

BOUDICCA - Episode 3

by John Tuckey

- BOUDICCA** The only way to have justice once again...and freedom...to be safe and to live in peace...is to drive the Romans out of our lands altogether.
- NARRATOR** Boudicca and her army of British tribes seemed unstoppable. First they had marched on the Romans' capital city - Camulodunum – and destroyed it. Then the governor of Roman Britain, Suetonius, had led his soldiers out of Londinium, leaving the city undefended. Boudicca's army destroyed that city as well...and then had marched on to Verulamium and destroyed that, too.
- The Roman army was smaller than Boudicca's and Suetonius knew that to beat Boudicca he would need to fight her in a place of his choosing, one that would give an advantage to the Romans. We can't be certain how Suetonius intended to do this, but we do know some of the tactics he used...
- SUETONIUS** Antoninus!
- ANTONINUS** Sir?
- SUETONIUS** Give orders to cut down all of these trees and burn them.
- ANTONINUS** But this place is special for the Britons, isn't it, sir?
- SUETONIUS** It is. They believe their gods live among these trees. That's the point.
- ANTONINUS** But sir, if we burn this place, Boudicca and her army will be furious. They'll be even more dangerous than they are now.



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History Clips: The Romans

- SUETONIUS** If we burn this place, Boudicca will come looking for revenge. As you can see, the only way her army can come is up that narrow valley... and we are protected from behind by the forest. Here we'll fight and here we'll win.
- NARRATOR** Suetonius had found a strong battle position. And, if this was the tactic he used to draw Boudicca on, we can imagine how she would have reacted...
- BOUDICCA** Andraste, you know that the burning of the sacred trees, home to the gods is worse than being flogged, worse than the stealing and killing. Suetonius might be leading me into a trap, but I must go there and fight. Andraste: give me one more victory, the greatest victory of all.
- NARRATOR** So Boudicca led her army to meet the Roman army led by Suetonius. The two armies faced each other across the battlefield, the Britons jeering at the Romans. Suetonius addressed his, much smaller, army. He knew that this was going to be the most important battle of his life. If the Romans lost, they would have to run away from Britain altogether and he, as leader, would be shamed forever.
- SUETONIUS** Men, there are far more of them than there are of you, but, in all battles it is the bravery of a few which wins. You will show that bravery and you will be remembered forever.
- ROMAN SOLDIERS** Suetonius!
- NARRATOR** And, on the other side of the battlefield, Boudicca stood in her chariot, the leader of the Trinovantes at her side, as she prepared to address her own army...
- BOUDICCA** Addedo, get your Trinovantes ready to charge.
- ADDEDO** Boudicca, Suetonius has been a soldier for a long time and he is a clever man.



- BOUDICCA Yes, but he has run away from us twice, now.
- ADDEDO Don't you think he'll have a plan?
- BOUDICCA You mean, like his plan for Londinium? To run away again?
- ADDEDO If we charge the Romans here we'll be falling into his trap.
- BOUDICCA We must take revenge for the gods, we can't let the Romans get away with this.
- Britons! I did not come here to get back my kingdom and my wealth but - like all of you - to fight for our freedom! And to have revenge for the scars upon my back! These arrogant Romans don't care about us! But now, we have our goddess of victory, Andraste, beside us!
- Look around you, and see how huge our army is! We are warlike! We are proud! And we want revenge! This is the last great battle and here we must either defeat these Romans for good, or die with glory!
- Though I am a woman, I know this is what I must do! You can live in slavery again if you want. I will not!
- NARRATION And so Boudicca led her army in a charge against the Romans...
- BOUDICCA Keep pushing, force the Romans back! Keep going, keep going! You see, Addedo, there's no trap here! Soon, we'll be face to face with Suetonius himself, if he hasn't run away!
- NARRATOR The fighting was fierce...but, as the day went on, it was the Romans who began to press forward, forcing Boudicca's army back against their own wagons and carts...
- BOUDICCA Keep together, we can still push these Romans back! Keep fighting, remember, we are taking revenge for the gods themselves!



History Clips: The Romans

ADDED0	Boudicca! We've lost, we can't fight any more!
BOUDICCA	No, Addedo, we can't lose!
ADDED0	We've lost, you must face it!
BOUDICCA	No! Addedo, No!
ADDED0	You must get away, Boudicca!
BOUDICCA	No! I'll fight to the end!
ADDED0	If you get away, you can go on fighting. Do what Suetonius did at Londinium, get away so you can fight again.
BOUDICCA	How could I live with such shame?
ADDED0	If you can continue the fight, there will be no shame. I'll hold the Romans off while you get away. Go, Boudicca! Go!
NARRATOR	Boudicca did get away from the battle, but her army of Britons was completely defeated. Nor was she able to continue the fight against the Romans, because soon after the battle Boudicca died - some say she took poison, some that she died of an illness - no one knows for sure. But one thing that is certain is that Boudicca has fascinated people down the centuries. Remember, she died nearly two thousand years ago...yet we still remember her today...and the name Boudicca lives on...

