



The Hall of Tyr

Octavia Randolph

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The Hall of Tyr: Book Four of The Circle of Ceridwen Saga

It is said that every man is haunted by one mistake...

The year is 881. Ten years have passed since fifteen year old Ceridwen set out from her Priory home to make her own life. She has known love and loss, triumph and heartbreak. Yet the Circle which has moved about her is largely intact, although the counterpoint has changed, bringing with it the hope of renewed love. Ceridwen and Sidroc build their new lives together on the Baltic island of Gotland, where they are free and unknown. The bond between them, always strong even when years and wars separated them, deepens quickly into the profound and exquisite love that Sidroc had always claimed was their shared Fate.

Their new island home is a place of peace and beauty. They make fast friends of the brew-house keeper Rannveig and her deaf son, Tindr, a young man who is both an expert hunter and deeply dedicated to the service of the Goddess Freyja.

They work and plan for next year's sailing season, when they hope to send a shipment of rich goods to trade. They feel protected and safe -- until the shattering arrival of the one person they fear most in the world...

The Hall of Tyr Details

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Author : Octavia Randolph

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From Reader Review The Hall of Tyr for online ebook

D.P. McHenry says

I loved this entire saga and was thrilled to have a 4th book added to the trilogy. Ms. Randolph did not disappoint. The intricacies of relationships are well defined, and the relationships in Hall of Tyr are certainly more difficult in a time of personal unrest, grief and hardship. We all want the best for Ceridwen after the life she led, most times was forced to lead. The characters that surround her in this final book are ones who are good and kind, a respite and a reward for what she's endured. There are villains, to be sure, but we know our Ceridwen will persevere. She, and we, all get what we deserve in the end. Well done!

Jen C says

Please Octavia write more books for me to read!

Linda Pneuman says

Hated to see the series end. I especially liked the feeling of being immersed in the 9th century.

Rhonda says

What a wonderful book! My all time favorite series, as well as my all time favorite cast of characters. Highly recommend!

Melissa McQuade says

I am fascinated by these books of ancient societies. I found this series very interesting, the dynamics between the characters and how they kept changing from "good guy" to "bad guy" and who am I rooting for now. Ultimately you hope that the ones that are truly in love and belong together will wind up together forever.

Ann says

Review of The Circle of Ceridwen

Octavia Randolph did a wonderful job tying up all the loose ends in the lives of Ceridwen and Sydrick's lives. I recommend this series to young adults and adults who enjoy adventuresome tales!

Nat Cabrera says

Another amazing book! I'm glad to know that Randolph hasn't disappointed me throughout the saga, I can't find a single thing that I don't like about her writing. First of all, it was quite enjoyable reading from both Cerdiwen's and Ælfwyn's PoV's, but I was happy to find out that the story kept being more focused on what happened on Gotland rather than the events that surrounded life at Lindisse. Once again, I think the new characters are wonderful. I gained special affection for Tindr and Sparrow, they're both so tender and sweet. I admire Tindr's kindness just as I keep admiring that same quality in Ceridwen. Sidroc won my love back, and I really enjoyed reading the scenes in which he appeared. I liked the story, and was glad to immerse my imagination in the way Norse people lived. The last pages maintained me nervous; the ending was gripping, and I'm really looking forward to read the next book.

Lee Kibler says

Review of Hall of Th

Absolutely the best series in all 4 books. Sad to have it end
Wonderful History excellent writing. Will miss all the
Characters feel like lived with them!!
Will be hard to read another book.. every book was a learning experience!

Diane says

What can I say? I just loved this book! What a terrific ending to the Circle of Ceridwen series! I loved the whole series and will probably re-read the whole series as soon as I can. I read the first 3 books of the series quite some time ago and loved them, but thought that there was room for a fourth book. Some of the loose ends from the 3rd book weren't all tied up. Was I ever thrilled to find out that the author had indeed decided to write that fourth book. And since it had been quite some time since I had last read the first 3 books of the series, I needed some reminders of what had occurred in the previous books. I thought the author did a wonderful job with that...no info dumping.

I think the author does a really wonderful job in her character portrayal. Not just the main characters, but ALL of the characters in her books have great depth. It's so easy to think of them as being real people. I even wept when Ring's young wife died. Her death was not described in detail, but her funeral was, and it had me crying.

One character in this novel that I really loved was Tindr, the blind farm hand. I think he deserves his own book, because I didn't like that the novel ended with a happy ending, but we are left to wonder if Tindr will ever find a woman to love him despite his deafness. I really fell in love with this character.

Ceridwen was wonderful in this book as she was in all of the three previous books. I actually loved how the author described in fairly good detail the daily activities that went on in Ceridwen's household. It was obvious that the author has done extensive research of this period in history.

I really didn't want this book to end...that was how much I enjoyed it! I highly recommend it to anyone interested in historical fiction.

Riobhcah says

This was a gripping and wonderful ending to the preceding trilogy...at least it seemed that this was intended to be the end. But now I hear that the author is writing yet another book to follow this one. I will very much be looking forward to reading it.

Terry (Ter05 TwiMoms/ MundieMoms) says

#4 in the series. I have mixed feelings about this book as I enjoyed learning about life in the 9th century in a part of the world I had not read about before. But I have to admit it did get boring at times reading about spinning and weaving and cooking. I very much enjoyed reading about Sidroc and Cerdiwen's servant and son of their best friend, Tindr. Tindr has been deaf since a terrible illness as a boy, his father died at sea, and his mother is an important member of the little community. Tindr is in tune with the forest and provides the meat for two households. He can not speak at all and although all love him it is understood that no girl will ever want to marry him and that he is somehow less than the others.

Throughout this book we do get glimpses at what is happening with the people they left behind including both Ceridwen's sons and Sidroc's son. I had an awareness and worry all the way through that Godwin, her son's uncle, would eventually find them. It was inevitable I suppose and when it did happen both of the boys were present, and it was a heartbreaking climax to a huge part of the story. The story could have ended there, but there is a fifth book. I kind of wish it had.

Melina says

The best thing about this book is that you understand how someone can truly love two different people in their lifetime. I was happy with both and that is a rare thing. Usually I root for one or the other love interest but not this time.

Sarah Nightbear says

It is clear to me that extensive research went into this fourth book of The Hall of Tyr, as everything is vividly expressed (the pace is slower so enjoy the journey). I have no doubt that Olivia's work is as authentic as her sources could provide. This fourth book is mostly a reflection into the journey of our main characters who live, despite and because of the ironic twists that fate has over their lives. Reflection is what my First Nations Peoples call retrospection of life events (even the nightmares that may occur from them), a necessary self-examination of past accounts, which require time alone, so not only may we learn wisdom but know that human beings have a higher calling within the realms of the natural order. The choice is ours alone to grow greater or fall lower in human nature.

Through the eyes of Ceridwen we see a new land and people after fate restrung her destiny, having survived more life threatening events upon the sea as captive. Like Ceridwen, I came to trust fully the trading and

survival knowledge of the famed warrior Sidroc as he continues to claim his victories over covetous people, looking out for the best interests of himself and Ceridwen. They arrive on the island of Gotland where war weapons are not necessary and it is fascinating to see where his trust for a good life stems: in the Old Gods favor.

In the Hall of Tyr book 4, we review the life of the Lady Aelfwyn of Four Stones in Lindisse as she has become twice widowed in the peace-treaty agreement, but continues her strong learned managing abilities of community affairs, which she has re-built and become responsible for. Readers get to recount with the Lady Aelfwyn her ironic fate and watch her continue adjusting to life on life's terms, becoming even greater than she was before: In my eyes, Aelfwyn is sheer integrity of the finest woven flax.

The reader is introduced to a community of trades people on the Isle of Gotland, which becomes the new home for Sydroc and Ceridwen, who have become the happiest man and woman alive and runes are carved in dedication above the Hall entrance and their bed, as they begin rebuilding their lives, together in this majestic and lush countryside that offers a new beginning.

New characters emerge: the young amazing deaf Tyndr, son of Rannveig the respected widowed female brewer, comes to the Hall of Tyr as a live-in helping member to the couple who are eager to establish their trade-stock as productive new members of the village. Tyndr has favor of the Lady of the Woods Freyja and is gifted with animal care and hunting. I was so impressed with the devoted spirit of Tyndr and therefore never pitied him for being deaf: he is far too great for that.

There is tremendous reciprocation between the community members of this popular trading village, which makes everyone a relative and each the better person. Gotland is an intentional-community with most everyone having the same moral compass of justice and trade ethics. Their purpose is to live peaceably with each other bartering to meet their own needs and providing their excess to people of other lands, thus meeting their own needs efficiently: specialized trade upon the trade-merchant-route. Another outstanding quality of this village of like-minded folk is that the females seem to be complete equals to males in all affairs. And this village of Gotland, where no fear exists, holds promise of a life without war and devastation, a form of suppression and control of one people over another.

There is so much admiration for a strong community of people like those in this village on Gotland. It is a life I know that I dream of, know well, and believe can be again (almost demands it) of our modern times. This village knows sovereignty and maintains it well without rigidity through all their combined efforts and are well known for their good treatment towards the regular traders from afar.

My favorite segment of the entire fourth book is chapter 12 and 13 as we witness the Lady Aelfwyn in total control of herself while stationed with powerful men and women in the high realms of political hierarchy, on one hand, and the deepest of kinship loyalties on the other. The Lady Aelfwyn came to claim her feminine power by empowering others in re-building the village at Four Stones. This elegant and nurturing woman became a well-rounded and successful business woman, ran her own Hall protocol, and paid strict attention to political moves. Aelfwyn is a female to look up to with admiration in her balanced determination to remain the strong female of Four Stones.

My next favorite little scene is in the brewhouse when Rannveig slips a second strand of colored glass beads over Sparrows head in sheer delightful gratitude for her service beyond expectation (near the end of chapter 15).

There is something very special about oral histories told to all by those who lived it. We readers get to hear first-hand the seafaring stories by ship merchant sailors after their voyages to distant shores, the perils of

adventure, and successful trading for precious metals of silver, gold, and lead. All the skilled crafts people of the village prosper from the successful trades and the truthful tales.

Can we today even imagine being welcomed back from a trip by our community who greet us with great joy and feasts of thanksgiving?! I feel so at home in this Gotland village. There are small Salish villages along the west coast of the US who live like Gotland: I have met them and experienced their hospitality toward seafaring-strangers. That's not fiction because it is life in the present. And, may we come to love peace as deeply as the citizens of Gotland did.

Sarah NightBear

?Monday 8 ?May ?2017

Gail Amendt says

I almost gave up on this series after the last book, as I really didn't care for that one. I decided to give it one last try, and I'm glad I did. This book sees Ceridwen building a new life in Gotland with Sidroc, after having been captured by slavers in the last book. I really haven't been a big fan of Sidroc through the series, and was feeling rather lukewarm about Ceridwen's new relationship with him, but somewhere along the way in this book he started to grow on me...a little bit, anyway. I still didn't feel he felt sufficiently bad about having left a wife and children behind, and I would have liked to see a lot more complexity in his character, but I actually found myself starting to like the guy. I loved some of the other characters introduced in this book, especially Tindr and Rannveig, and I'm very happy to hear that their story will be told in the next book. And I loved the ending. This book contains a lot of historical detail about the food the people ate at the time, how wool was spun and cloth woven, how ale was brewed, and all sorts of other details of day to day life in the 9th Century, which appealed to the history nerd in me. I guess I'm not done with this series after all.

Jodie Holmquist says

Excellent read

I could not put these books down.. Well researched, well written and an engaging storyline. I highly recommend the series.
