



The Briton and the Dane: Birthright

MaryAnn Bernal

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Travel back in time to 9th 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.

The Briton and the Dane: Birthright Details

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From Reader Review The Briton and the Dane: Birthright for online ebook

Tina on the Hill says

Will read again and look forward to reading more.

Jenn (Booksessed) says

Where to start? I loved the first book Briton and the Dane but there was so much unresolved that I was eager to read the next book, yet having waited several weeks between finishing book one and starting book two I was a bit apprehensive that I would be lost. I dug out the notes that I took during the reading of book one, but I needn't have worried; it all came back to me. I was excited as soon as read the prologue. I can't really go into specifics because I feel that would be spoiling parts of both books if you hadn't read them, but I'll do my best.

I think that Birthright is my favorite (so far) of the series. I liked book one a lot, but I loved this one. There are so many plot twists and so many things to figure out. I do have to mention though that I thought I had something figured out and admittedly it was kind of far-fetched and I almost caved and had the author tell me whether my theory was correct when she offered, I'm glad that I declined because the wait was worth it. (My theory was correct by the way). I also had a near break down during a heartbreaking moment for one of my favorite characters. I don't want to tell you which one, you'll just have to read it.

I love the way that the story is told as well. There are so many characters doing so many separate things but you know they're all going to meet in the end. (Think of how the movie Love Actually is told). It's a lot to keep track of, but it's a wonderfully easy and fairly quick read. After a few chapters, you get a flow of the characters and which side they are connected to and as more characters are introduced, they fit in seamlessly. I love the mix of historical background, family/love bonds and adventure. It makes the book such a great read.

I also love the format of the book. Don't be deceived, it looks daunting due to its length, but it's not. It's larger font than books usually have, with paragraphs with what looks like double spaced lines and the chapters are short. While that doesn't seem like a huge deal, but I love when books are formatted in such a way especially when they fall under the category of epic adventures. It makes me as a reader feel like I'm reading faster than I am without getting overwhelmed.

There were a lot of cliffhangers in this book and I cannot wait for the next one! I've perhaps gotten a little too attached to these characters.

Nicolle says

I was given a copy of The Briton and the Dane: Birthright through Goodreads First Reads. First impressions of the cover were that this book is going to be full of action and medieval references which are both

appealing.

The format that this book is written in is small chapters which are each split into sections which deflect to different scenes and characters with each small section generally being about two or three pages long. This structure led me to never get involved in the book. It took me about half the book to sort out which characters were related to whom and where and what each was heading towards.

The plot of this novel was interesting and original and with a change to the structure and the style it is written it could become amazing but unfortunately this was not. One thing in particular which got on my nerves was the repetition of certain phrases such as 'she loved her like a sister', 'we share the same fate' or 'he kissed her tenderly', each phrase used with slight variation each time but still making the text very tedious and I found myself willing the book to end.

Not all was bad though, the book includes maps of the British Isles and character lists which helped with understanding the story. A glossary of terms was also included at the end as there was a few references to archaic language like 'Garderobe' which means toilet. Discussion questions were also included a few of which I will answer...

Did the language help transport you back in time?

Yes, though I wasn't transported into the whole story and didn't feel any emotional involvement with the characters.

Were you engrossed in the story?

To put it simply, no.

Are you anxious to read the third book in the trilogy?

No, but I would give it a try to see if it is any improvement on this book.

Cassia says

This is not a standalone book. Being part of a series, it is impossible to understand the relationships between characters before 50% of the book.

Anyway, the real issue is the cinematic prose of the writer. She moves like she was using a camera, very quickly, shifting restlessly from one scene to the other, one character to the other. The reader is dazed and a bit sick and hope the chapter to end soon.

Jacque says

This book was very interesting. It took historical events and people and made a fiction story about them. This was about King Alfred and King Guthrum in the Ninth Century. It tells of how Christianity was becoming popular in Great Britain and how the other gods who were in the country were losing their power over the people.

King Guthrum has to fight his illegitimate child for his throne and the book is about the conspiracies that are going on in the illegitimate son's camp before the battles begin. There is a lot of intrigue to the story. There are kidnappings, murders of whole villages, and more in the book.

They use the monasteries that have been left by the Romans as places of refuge for the women and children who are losing their homes and lands or will be killed by the opposing army. Some women are taken there and help until the battles are over so that they will be protected and not do anything that could get their husbands and family killed.

The way this book was written made me want to read more. Even though it was written with words that would have been period I could understand it and the few words I did not know were in the glossary. I really enjoyed this book and will read any more that are written.

Stephanie says

I loved it. I hope there is another coming up. After I read it, I took a deep breath to make sure I was in this world not in the time portrayed in the book. Everything came to life. Wonderful writing.

Margaret Arvanitis says

After reading The Briton and the Dane I bought Mary Ann Bernal's second of the series, Birthright. I quickly caught up with the story. With so many characters it took my serious attention while reading .. And I do so love a book that keeps my attention. Thanks for this. Fascinating cover too.

Brenda Perlin says

The Briton and the Dane: Birthright is a beautiful story. Mary Ann Bernal writes with such passion and authority. She brings you back to a time none of us have lived through. This time piece brings the reader back in time but human emotion is the same as it is today. Love and passion will always bring heartache, misery and bliss.

This suspenseful adventurous story captivated my senses and glued me to the pages. I loved the massive escape that was not my life. Such a thrill to go through all the trials and tribulations from this time period. Thought provoking and moving. This intense series caught my attention from the first book, The Briton and the Dane. The descriptions were so vivid I felt I was part of the surroundings. The scenes are set like a movie. The images are so clear making a perfect visual. These books would make great films. Would love to see the action, drama and adventure played out on the big screen. Very exciting!

You can tell the author has spent a great deal of time researching everything that has to do with the time period. Very impressive. There are so many layers that kept falling away that made me more and more intrigued as the story unfolded.

I was entertained all the way through and read until I could not read any longer. Highly recommend this series and everything else by Mary Ann Bernal. Her stories do not disappoint!
