



Reign of Iron

Angus Watson

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WARRIOR QUEENS AND ROMAN INVADERS DO BATTLE IN THE FINAL VOLUME OF THIS THRILLING EPIC FANTASY TRILOGY.

Caesar's soldiers have murdered, massacred and pillaged their way through Gaul and loom on the far side of the sea, ready to descend upon Britain - with them are an unstoppable legion of men twisted by dark magic. Somehow Queen Lowa must repel the invasion, although her best general is dead and her young druid powerless. She faces impossible odds, but when the alternative is death or slavery, a warrior queen will do whatever it takes to save her people.

EVERY EMPIRE HAS ITS DOWNFALL.

Reign of Iron Details

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Author : Angus Watson

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From Reader Review Reign of Iron for online ebook

Celine says

Reign of Iron is one of those fantasy books that is a breeze to read. There is not a single dull moment in there.

In the final book of the Iron Age trilogy, Julius Caesar has arrived in Britain. It is up to our rag-tag band of British heroes to stop him from enslaving everyone they care for. But what can they do against Caesar's superior numbers, and his secret weapon: a group of unnaturally fast and strong monsters led by the druid Felix?

After the build-up of two books, the Roman invasion is finally happening. And it's epic. Instead of doing the boring preamble again, *Reign of Iron* is almost exclusively filled with interactions and clashes between the Romans and Britons. There are battles and cool strategies and small skirmishes. We are given alternate points of view between characters like Chamanca, who does what she does best in the bloody battlefield, and Lowa, who as a queen oversees the battle from a high vantage point. The problem I usually have with battle-focussed book, in that it is hard for me to follow what is going on, was never a real issue here. Mr Watson writes battle scenes very well. He mixes the gore, the bone smashing and gut wrenching, with a dark humour that works very well in these books.

Like the other Iron Age books, *Reign of Iron* is filled with touching moments and sad ones, funny and poignant. As people who have read the second book know, the author doesn't shy away from killing his darlings, and there is this constant fear while reading that some of my favourites might not make it. Ultimately, I think Mr Watson struck a perfect balance between tragedy and triumph. Characters are not killed simply to be killed - there is always a sense of purpose, and as a reader I appreciate that we're not to be tortured with needless deaths of all the fun characters.

My only point of critique is that the resolution of the story was over incredibly quickly. I would have enjoyed another chapter or two so the reader can see more of what comes after. As it was, the ending was a bit abrupt. All the plot points were resolved, but I did want to know more.

In the notes at the end of the book, there are hints that there might be more books featuring some of the Iron Age characters. I hope that's the case, because I'm not ready to say goodbye yet!

Gavin says

Reign of Iron was a satisfying finale to the Iron Age trilogy. The whole series was a great blend of historical fiction and fantasy. We got both Romans and magical Druids! The tone and nature of the story was a strange one. It was definitely Grimdark. The characters were very grey in nature and some of the happenings were quite dark and gruesome. The weird thing was that this was never a book that took itself to seriously so it was easy to get caught up in the humour and root for a bunch of the characters.

This final book in the trilogy mainly focused on Caesar's second invasion of Briton. Lowa, Chimanka, and Spring are still reeling from the shock happenings at the end of the last book while also having to focus their attentions on getting Briton ready for the impending invasion. Ragnall, Caesar, and the evil Felix are our view points from the Roman side of things.

The story was pretty fun. We got a few surprises along the way and a satisfying ending to things.

All in all this was a good way to end a fairly enjoyable fantasy trilogy.

Rating: 4 stars.

Audio Note: Sean Barrett did a great job with the audio.

Scott Hitchcock says

All three books 3-3.5*'s.

To be fair all the books were consistent. However I wanted to downgrade the first two after finishing the series because it never grew into something greater as things progressed. Some of the characters simplistic, nearly simpleton in actuality, thought processes started to annoy me as did Ragnar's petulant stupidity.

On the upside the humor especially inventive curses revolving around animal body parts kept amusing me. The historical fiction aspect of the story reminded me of a lot of things I had forgotten about the Romans in particular. The blood magic of the druids was interesting.

Overall for me it was just a passable trilogy and if you're looking for a light and easy read great but it's not epic.

Monika says

I had a really good year so far - I was lucky enough to pick mostly really good, often 5 stars books. But this trilogy was the best of all of them. I can't remember when I had so much fun with a book. I love reading, don't get me wrong - but laughing out loud every few pages is not something usual to me. I also shed few tears here and there (Angus Watson fucks with you so often that you sometimes wish the characters would die already to save you all of this stress), my heart was beating faster few times, I was excited, scared and sometimes even disgusted. That's an incredible mix. I loved every single page. EVERY. SINGLE. ONE. Words can't describe how sad I am that this is only a trilogy (author mentioned that he has few ideas for a book, MAYBE even with characters from this one - so I keep my fingers crossed). In Reign of Iron we've got even more epic fights than in previous ones. Because of the way every battle and fight were described I didn't have even the smallest problem with picturing it. Which is especially important in battles with multiple armies and different units. The only thing I am a little iffy about is the ending. I mean it's really good, but there should be like 20-30 pages more to close everything. To show something after. I was so surprised that this was the end - we've got shitload of fight, we know who won and then there is the end. I need to know what they are doing after! I got so attached to almost all of the characters that ending a trilogy this way seems so cruel. Way too cruel.

Samie Sands says

Oh my goodness. What an amazing end to such a wonderful series! I love the fact and fiction clash in these novels and this one certainly didn't disappoint. I really wish there was more to it, I could easily read 10 more

books! The characters are badass and awesome, their powers and skills are amazing...I just love them! I can't say too much without spoiling at least one of the plot lines, but I will say this: READ THEM ALL!

Reggie Kray says

I really enjoyed this marvellous series and am curious to know what Watson plans next?

Frank says

Some spoilers here.

Well here we are the third book in the trilogy. The hardest for me is one of the missing main characters, after the ending of book 2, although brought back in the imaginations of Lowa and Spring, it wasn't enough for me. I missed him as much as Lowa and Spring, taken hostage and sent to Rome to be reunited with Ragnall, owe how I wish she took care of him there.

Watson also brings back Ragnall that miserable turncoat, Chamanca, and Felix the most evil of Druids, with a quick backstory of how he became what he is.

So here Caesar invades Britain, and brutal battles occur, as the previous books. Things don't turn out so well, until the end, where Watson buttons up mostly everything.

Excellent trilogy, that actually is completed, that in of itself is a breath of fresh air with all the longer series out there. I'm sure more can be written of these characters, and perhaps there will be a book about Dug's earlier life.

In any event I am looking forward to Watson's next foray. I have become a fan.

Kev says

Enjoyable end to a very enjoyable series.

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.com/2015/09/29/a...>

Reign of Iron was a great end to a great trilogy. But it still felt like it was missing something.

If you've read the last book, you probably know what I'm talking about. After the shocking events that took place at the end of Clash of Iron, I was curious to see how the characters will pick up the pieces and carry on. Hopefully towards a triumphant ending, but with Angus Watson you just never know. As he has already shown us with the previous two books, anything can happen in this series. All we can do is brace ourselves and hold on tight.

This third book wastes no time at all, picking up right where we left off. Quite some time passes in the intro, however, as the tribes of Britain finally wake up to the reality of the invading Roman forces of General Caesar on their doorstep, ready to claim the land for themselves. They rally around Lowa, the warrior queen of Maidun.

But Lowa herself has quite a lot of her mind. Her campaign and her own morale was dealt a serious blow at the end of book two. Over the next year, a lot of significant events take place. Lowa gives birth to her son, the child awakening feelings in her she never knew existed. Sadly, she also loses touch with Spring, the young druid distancing herself to deal with her private grief. All the while, Caesar's troops are amassing, and the Roman general now has druids and magic of his own. Things look pretty bad for Lowa, but she will do whatever it takes to save her people. For the future and freedom of Britain, every warrior is determined to fight to their last breath.

Thematically, Reign of Iron probably feels closer to Clash of Iron than it does to the first book, Age of Iron. The Romans aren't just a threat now; they are real. They've even unleashed the war elephants, for Jupiter's sake! We're in the midst of war, the fighting is in full swing, and the book is as brutal and bloody as ever. The caveat I brought up in my reviews of the first two books also applies here: if you're squeamish about violence, cruelty, torture, death and all that unpleasantness and pain, it's best to avoid this series or approach it with discretion. Watson's Iron Age is a cruel and dark world.

Also, once again the emphasis has shifted on the characters. For me, Age of Iron was Dug's story. Clash of Iron was more like Lowa's. Reign of Iron is a novel that focuses on everyone, but I also can't help but feel that Spring finally got her own book. She really got to shine in this one, and I loved her escapades across enemy lines.

That said, we see a lot of growth in all the characters. The feelings left behind from the last book are still there, which can't be helped, but the characters' spirit and resolve at least helped lift me out of that gaping chasm of sorrow. Both Spring and Lowa have their own ways to bolster Britain's armies, which kept things interesting and sometimes humorous. Motherhood has also changed Lowa, and the mixed feelings she has for her baby becomes a new factor in her war planning.

Not everyone is such a joy to read about, though. Over on the Roman side, you have Ragnall the former druid and *cough* traitor *cough* who can't seem to peel his lips off Julius Caesar's backside long enough to see what really is going on in the world around him. We also have the druid Felix, whose flashback chapters don't change my opinions on him that he is an insane and evil child-murdering sadist. The fact that he's after Spring makes him even more hated. And Caesar is...well, Caesar is just Caesar. The man had many eccentricities, and let's just say Angus Watson made sure to capture them all here.

So yep, it's definitely the women who win big in this book.

Now that the series is over, I just have to say how impressed I am with the way the author tied everything together. Very little is known about life in Iron Age Britain and Mr. Watson made it clear from the start he was going to have a bit of fun with filling in the history, but he would be doing so by drawing from the huge amount of research he did for these books. But even though the premise is rooted in history, he never failed to place characters and story first. And the result is a huge success.

Finally, this is also the first time I reviewed the audio version of a book in this series, and I'm happy to report that listening was just as enjoyable as reading. English actor and narrator Sean Barrett is perfect! I love his accent and his inflections. Also, funny sometimes how we as audiobook listeners immediately associate a narrator's voice to a character's. Barrett's voice is exactly how I would have imagine Dug to sound like, making me wish now to experience Iron Age again from the beginning, but in audio this time around. They really couldn't have chosen a better actor to read this series.

All in all, I can't recommend this trilogy enough. I had my doubts this book could deliver, after the second book and what was one of the most shocking endings I've ever read. That's not something a series can easily bounce back from, and in truth I doubt it's even possible to fully recover. And yet, Reign of Iron pressed on and finished off marvelously. I wait on pins and needles, arrows and swords to see what Angus Watson

might do next. Here's hoping he'll keep writing great stories.

Joseph Vanucchi says

Chills

This book was what the culmination of a trilogy should be. Really like the whole set-up, as in alternate(?) history. And Spring is just totally awesome, was from the first book. Like most of the characters, and hated some deeply. And yeah, had chills of excitement and anticipation, and cried a little, throughout the ending. Recommended

James Dixon says

This was one of the most enjoyable trilogies that i have read in some time. Fast paced, very witty and some great characters, both the fairly good and the dastardly. At the end i was left thinking "what if"? I look forward to whatever Angus Watson writes next. An excellent effort.

jD says

I am going to miss these characters. Excellent work Mr. Watson. If I don't find a reviewer that sells this to all lovers of fantasy, I will make a point of doing so. I don't do the academic stuff which is important from a premise standpoint. That's all it was to me. The humor, the religions, the characters all come together to create a series that will be around for some time. I can see my children and grandchildren enjoying this. Actually one of mine already has so there you go.

Matt Carlson says

Went through this entire trilogy in the space of a few weeks which is really quick for me! Loved it! There are so many great characters in this trilogy. Dug is impossible not to like. And it was good to have his presence through the entire series. Spring was intriguing from the off. Strong in mind from an early age and blossomed into strong of body as the story went on! Lowa was awesome. As was Atlas! And so many smaller more minor characters throughout. The bad guys were well developed too. But my favourite was definitely Chamanca. Was great to have her as a POV character as the trilogy went on. Loved how much she believed in her own strength and beauty. Don't think I've ever felt so much love for a character in a non vampire setting that has such a thirst for blood that she's filed her teeth to points! She deserves her own stories! Anyway, I feel like I'm waffling a little here so just go out and read this gem of a trilogy if you haven't already.

Lisa says

Full review at Tenacious Reader: <http://www.tenaciousreader.com/2015/1...>

I still feel this series should get more love and attention. It is a brutal but that is tempered quite well with some amazing dark humor. For me to laugh out loud at a book? That's high praise. While I had some reservations with the way Clash of Iron ended, this third installment solidified Angus Watson on my must read list as well as placing the series high on my recommendations list.

Bart says

5/5 stars - favorite!

Different (more epic battle, more fantasy) but just as amazing as the previous two books.

I am so happy that Orbit announced today a new three book deal with the author :-)
