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**ISBN 978-1-60290-080-6**  
**FICTION / Christian / Historical**

**Y**oung Esther never thought her life would turn out like this. All she ever wanted was a quiet life in her Jewish community...and a loving husband and children someday. Then, one frightening day, she's stolen off the streets by the Persian king's guards and forced into the competition to be Xerxes' next queen.

Catapulted against her will into life inside the harem, Esther's simple world becomes complicated. There's her chief rival, Isis, who is out for blood...and the king's mercurial temperament. Then a dastardly plan gains momentum that will make all evil pale in comparison. And Esther is the only one who may have the power to stop the bloodshed....



**REBECCA VELEZ** graduated with a B.A. in Public Relations Journalism in 1991. Unable to find a job in her field, she became a first-grade teacher. She's published in the *BfJ Review* and *Keys for Kids*. When she stopped working outside her home in order to care for her newborn son, she began writing *Such a Time As This* during naptimes. Five years (and a daughter) later, she completed the book and presented it to her maternal grandmother as an 80th birthday gift, just before discovering she was having a third child. Rebecca, her husband, and three children live in Massachusetts. She is working on a sequel.

Rebecca loves to hear from her readers. You may write her at:  
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For more information about Rebecca Velez:  
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