



## Rage Against the Dying Light

*Jan Surasky*

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Of all the woman warriors in myth and legend, few are more storied than Boudicca, the fierce red-headed queen who led the most celebrated Celtic rebellion in history. But, here, for the first time, Jan Surasky imagines Boudicca's enthralling story of bravery and triumph from the Celtic perspective. In her extremely researched, vividly told novel, Boudicca bursts to life as never before. After a politically matched marriage to a much older king her world turns dark. Romans invade and at the king's death attack the palace, breaking a pact that would have saved the tribe from doom, publicly humiliate Boudicca and assault her two young daughters. Betrayed and outraged she leads thousands of warriors into an epic battle to avenge her daughters and rid her beloved island of Roman tyranny. Beautifully written, grand in scope and intimate in detail, *Rage Against the Dying Light* resonates with the queen's indomitable spirit placing her alongside no lesser woman warrior than Joan of Arc herself.

## Rage Against the Dying Light Details

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Author : Jan Surasky

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## From Reader Review Rage Against the Dying Light for online ebook

### Cristi says

\*GoodReads Giveaway Book\*

\*3.5 Stars\*

I went into this book not really knowing what it was about. The forenote and the afternote really helped because it gave a bit more information. This book was basically a historical account of the Celtic rebellion from the Celts POV. It was a bit confusing at times because it would switch from different characters POVs and different scenes. Also the names were super difficult to pronounce, but that was because they were authentic. I have never heard anything about the Celts and the Romans fighting, but this was pretty interesting, I would recommend this to anyone who likes history that isn't well known.

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### Cindy says

I was lucky enough to receive a signed copy of Rage Against the Dying Light as a gift from a friend. The book is easy to read and easy to follow. The characters came to life and I didn't have a hard time "transporting" myself into the story thanks to the use of appropriately placed descriptive words. I felt Boudicca was way ahead of her time--truly a woman of courage. I didn't want the story to end! I'm looking forward to more books by Jan Surasky.

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### Nancy says

There are many songs and tales of Boudicca – the warrior queen who led thousands against the Roman troops set on claiming her homeland. Many depict her as a tattooed Pict, running naked, blood flying carrying a sword. She conquered Londinium (London) and sent the Romans living there into the sea. There was no mercy.

This book shows us another Boudicca. A young princess waiting to dance the Maiden's Dance, a girl possibly loving another but submitting to her father's choice to strengthen her tribe. A mother bravely protecting her daughters until the day she couldn't.

For a first novel the research done is astounding. Ms. Surasky has done a creditable job of showing us life in 1st Century Briton, the tribal divisions, the food, the cultures and also those in Rome. Why Claudius felt it necessary to travel to Briton is unknown but, as we all know, he wasn't the calmest person in history.

A great gift for your favorite historian or romance lover this is just a splendid story.

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### Meg - A Bookish Affair says

2.5 stars. "Rage Against the Dying Light" is the story of Boudicca, the warrior queen who led her people to victory. She is a well known figure of Celtic history, a people that I really just don't know much about at all, which may have been part of some of the issues that I had with this book. I was not familiar at all with

Boudicca at all before this book.

Boudicca's story is definitely interesting and this book was definitely well researched. It's a relatively short book (not much over 200 pages) and the book goes very fast with little explanation about the culture of the Celtic people and all of the various tribes that appear in the book. I think someone that had a better background in Celtic history might get more out of this book than I did. I had to look up so many different things because there was no explanation within the book. It was very confusing to me.

It was also really hard to keep track of how far apart all of the different events in the book happened. I really like when historical fiction books have clear markings as to when events are happening. For example, dates at the beginning of the chapter or something to give the story some sort of chronological context.

The writing in the book is very good and is definitely what kept me reading. I really wish that there had been more detail and story building so that I could understand more about Boudicca and her accomplishments.

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## **S Marie says**

Rage Against the Dying Light, by award winning author Jan Surasky, is a brilliantly written novel about Boudicca, Britain's legendary warrior queen. Boudicca led a fierce and vengeful Celtic rebellion against the Roman Empire during the first century. While the Romans fought for greed, she fought for her country, her freedom and to avenge her young daughters violated by Roman soldiers when they swarmed her palace to overtake the Iceni kingdom.

Born an aristocrat of the Coritani Tribe, Boudicca is a princess destined to become a queen. As a young girl she prepares for her duty. She learns well the history, the culture and the traditions of the Celtic tribes. She also enjoys her childhood playing Tag and Run and Hide the Boar's Tooth with her brother. She gathers violets for Beltane, the Spring Rites Festival. It's her favorite festival. She plays with friends on the beautiful countryside overlooking the Devon River that runs down to the North Sea. Boudicca spends time among the oak trees in the Sacred Grove and ponders life, religious rites and omens. She watches for the signs of the hare to foretell the future of the Celtic Race. Before Boudicca was a queen, a wife, and a mother, she was a carefree princess of royal descent, loyal to her country and proud of her ancestors' undefeated legacy and freedom. Later on, her vengeful rebellion toward the Romans will serve to make her a monumental figure of British History.

Boudicca marries the powerful King Prasutagus of the Iceni Tribe. They enjoy a bountiful royal life and are blessed with two daughters. Prasutagus has formed a loose alliance with Rome as a client king who answers to them, but rules his kingdom independent of the Roman tyranny imposed on other Celtic tribes. A century has passed since Julius Caesar conquered Gaul and attacked the Celtic mountain tribes of Germania: Boudicca's flaming haired ancestors. Caesar had vowed to conquer all the barbaric tribes of the British Isles. After Tiberius, the mad Emperor, Caligula, reigned for a time then Claudius comes into power. Claudius and the Roman Senate want to finish what Caesar started almost a hundred years ago: conquer all of Britain! Each year more tribes fall under Roman rule as the empire expands. Boudicca takes quiet notice.

After a long illness, Prasutagus dies and leaves half his kingdom to the Emperor of Rome and the other half to his daughters. He believed they would be allowed to rule their kingdom and live in peace. Prasutagus was wrong. Little time passed before Roman soldiers overtake the palace and enslave the royal family. Queen

Boudicca is humiliated, severely beaten with a whip and her daughters are brutally raped by Roman soldiers. It's a vicious attack and seems a sacrilegious insult to the Iceni Tribe and their Gods. Betrayed and outraged, Boudicca, barely recovered, declares war! She gathers hundreds of thousands of Celtic warriors who resent oppression from Rome and no longer want to live like Roman pawns. Their bloody rebellion lasts for months as they sack and defeat three major strongholds of Rome. Londinium (ancient name for London), Verulamium (ancient name for St. Albans), and Camulodunum (ancient name for Colchester), are leveled and burned to the ground. Boudicca is remembered as Britain's first heroine, a powerful queen with flaming red hair, willing to fight to her death.

Rage Against the Dying Light is written from a Celtic view versus the traditional Roman accounts of Boudicca, unsympathetic to her cause. In this historical fiction, Boudicca's early years and motivations for her uprising come to vivid life winning, author Jan Surasky, the Eric Hoffer Award for Commercial Fiction as acknowledged in the US Review of Books. This sensational story will speak to anyone who enjoys history and historical fiction. And, it will speak, especially, to those who love history's female heroines who are awe-inspiring, in their time and in ours, as this book is all the Rage! Jan Surasky is a seasoned author and entertainment writer who currently is writing her next novel, Back to Jerusalem.

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