

# Arts & LIFE



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## Medieval blog entries the foundation of Miltonian's first book

By Julie Slack  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Using humour and witty topics, Milton's Daniele Cybulskie has made the middle ages fun with her new book. *The Five-Minute Medievalist* is a book she compiled using articles she wrote for the much-loved website Medievalists.net. The book includes 13 of those online articles along with two new ones, all of which are about 700 to 1,000 words each.

A mother of two girls, six and eight years old, Cybulskie got into writing about all things Middle Ages after she graduated in 2008. Initially, it started as a blog on her own, which she stopped when life got busy.

That's when she was contacted by the owner of Medievalist.net, Peter Konieczny. Turned out, he was just a few minutes away in Oakville and they quickly became friends and partnered on the website.

Cybulskie said she thinks the middle ages became popular mostly because of *Lord of the Rings*, but for her, her love of all things medieval began with a fascination over *Sleeping Beauty* and *Robin Hood*.

The Milton author grew up in Sudbury and went to visit Scotland, which she loved, in part because of all its history.

She studied cultural studies in English in medieval literature at Trent University in Peterborough, but when she started pursuing a master's degree, she discovered that one can specialize in medieval studies; she was then attending the University of Toronto where she spent countless hours in the library — the



Milton's Daniele Cybulskie delves into what life was really like in the Middle Ages in her book *The Five-Minute Medievalist*. Julie Slack / Canadian Champion

medieval library to be specific. "They have a really great library," she said.

But all good things come to an end and once she had finished her studies in English literature, medieval literature and Renaissance drama, she found herself at home, expecting her first child.

"Instead of digging through these amazing libraries, I started a blog at home," she explained, adding her posts and blogs were getting thousands of hits. The rest is history — not quite medieval, but history nonetheless.

Now, with her first book out, she finds herself surprised a little, but

excited about the future. Also a teacher through Ontario Learn — an online platform that connects colleges across Ontario — Cybulskie said her book is about the "interesting stuff people want to know about the Middle Ages — like what they ate, what they loved, what their sex lives were like — so that regular,

non-academic people can have their questions answered.

"It's fun, interesting trivia, the type of which people always want to know about after watching a medieval show like *Game of Thrones*," she said. The book is available on Amazon.ca, Kobo.ca and [www.danielecybulskie.com](http://www.danielecybulskie.com).

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