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Mary Ann Bernal: The Briton and the Dane Trilogy.

Posted on 12:26:2011 by Six Letter Press



by *Mary Ann Bernal*

The Briton and the Dane Trilogy

<http://www.maryannbernal.com>

The Briton and the Dane novels bring to life the tumultuous ninth century, 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 in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

Cover Art (click to view full size):



The Briton and the Dane trilogy illustrated by Steven Novak.



The Briton and the Dane trilogy illustrated by

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The Briton and the
Dane trilogy
illustrated by
Steven Novak.

Purchase Information

The Briton and the Dane

<http://litunderground.com/BritonDane.html>

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=mary+ann+bernal&x=0&y=0

The Briton and the Dane: Birthright

<http://litunderground.com/Birthright.html>

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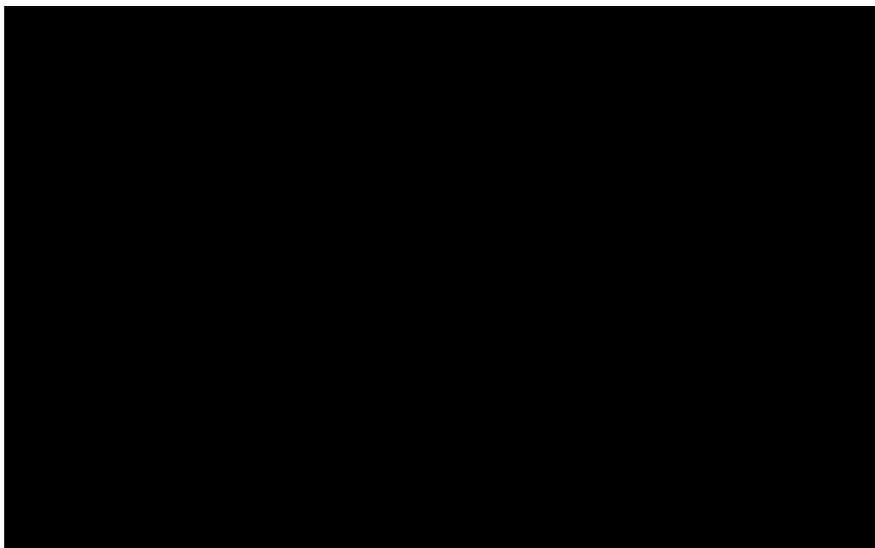
The Briton and the Dane: Legacy

Available 2012

YouTube trailers

The Briton and the Dane

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy-JUlwFlnU>



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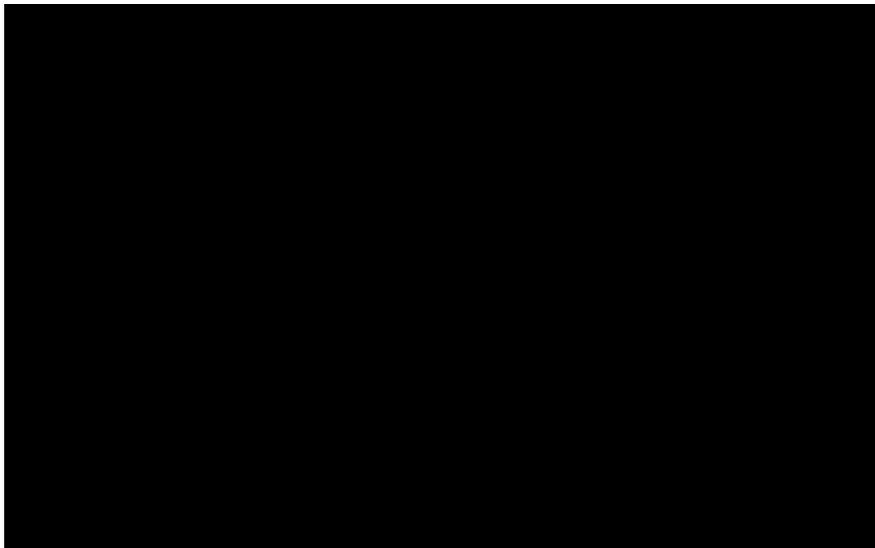
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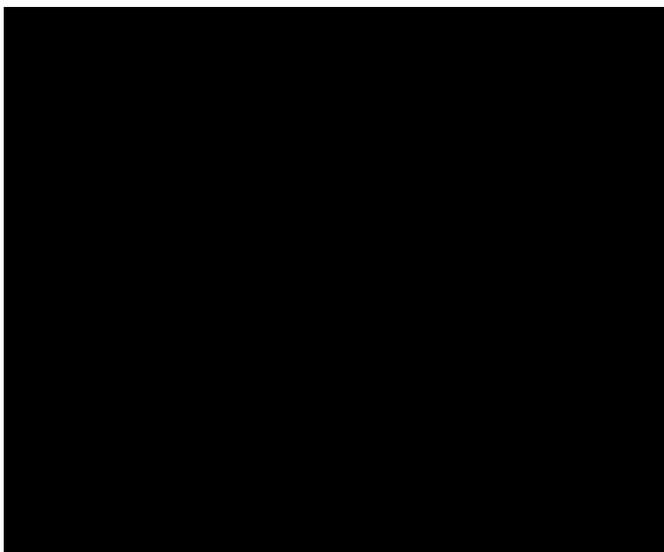
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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAhMD3TtXEo>



The Briton and the Dane: Legacy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b6CQaI9Rs0>



The story behind The Briton and the Dane Trilogy

I fell in love with medieval England after reading Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe" in my sophomore year of high school, but my interests soon turned towards the Dark Ages when the formidable Vikings harassed the civilized world once Hollywood released such blockbusters as "The Vikings," "The Longships," and "Erik the Viking." Add to the mix "Alfred the Great," "Prince Valiant," and "King Arthur," and an incurable romantic anglophile was born.

As time went on Hollywood changed its venue of period movies, but I found solace with the many British programs being aired on our local PBS station. With the advent of BBC America and History International, I was able to find great documentaries such as "The Dark Ages," "Life in Anglo-Saxon Times," "Dark Age England," and "Viking Exploration," to name but a few.

During this time, Erik the Viking was hovering in the cobwebs of my creative mind, waiting to escape oblivion, waiting to tell his story, waiting and waiting and waiting, but it was not until 2008 that I was able to find the time to devote to fulfilling my lifelong dream of writing my Erik the Viking story.

Why did I focus on Alfred the Great and King Guthrum? I chose these two formidable characters because they were fascinating. This was a time of conflict and change, when Christianity was replacing the pagan religion, and the feared Vikings no longer plundered the fertile country of Britannia but remained and settled the land.

When King Alfred defeated King Guthrum in 878, one of the terms for peace was the Christian baptism of the Danish King. I wondered how this heathen King might have felt about denying the gods of his ancestors as he willingly accepted the Roman Christ God, and also wondered how willing his subjects were to submit to the rules of the new religion.

In addition to the religious conflict, there were also petty Kings who coveted the throne, not only King Alfred's crown, but King Guthrum's as well. Throw into the mix, illegitimate offspring and you have all the makings for a great story.

While Erik started out as my main character, the supporting characters in the story sought to usurp the protagonist role. I had often heard the phrase, "but then my characters took over," and quickly found out that the statement was very true. Erik had to share the limelight with the many prominent figures who were not satisfied to play a minor role in the story.

The same holds true for our antagonist; there are many opponents as the story unravels, each with their own agenda but each with the same goal, seeking power and wealth.

I delve into the minds of my characters as they are faced with conflicts that are common today: father/son relationships and acknowledgement of paternity, religious confrontation, and warfare.

The people who lived in the 9th century were flesh and blood as we are flesh and blood. They faced the same problems, made similar choices, and perhaps regretted their decisions.

I also wanted to reach out to the families of our modern day warriors, to show them that the only thing that has changed over time is the weapons of warfare. What has not changed is the anxiety as one awaits the fate of their loved one; waiting is difficult no matter which century you live in.

Of course I was not ready to leave my favorite characters in the Ninth century, and did not have the heart to say goodbye after one story, and the first trilogy was born. These wonderful characters have truly taken on a life of their own as they live through the intrigue, love and betrayal, just as modern society lives through the very same conflicts.

"The Briton and the Dane" series has been a joy to write, and I trust a joy to read. Enjoy the adventure, it only gets better.

About the Author



Mary Ann was born on the United States Naval Base located at Patuxent River, Maryland and was raised in Yonkers, NY after her father's honorable discharge from the Navy. She graduated from Gorton High School in 1962. She received an Associate in Arts degree from Elizabeth Seton College and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mercy College where she graduated summa cum laude. She moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 2004 to be near her son and his family. When she isn't writing Mary Ann attends as many sports events and dance competitions with her grandchildren as is humanly possible. She is also very active within the Soldiers Angels organization, which provides support for our deployed men and women of the United States Military. Mary Ann has also traveled to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Italy, and is planning a trip to Greece in the near future.

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