

Irmgarde Brown Bio

Irmgarde Brown is a retired librarian/manager, a long-time blogger, a photographer, a playwright and director, an active volunteer in the Havre de Grace arts community, a friend to the Village of Hope, Zambia, and a graduate from the Living School for Action and Contemplation. She is a widow, the mother of three adoptees from Eastern Europe (now grown), and a grandmother of three boys. **Sister Jane** was her debut novel (2021) while **Sister Jane's Lenten Journal** (2022), is a companion novella, overlapping the original book by 40 days and ending on the same day. She is also the co-author of the memoir, **Evidence Now Seen: How God Used One Couple to Touch the Lives of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Zambia** released in 2023. Ms. Brown's third novel, **Children in the City of Czars** was released on December 3, 2024. The stand-alone young adult sequel to this book, **Swan Out of Water**, has an expected release in late May or June of 2026.

Additional Information about Irmgarde Brown's background

Irmgarde is a first generation American; born to Latvian parents who emigrated via Germany in 1951. Her father was conscripted into the German army while fleeing the Russians who seized his smallholding in rural Latvia. Her mother, who worked as a nanny for a shipping magnate who repatriated his business, his family, and his employees to Germany in the early years of the war. Irmgarde's parents met in a post-war displaced persons' camp in Germany. Her mother was one of very few refugees who was able to find work among the Americans as a translator since she spoke four languages: Latvian, German, Russian, and English. It is because of her American military connections that she successfully acquired visas for herself, her husband (twenty-five years her senior), and young son, Irmgarde's older brother.

Upon arriving stateside, they were required to connect with their "sponsor" in North Carolina. Uncomfortable with blatant racism toward people of color, they moved to Indianapolis, Indiana and joined a small, but thriving, Latvian community there. Irmgarde was born in Indianapolis. For many years, her family experienced typical trials of poor living conditions, minimal work, and prejudice. But, by the mid 50's, they were able to purchase a house and through sheer determination and perseverance, Mrs. Berzins raised two children who quickly assimilated into the American way of life, while still honoring their heritage through Saturday "Latvian School," folk dancing and choir singing, and activities at the Latvian Community Center. Mr. Berzins passed away in 1963.

Upon graduating from Shortridge High School, Irmgarde went to Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana and then transferred to University of Illinois, Chicago. After working in the Chicago local theater scene, she moved to New York City and received an MFA degree in Acting. After returning to Indianapolis, Ms. Brown entered a new life of faith, and turned her energies to directing and writing. After meeting her beloved husband, Mike Brown, she moved first to Atlanta and then to Havre de Grace, Maryland where she currently resides. They adopted two boys (aged 4 and 5) from Latvia and some years later, a teenage girl from St. Petersburg, Russia. Irmgarde retired from her career in public libraries in 2017 and began her second career in fiction writing.