

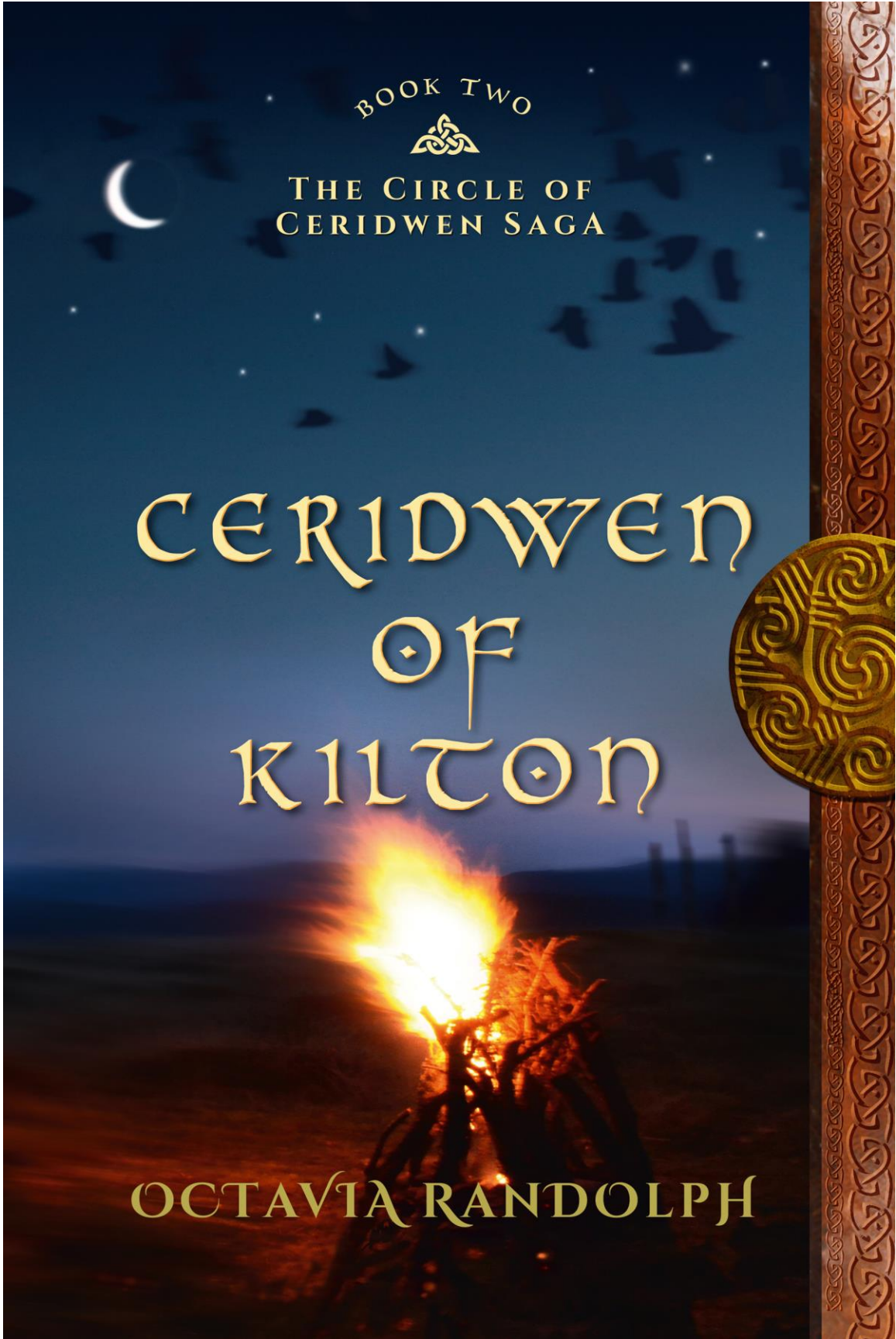
BOOK TWO



THE CIRCLE OF  
CERIDWEN SAGA

CERIDWEN  
OF  
KILTON

OCTAVIA RANDOLPH



# Map of Britain 872 AD



## *List of Characters*

**Ceridwen**, formerly the Kingdom of Mercia, aged sixteen when the book opens

**Gyric**, son of Godwulf of Kilton in the Kingdom of Wessex, her husband

**Godwin**, Gyric's older brother

**Edgyth**, wife to Godwin

**Modwynn**, Lady of Kilton, mother to Gyric and Godwin

**Godwulf**, Lord of Kilton, an ealdorman of Wessex, husband to Modwynn

**Ælfred**, King of Wessex

**Ælfwyn**, a lady of Wessex residing in Lindisse, now controlled by the Danes

**Sidroc**, a Dane

**Cadmar**, once a warrior of Wessex, now a monk

# *Calendar of Feast Days mentioned in the Circle Saga*

Candlemas - 2 February

St Gregory - 12 March

High Summer - 24 June

St Peter and Paul - 29 June

Hlafmesse (Lammas)- 1 August

St Mary -15 August

St Matthew - 21 September

All Saints -1 November

Martinmas (St Martin's) -11 November

Yuletide - 25 December to Twelfthnight - 6 January

# *Anglo-Saxon Place Names, with Modern Equivalents*

Æscesdun = Ashdown

Æthelinga = Athelney

Basingas = Basing

Caeginesham = Keynsham

Cippenham = Chippenham

Cirenceaster = Cirencester

Defenas = Devon

Englafeld = Englefield

Ethandun = Edington

Exanceaster = Exeter

Glastunburh = Glastonbury

Hamtunscir = Hampshire

Hreopedun = Repton

Jorvik (Danish name for Eoforwic) = York

Legaceaster = Chester

Lindisse = Lindsey

Lundenwic = London

Meredune = Marton

Scaftesburh = Shaftesbury

Snotingaham = Nottingham

Sumorsaet = Somerset

Swanawic = Swanage

Wedmor = Wedmore

Witanceaster (where the Witan, the King's advisors, met) = Winchester

Frankland = France

# *Glossary of Terms*

**browis:** a cereal-based stew, often made with fowl or pork

**ceorl:** (“churl”) a freeman ranking directly below a thegn, able to bear arms, own property, and improve his rank

**cottar:** free agricultural worker, in later eras, a peasant

**cresset:** stone, bronze, or iron lamp fitted with a wick that burnt oil

**ealdorman:** a nobleman with jurisdiction over given lands; the rank was generally appointed by the King and not necessarily inherited from generation to generation. The modern derivative *alderman* in no way conveys the esteem and power of the Anglo-Saxon term.

**frumenty:** cereal-based main dish pudding, boiled with milk. A version flavoured with currents, raisins and spices was ritually served on Martinmas (November 11th) to ploughmen.

**seax:** the angle-bladed dagger which gave its name to the Saxons; all freemen carried one.

**scop:** (“shope”) a poet, saga-teller, or bard, responsible not only for entertainment but seen as a collective cultural historian. A talented scop would be greatly valued by his lord and receive land, gold and silver jewellery, costly clothing and other riches as his reward.

**thegn:** (“thane”) a freeborn warrior-retainer of a lord; thegns were housed, fed and armed in exchange for complete fidelity to their sworn lord. Booty won in battle by a thegn was generally offered to their lord, and in return the lord was expected to bestow handsome gifts of arms, horses, arm-rings, and so on to his best champions.

**trev:** a settlement of a few huts, smaller than a village

**tun:** a large cask or barrel used for ale

**wergild:** Literally, man-gold; the amount of money each man’s life was valued at. The Laws of Æthelbert, a 7th century King of Kent, for example, valued the life of a nobleman at 300 shillings (equivalent to 300 oxen), and a ceorl was valued at 100 shillings. By Ælfred’s time (reigned 871-899) a nobleman was held at 1200 shillings and a ceorl at 200.

**Witan:** Literally, wise men; a council of ealdorman, other high-ranking lords, and bishops; their responsibilities included choosing the King from amongst their numbers.

**withy:** a willow or willow wand; withy-man: a figure woven from such wands

# *The Circle of Ceridwen Saga:*

[The Circle of Ceridwen: Book One](#)

[Ceridwen of Kilton: Book Two](#)

[The Claiming: Book Three](#)

[The Hall of Tyr: Book Four](#)

[Tindr: Book Five](#)

[Silver Hammer, Golden Cross: Book Six](#)

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## *About the Author*

Octavia Randolph has long been fascinated with the development, dominance, and decline of the Anglo-Saxon peoples. The path of her research has included disciplines as varied as the study of Anglo-Saxon and Norse runes, and learning to spin with a drop spindle. Her interests have led to extensive on-site research in England, Denmark, Sweden, and Gotland. In addition to the Circle Saga, she is the author of the novella *The Tale of Melkorka*, taken from the Icelandic Sagas; the novella *Ride*, a retelling of the story of Lady Godiva, first published in Narrative Magazine; and *Light, Descending*, a biographical novel about the great John Ruskin. She has been awarded Artistic Fellowships at the Ingmar Bergman Estate on Fårö, Gotland; MacDowell Colony; Ledig House International; and Byrdcliffe.

She answers all fan mail and loves to stay in touch with her readers. Join her mailing list and read more on Anglo-Saxon and Viking life at [www.octavia.net](http://www.octavia.net).