

Long Bio: (549 words) Dr. MaryAnn Diorio was born with a pen in her hand. She learned to love words while listening to her father read from an old copy of the *Oxford Book of Verse* that he had purchased at a book sale. She still has that treasured book.

At the age of 30, Dr. MaryAnn discerned God's call on her life to write for Him. She surrendered to that call and, thereby, began the exciting journey of discovering and fulfilling God's purpose for her life. That journey took her from writing non-fiction for magazines and newspapers to writing compelling fiction that explores the deepest issues of the human heart. In the process she is learning to know and love God in a profound and intimate way.

Dr. Diorio earned her PhD in French from the University of Kansas and her MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. She is a diplomate of the Institute of Children's Literature and has won numerous writing awards, including Third Place in the AMY Writing Awards Program; First Place in Inspirational Novel, Space Coast *Launching a Star* Contest (2011); Second Place in Historical Novel, Romance Writers' Ink *Where the Magic Begins* Contest (2011); and First Place in Inspirational Novel, Colorado RWA *Heart of the Rockies* Contest (2011).

MaryAnn's writing has appeared in over 100 publications, including *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Human Events*, and Billy Graham's *Decision Magazine*. Her novella, [A CHRISTMAS HOMECOMING](#), reached national acclaim after its publication in 2012. Her latest work, a delightful children's picture book entitled WHO IS JESUS?, was released by TopNotch Press in October of 2014.

MaryAnn has appeared on several radio, television, and Internet talk shows, including the popular [Christian Authors Show](#) with Danielle Hampson, the nation-wide *LeSea Alive* program with the late Dr. Lester Sumrall, *By the Book* hosted by Debbie Williams, and *Women of Grace* hosted by Kelly McCausey. She has also been interviewed on WDAS (Philadelphia), WIBG (South Jersey), and WNNN (South Jersey). Articles about her writing have appeared in *The Press of Atlantic City*, *The Daily Journal*, *The Millville News*, *The Bridgeton Evening News*, and *The Times Herald* of her hometown of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Dr. MaryAnn has served as a distinguished judge for the annual AMY Writing Awards Program, the annual Capitol Writers Writing Contest (Washington, DC area), the annual American Christian Fiction Writers' Genesis Contest., and the ACFW First Impressions Contest. She is listed in *International Who's Who*, *Who's Who in the East*, *International Authors and Writers Who's Who*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, *The World Who's Who of Women*, *Who's Who in the World*, *The International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women*, *The National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in Finance and Business*. Most important of all, MaryAnn rejoices that she is listed in *The Lamb's Book of Life*!

A widely published author, Dr. Diorio has taught writing at Rowan University and Regent University. Her stories for children have appeared in several magazines. MaryAnn resides in New Jersey with her husband Dom. They are blessed with two magnificent daughters, a wonderful son-in-law, and a precious little granddaughter named Annamarie. When not writing, MaryAnn enjoys painting, playing the piano, and composing silly songs for Annamarie. You may reach MaryAnn at maryann@maryanndiorio.com or at www.maryanndiorio.com.