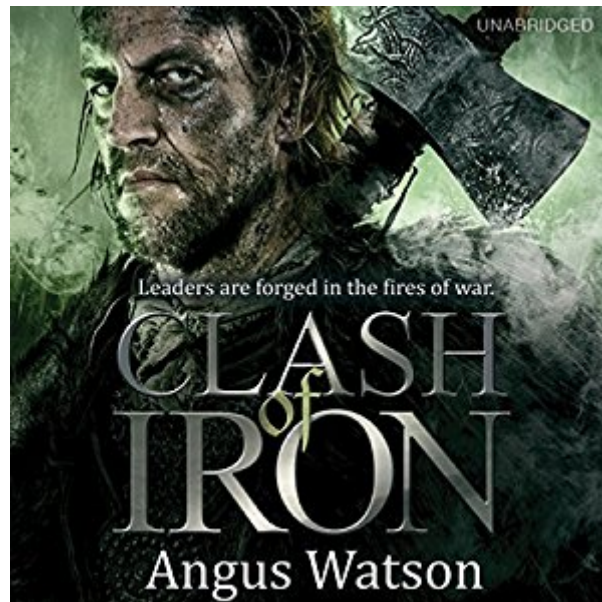


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Clash Of Iron



Synopsis

The second book in Angus Watson's epic Iron Age fantasy trilogy. Leaders Are Forged in the Fires of War Iron Age warriors Dug and Lowa captured Maidun castle and freed its slaves. But now they must defend it. A Roman invasion is coming from Gaul, but rather than uniting to defend their home, the British tribes go to battle with each other - and see Maidun as an easy target. Meanwhile Lowa's spies infiltrate Gaul, discovering the Romans have recruited British druids. And Maidunite Ragnall finds his loyalties torn when he meets Rome's charismatic general, Julius Caesar. War is coming. Who will pay its price?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Clash of Iron is the second installment in the Iron Age Trilogy by Angus Watson. The first book, Age of Iron, centered in the British tribes, especially Maidun. And we met the archer Lowa, now Queen of Maidun, Dug, a rather old warrior but still in great shape, and Spring, a girl with the ability to create magic never seen before. In Clash of Iron, the setting of the story expands to the whole of Europe as we read about the Romans and their ways of life in Rome and follow their General Julius Caesar in his battles to conquer the Germans and the Gauls. As a consequence, the story seems to forget a bit about our beloved main characters in the first third of the novel. During the first 200 pages the story had a slow pace for me. But then, as the Romans are getting closer to Britain, the story picks up and it seems like everything starts happening at the same time. Lowa and her tribe find themselves in the middle of what will probably be the most epic battle of the era. And after finishing this book I really can't wait to find out what happens in the last book of the Trilogy. One

thing for sure though with the introduction of the Romans, the story gets a lot more horrifying and the gore details grow exponentially, with crucifixions, tortures and burying people alive. Enter here the crazy King of Eroo, who after conquering the whole Island, plans now on conquering the island of Britain too, or the even crazier Pomax, the Queen of the Murkans, another British tribe. Their ways are definitely not recommended for the lighthearted. I think I had never thought of how many ways there are of torturing and killing someone. Life was not really valuable back then.

Stating that Britain in the Iron Ages was not quite the best place to be would be a gross understatement. The threat of the fast growing Roman empire and the brutally legendary Caesar was imminent and worried even the greatest of warriors. As queen of Maidun, Lowa is now responsible for getting her people through these tumultuous times. Lowa not only faces having to handle the foreign threats across the ocean but she has also enough to be wary about in her homeland. Warring tribes and power-hungry leaders are ever present and the lines between allies and foes are growing increasingly blurry. Angus Watson wowed me last year with his brilliant historical fantasy debut, *Age of Iron*. History, fantasy, action, humor and magic, woven together made for an unforgettable novel. However, *Clash of Iron* surpassed all expectations to become one hell of a sequel. If you thought *Age of Iron* was bloody gruesome, think again. If you thought *Age of Iron* had just the right amount of wry, dark humor, think again. If you thought *Age of Iron* was a sneaky, little bastard who wheedled his way into your heart, think again. Because everything *Age of Iron* did to your poor heart? *Clash of Iron* does it better. Renewing my acquaintance with Dug, Lowa, Spring in *Clash of Iron* was truly delightful. My favorite perfectly flawed heroes/heroines were back and they were better than ever. The additional POVs of Chamanca and Rangall were insightful and I couldn't help but be awed at how Watson connects these individual fragments to build an effortlessly seamless story. Both Ragnall and Chamanca played a significant role in this installment and it intriguing to see their respective characters unravel throughout the story.

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