



When Mary Castillo was ten, her grandmother all but predicted the future.

In the backyard of her parents' home in National City, CA, Mary imagined she would grow up to be Wonder Woman, or the first woman to win the Academy Award for Best Director. When she didn't grow up to look like Linda Carter and then realized she really didn't like working with people (as a director, one must unfortunately, work with lots and lots of them), she looked back on what her Grandma Margie had said to her.

"The best job in the world has to be an author. You can live wherever you want, while wearing what you want, and write stories."

Mary took stock of the fact that 96% of her worldly possessions amounted to books and 99% of her time to her imagination. In 1994, a career was born. Two screenplays, four manuscripts, 21 rejection letters, and nine years later she sold her first book, *Hot Tamara* to Avon Trade. And Grandma was right: making stuff up wearing what you want is the best job in the world.

A lifelong professional writer, including a stint as a reporter for the LA Times Community News (second best job in the world), Mary is now the very proud author of three novels (*Swithcraft*, *In Between Men* and *Hot Tamara*) and two novellas featured in the anthologies, *Names I Call My Sister* and *Friday Night Chicas*. She also pays the bills by writing features for *Tu Ciudad* and *Rise Up* magazines, as well as for *Animation World Network*. Celebrities like Ingrid Hoffman of *Simply Delicioso* and Chef Daisy Martinez of *Everyday with Rachael Ray* and authors such as Marta Acosta, Jenny Gardiner and Caridad Ferrer have appeared on Mary's popular blog, *Chica Lit*.

One day, Mary swears that she will write a great American epic (with strong romantic elements, of course).

*Latina* magazine called Mary "an author to look out for" in August 2004 and *OC Metro* magazine named Mary one of the hottest 25 people in the O.C. (the only time her hotness has been publicly affirmed) in October 2005. *Cosmopolitan* magazine choose her debut, *Hot Tamara*, as the [Red Hot Read of April 2005](#).

The one thing that most people don't know about Mary is that she grew up in a haunted house. She loves watching *Ghost Hunters* on the SciFi channel, cries every time she sees the movies, *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* and *Casablanca*, and feels that Joan Collins is by far the preeminent TV villain (which is why Joan plays such an important role in the novel, *In Between Men*).

Mary lives in The O.C. with her family.