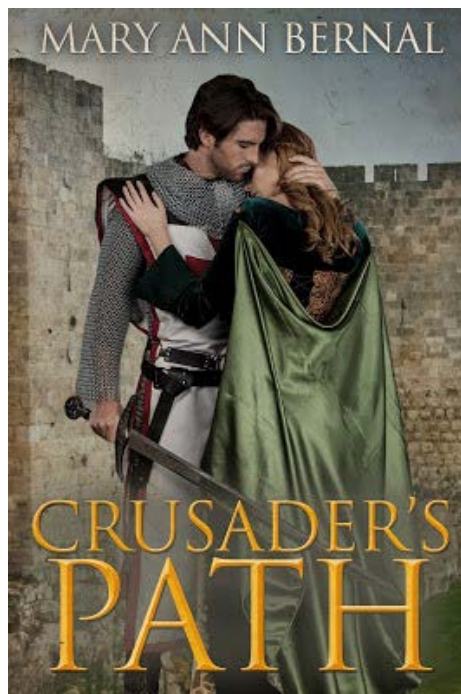
[Useful Links](#)

[My Books](#)

[Author Website](#)

26 March 2020

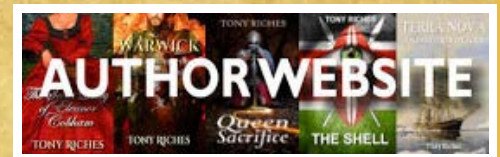
Special Guest Interview with Mary Ann Bernal, Author of Crusader's Path



Available for pre-order from
[Amazon UK](#) and [Amazon US](#)

I'm pleased to welcome author Mary Ann Bernal to The Writing Desk:

Tell us about your latest book



New on Amazon

[Buy on Amazon](#) [Buy](#) [Share](#)
[Free Preview](#) [Preview](#)
[Free Preview](#) [Preview](#)

Share this free instant
preview with:

Copy link:

[Buy on Amazon](#) [Buy](#) [Share](#)
[Free Preview](#) [Preview](#)

Crusader's Path is set during the First Crusade (1096-1099). Etienne d'Argences and his overlord, Duke Robert of Normandy, embark on a quest for redemption, joining Pope Urban's Soldiers for Christ, and freeing the Holy Land from Muslim rule. Urban proclaimed that anyone dying during the arduous journey or on the battlefield were absolved of their sins.

Avielle of Cologne, a healer, ministering to the city's ostracized lepers, needs to reconcile herself with God after committing a grave sin known only to herself and the Lord. Not daring to reveal her shameful secret in the confessional, absolution is unattainable until she hears Peter of Amiens preaching in the market square. Now, salvation is within reach. Avielle joins Peter's Army and travels with the holy monk through the Rhine Valley, en route to the Byzantine Empire.

Etienne and Avielle meet in Constantinople, and together, they withstand the hardships of the grueling campaign, enduring privation for the Lord's sake, to save their souls. But promises made to God are cast aside when they succumb to the temptation of the flesh, forsaking their vows of living a religious life for worldly pursuits.

With each successful siege as the Princes' Army approaches Jerusalem, Etienne and Avielle struggle to realize spiritual purity over earthly desire.

What is your preferred writing routine?

My routines have varied over the years because of daily commitments. I have burned the midnight oil, arisen at the crack of dawn, and started writing the moment I came home from work. Now, whatever the hour, my goal is to write a few hours while not paying attention to a daily word count. It is less stressful if you set a reasonable goal. I always achieve my minimum word count of two hundred fifty words, but of course, I do not stop until what I want to say has been written.

What advice do you have for new writers?

My advice is to learn as much as you can about the craft. Enroll in creative writing courses and workshops and write a little every day. Two hundred fifty words a day is a novel in a year. Also, forget the naysayers and never give up.

What have you found to be the best way to raise awareness of your books?

Social media is perfect for author visibility. In addition to my webpage, I showcase my work on my blog and Pinterest. I also have a Twitter account where I share not only my work and the work of other authors but also topics that interest me.

Tell us something unexpected you discovered during your research

[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant preview with:

Copy link:

Follow new posts by Email

[Buy on Amazon Buy](#) Share
[Free Preview Preview](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant preview with:

Copy link:

The Tudor Trilogy

[Buy on Amazon Buy](#) Share
[Free Preview Preview](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant preview with:

Crusader's Path follows Duke Robert of Normandy's participation in the Crusade. He joined the campaign late and spent the winter in Italy before heading out for Constantinople. He also left the siege of Antioch during the winter months, returning in the spring only after being threatened by excommunication.

What was the hardest scene you remember writing?

Death scenes are always tricky because I do love my characters; we share a bond; after all, I created them! The Crusades was a violent time, and people die. I won't go into greater detail other than to say, "No Spoilers."

What are you planning to write next?

I am planning on a novel set in Ancient Rome. As my readers know, I have a fascination with the Roman Empire. I'm always referencing the old Roman ruins in my novels. But which Emperor to follow? The jury's still out.

Mary Ann Bernal

#

About the Author



Mary Ann Bernal attended Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY, where she received a degree in Business Administration. Her literary aspirations were ultimately realized when the first book of *The Briton and the Dane* novels was published in 2009. In addition to writing historical fiction, Mary Ann has also authored a collection of contemporary short stories in the *Scribbler Tales* series and a science fiction/fantasy novel entitled *Planetary Wars Rise of an Empire*. Mary Ann is a passionate supporter of the United States military, having been involved with letter-writing campaigns and other support programs since Operation Desert Storm. She has appeared on *The Morning Blend* television show hosted by KMTV, the CBS television affiliate in Omaha, and was interviewed by the *Omaha World-Herald* for her volunteer work. She has been a featured author on various reader blogs and promotional sites. Mary Ann currently resides in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Find out more at her website <http://www.maryannbernal.com/> and find her on Twitter [@BritonandDane](https://twitter.com/BritonandDane)

Copy link:

[Buy on Amazon Buy](#) Share
[Free Preview Preview](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant preview with:

Copy link:

[Buy on Amazon Buy](#) Share
[Free Preview Preview](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant preview with:

Copy link:

Please share this post:



Posted by [tonyriches](#)     

Labels: [Author interview](#)

1 comment:



Mary Ann Bernal 26 March 2020 at 20:01

Thanks for hosting me, Tony. I enjoyed the questions. Stay safe during these challenging times.

[Reply](#)

Add comment

Thank you for commenting



#130 in World List 2018

Featured post

[The Tudors' Road to Bosworth Part 1: The Tudors Escape to Brittany](#)

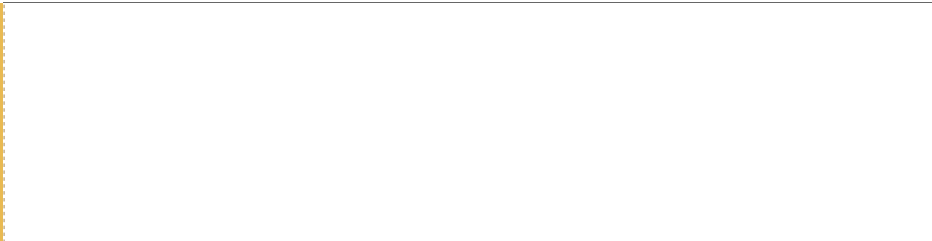
As part of the research for my Tudor trilogy, I decided to follow the journey of Jasper Tudor and his young nephew Henry from Tenby in ...



Best Selling Historical Fiction

[Buy on Amazon Buy](#) [Share](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant



[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

AddToAny

preview with:

Copy link:

[Buy on Amazon Buy](#) Share
[Free Preview Preview](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant
preview with:

Copy link:

Follow [@tonyriches](#)

**The Ultimate Chess
Novel:**

[Buy on Amazon Buy](#) Share
[Free Preview Preview](#)
[Free Preview Preview](#)

Share this free instant
preview with:

Copy link:




Twitter

[Tweets by tonyriches](#)

The Tudors On Goodreads:

Goodreads Tudor History Lovers's



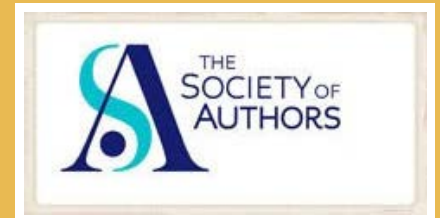
2899 members
Anyone who enjoys historical fiction or history books about Tudor England will like this group. Whether you have been all the way to England just to tour the Tower of London or were just curious to learn more after reading "The Other Boleyn Girl", this group is for you!

Our biography shelf





View this group on Goodreads »
Share [book reviews](#) and ratings with Tudor History Lovers, and even join a [book club](#) on Goodreads.



Tony Riches's books on Goodreads



Owen

reviews: 68
ratings: 694 (avg rating 3.99)



Jasper - Book Two of The Tudor Trilogy

reviews: 21
ratings: 268 (avg rating

4.13)



The Secret Diary of Eleanor Cobham

reviews: 20
ratings: 207 (avg rating

3.78)

[WARWICK - The Man Behind The Wars of the](#)



[Roses](#)

reviews: 8

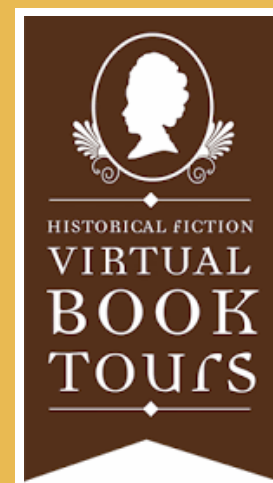
ratings: 127 (avg rating 4.02)



[AGILE Project Management for Busy Managers](#)

reviews: 2

ratings: 38 (avg rating 3.08)



NetGalley Reviewer





Find me on Booklikes



[Subscribe via RSS](#)

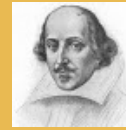
About the author:



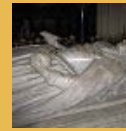
 [tonyriches](#)

[View my complete profile](#)

Popular Posts



[William Shakespeare ~
Sonnet 116](#)



[Rest in Peace?
Disturbing Royal
Tombs](#)



[Visiting Charles
Brandon's Tomb in St
George's Chapel at
Windsor Castle](#)

Archive

▼ 2020 (31)

▼ March (13)

[Special Guest Interview with
Mary Ann Bernal, Aut...](#)

[Special Guest Interview with
Drema Drudge, Author ...](#)

[Historical Fiction Spotlight:
The King's Justice, ...](#)

[Special Guest Interview with
Karen Heenan, Author ...](#)

[Guest Interview with Helen T.
Doan, Author of Pass...](#)

[First You Write a Sentence:
The Elements of Readin...](#)

[Book Launch Guest Post ~
Fictionalising history: O...](#)

[Book Launch Guest Post by
Diana Jackson, Author of...](#)

[Footprints in the Sand \(The
Lucy Lawrence Mysterie...](#)

[The Mirror and the Light \(The
Wolf Hall Trilogy\) b...](#)

[Historical Fiction Spotlight:
The Swan's Road: The...](#)

[Book Launch - Missing, Past
and Present, by Diana ...](#)

[Before Coronavirus: Katherine
Willoughby and the d...](#)

▶ February (6)

▶ January (12)

- ▶ [2019](#) (135)
- ▶ [2018](#) (194)
- ▶ [2017](#) (213)
- ▶ [2016](#) (154)
- ▶ [2015](#) (168)
- ▶ [2014](#) (167)
- ▶ [2013](#) (79)
- ▶ [2012](#) (67)
- ▶ [2011](#) (56)

Blog Top Sites



Literature blogs

Label Cloud:

Book Launch Guest
post Historical Fiction
Tudors Book reviews
Historical Fiction Spotlight
Author interview Book
Publicity Writing Blog Tour
Writers #AuthorToolboxBlogHop
Poetry Publishing Tudor Trilogy
Blog Guest Blog Author Platform
Building Podcasts Audiobook Prose
Videos Podcast #NaNoWriMo Flash Fiction
Bosworth Charles Brandon Dystopia Haiku
Holbein Quotes Tudor Portraits YA

"The Shell" by Tony Riches on Ganxy

eMail me on TonyRiches@live.com follow me on twitter
[@tonyriches](https://twitter.com/tonyriches)

© Tony Riches 2011. Theme images by [mammuth](#). Powered by [Blogger](#).