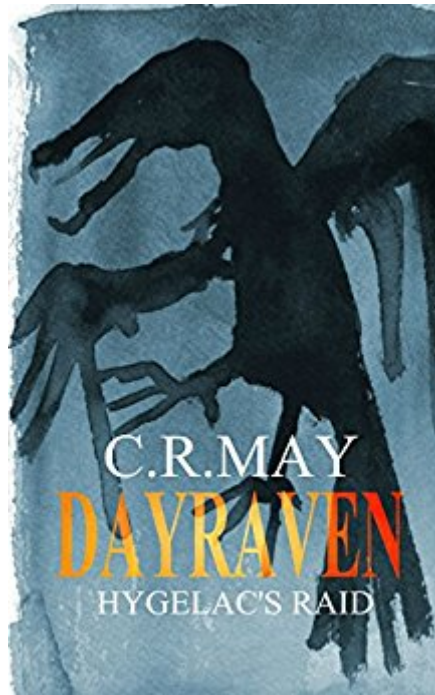


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Dayraven (Sword Of Woden Book 4)



Synopsis

Frisland Summer 523AD An immense ship army under the command of Hygelac, King of Geatland has fallen on the northern provinces of the Frisian Kingdom. Rushing to defend his land the armies of the young inexperienced King Ida are defeated piecemeal as the invaders sweep through the length and breadth of the country at will. Moving south the Geats raid deeply into the lands of the Salian Franks, carrying sword and spear to the regions of the Hetware and Cherusci as the Christian giant in the south slumbers on. But appearances can deceive. As the long days of midsummer slowly fade and the Geats prepare to sail away back to their northern fastness the Franks and Frisians move to crush their tormentors. Into this whirlwind the paths of three heroes converge until they meet on the bloody battlefield before the town of Dorestada. Only the gods can know which, if any, will survive the clash. Dayraven is a final 46,000 word novella in the Sword of Woden series dealing with the early life story of Beowulf and his clan. PRAISE FOR THE SWORD OF WODEN TRILOGY 'Entertaining and building into a really good trilogy. If you like Bernard Cornwell or even Simon Scarrow you'll like this.' 'This book on the Viking era is one of the best I have read and I have read a lot.' 'I've just read all three books in three days, the only bad part is that I've now finished them. Great books.' 'Just finished this final book of what has been an excellent trip through Beowulf's early life. Well written and totally enthralling, one of those books you can't put down yet don't want to end. Well done C.R. May.'

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This novella (167 pages) is a follow-up to the author's Beowulf trilogy that takes place some three years after the last book of the author's trilogy. It is about a historical event which was a major naval raid on Dorestad by King Hygelac (Beowulf's uncle) and against the coasts of the Frisians which had become vassals of the Franks by the early sixth century. The raid failed because, after initial successes, the King and part of his army were caught by the Frankish army led by Theudobert, the son of Theodoric King of the Franks (himself one of the four sons of Clovis) before they managed to get to their ships and re-embark. Hygelac was therefore trapped and killed with at least part of his army being destroyed. Hygelac was King of the Geats which were established in a region that corresponds to South-Central Sweden nowadays. They seem to have been neither Swedes nor Danes, although it is probable that the former ended up by absorbing them. One theory presents them as Goths, or rather the part of the Goths that did not emigrate towards the South and end up by founding kingdoms within the borders of the former Roman Empire. Then there is the character of Beowulf himself. As you will see when reading this novella, the author has him take part in the expedition but not in its disastrous outcome. Beowulf's meeting with the Saxons remaining in Germany is interesting in itself and in at least a couple of respects. One is to show that, at the time, and contrary to the Franks in particular, the Saxons were organised as a collection of tribes or clans, each led by an *eldorman*. This fragmented leadership, which would still be in place at the time of Charlemagne's wars against and conquest of the Saxons, did nevertheless not prevent them from uniting against common foes.

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