

Mary Ann Bernal

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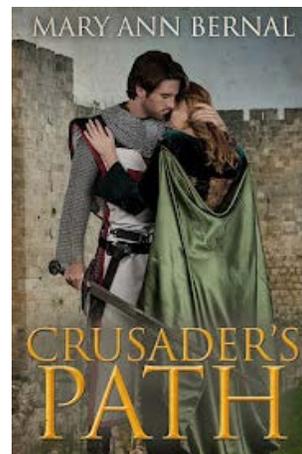
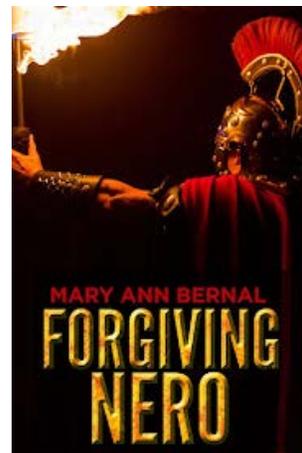
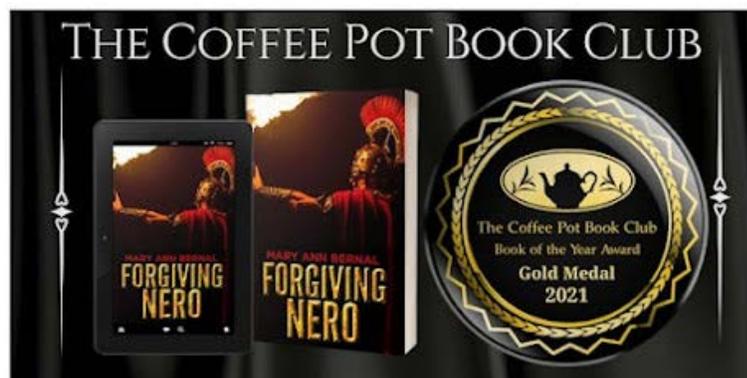
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Tuesday, December 7, 2021

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Gold Medal
The Coffee Pot Book Club Book of the Year
Historical Fiction Book of the Year
The Ancient World

Rome. The jewel of the civilized world is no longer what it was. Strength has failed the Senate. Her legions are in disarray, and the Empire has fallen into Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus Nero's hands. His reign begins under a cloud of scrutiny, for he is the depraved Emperor Caligula's nephew. Nero is determined to overcome that stigma and carve a name of his own. One worthy of Rome's illustrious history.

Politics and treachery threaten to end Nero's reign before it begins, forcing him to turn to unexpected sources for friendship and help. Many of the Praetorian Guard have watched over Nero since he was a small child, and it is in Traian that the young Emperor places his trust, despite the inherent threat of reducing his mother's influence. Traian is the father he never had and the one man who does not judge him.

When Traian secretly marries the hostage Vena, it sets in motion a collision of values as Traian comes to odds with his former charge. The whirlwind that follows will shake the very foundations of the greatest Empire the world has ever known, and survival is far from guaranteed.

Reader Views

“Playing out much like the Greek tragedies Nero enjoyed acting in!”

“The writing flows effortlessly between the viewpoints of each of the characters, telling a clear

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narrative that is easy to follow and rather difficult to put down.”

“If you love Roman history, this book should delight you. Although Nero’s and his family’s wickedness is not sugarcoated, it is not described in a way that is lewd or gratifying.”

“The author does an excellent job remaining neutral and presenting each viewpoint factually and without bias. Therefore, regardless of your personal beliefs, you should be able to enjoy this book and make your own conclusions without feeling led to view Nero one way or the other.”

The Coffee Pot Book Club

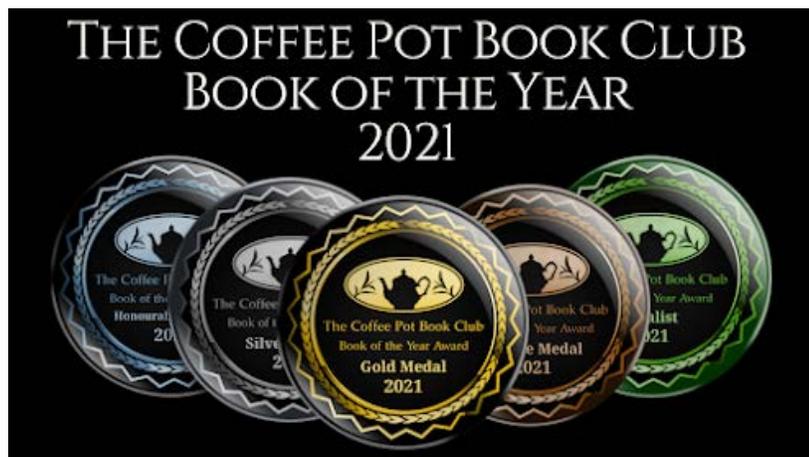
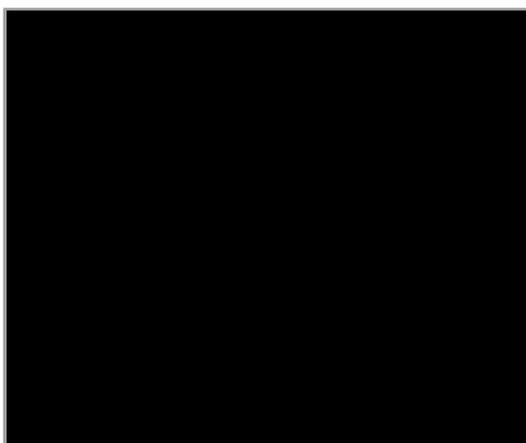
“This story demanded all of my attention from beginning to end. The narrative was utterly enthralling, and Bernal told Nero’s story with a keen understanding of what makes history worth reading. Bernal has brought Nero back to life, and she has explored that life with a profound sweep and brilliance...”

“Nero is one of the infamous emperors whose history has been dictated by those who wanted to see his downfall. History, after all, is not written by the loser. Bernal does not pretend that Nero was a beloved emperor, but nor does she make him quite as monstrous as we have all been led to believe.”

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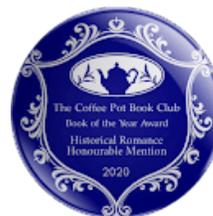
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Forgiving Nero



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2019 Book of the
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Posted by Mary Ann Bernal at 4:08 PM



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