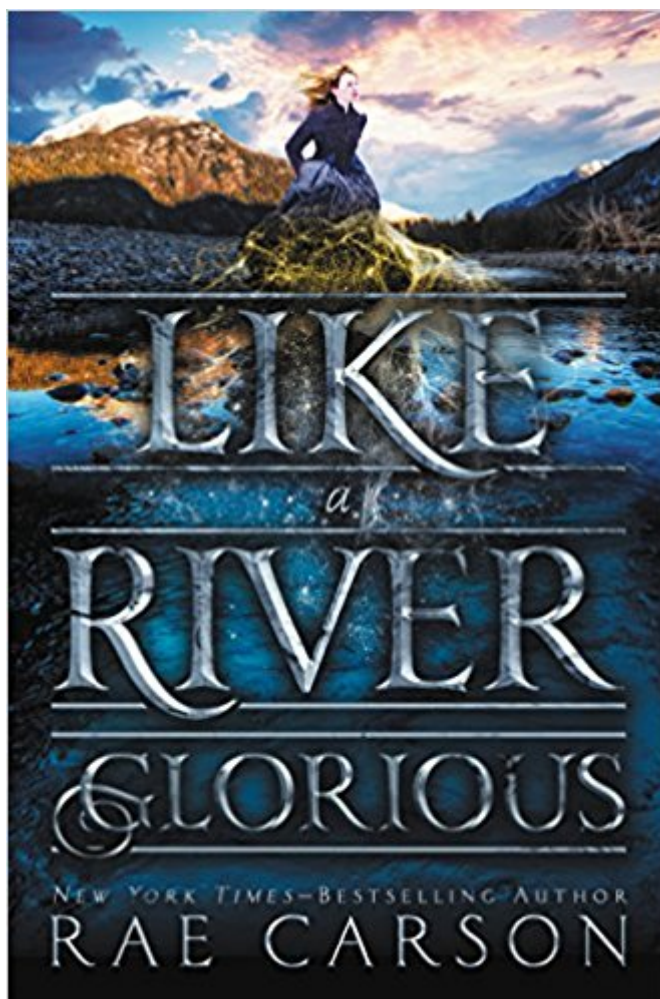


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Like A River Glorious (Gold Seer Trilogy)



Synopsis

The sequel to the New York Times *bestselling* and National Book Award longlisted *Walk on Earth a Stranger*. After her harrowing journey west to California, Lee Westfall has finally found a new home—one rich in gold, thanks to her magical power, a power that seems to be changing every day. But this home is rich in other ways, too: with friends who are searching for a place to be themselves, just as she is, and with love. Jefferson—her longtime best friend—hasn't stopped trying to win her heart. And Lee is more and more tempted to say yes. But her uncle Hiram hasn't given up his quest to get Lee and her power under his control. When she's kidnapped and taken to him, Lee sees firsthand the depths of her uncle's villainy. Yet Lee's magic is growing. Gold no longer simply sings to her, it listens. It obeys her call. Is it enough to destroy her uncle once and for all? Rae Carson, acclaimed author of the *Girl of Fire and Thorns* series, takes us deep into the gold fields as she continues this sweeping saga of magic and history, and an unforgettable heroine who must come into her own. Like *a River Glorious* is the second book in the Gold Seer trilogy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Not as strong or as enchanting as *Walk on Earth a Stranger*, the first book in the trilogy, this follow-up has plenty of action but falls short on substantive plot. Leah Westfall, 16, has the ability to sense gold and has made it from Georgia to California seeking both safety and her fortune

at the start of the Gold Rush. Her talent has also drawn the interest of her purely nefarious uncle, Hiram, who is hot on her trail. After divulging her secret to her close group of trail mates and staking claims in a prosperous spot, Leah and her half-Native American best friend (and love interest) Jefferson are kidnapped and imprisoned by Hiram and his henchman. Every character is an archetype worthy of the soap opera-style drama that ensues, including offbeat old miners, lovestruck and ever-hopeful Jefferson, a reluctant but helpful prostitute housekeeper, a stoic "bodyguard" for Leah, and the lecherous uncle who will stop at nothing, including murder and brutal Indian enslavement, to get what he wants. As Leah and her compatriots hatch a plan to escape, an Indian uprising is planned, and the stakes grow deadly for many. VERDICT Fans of the first book may enjoy the nonstop histrionics, but others can pass this by. -Madeline J. Bryant, Los Angeles Public Library --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“A celebration of great courage, the ability of people to come together as family, and the healing power of love. The exciting, sweet, and satisfying ending is probably only temporary, however, as the final book in the trilogy is forthcoming.” (Booklist)
“Carson’s alternate Gold Rush-era setting is fierce and brutal...The socio-politics, too, are complicated.” (Horn Book Magazine)

Like *A River Glorious* picks up almost right after the end of the first book in this engaging trilogy with Lee and the rest of the pioneers finding land where they can build their own little paradise on earth and start panning for gold. Lee senses their land will be profitable but the trick now is how to mine it, protect it, and convince the rest of the group from the east to stay in the little village they call Glory. To do this, Lee must first decide whether or not to tell them about her “witchy sense”
After their long trek through the desert, the tragic loss of family members, and the double-cross by their team leader, the group is able to take a breather but soon finds their paradise has other dangers. Winter is fast approaching, strangers are visiting the village, an Indian tribe has been seen outside Glory, and there is always the fear Uncle Hiram will come back for Lee. It’s sweet to see how the citizens of Glory stake their roots and begin to flourish. Becky’s bad cooking turns out to be an asset. The children learn to pan for gold. The college men are able to use their education to help establish the village. Hamilton is growing closer to his goal of freeing his wife. Lee and Jefferson grow closer. And they find a lot of gold. Of course such bliss cannot last forever and Lee is forced to make the choice between their safety and her own. At this point the book grows very dark. Lee is exposed to the cruelty with which

the white men treat the Indians and the Chinese immigrants. She sees the starvation and abuse they endure when enslaved and forced to mine. Disease is rampant. Murder and whippings are inescapable. This part of the book is violent and barbaric but not overdone or out of context for sensational impact. The author exposes what actually happened when gold fever hit California. Now, the end of the book ties up a lot of loose threads and could almost finish as a two-part series. Lee discovers there is more to her witchy sense than just finding gold. There is a resolve between her and Jefferson. I don't want to spoil the book by talking about other surprises that take place except that the town of Glory grows with new characters. It will be interesting to see what the author has planned. This is a captivating series so I do want to find out and will buy the final book.

If you've read her other works, and were expecting a lot of fantasy, you might be disappointed. This is more historical fiction than fantasy. Since I read a lot of different genres, I'm happy with that. I'm excited for the next book, but loved that this one ended the way it did. This story was resolved. If I didn't know this was going to be a trilogy, I might think it was done already. The book is tastefully done. It doesn't gloss over the horrors of the gold rush, but she manages to write them in a way that is safe for kids while still entertaining for adults. That takes talent. Her flow is also good. I can't wait for the next one. For those that care this book is written in 1st person.

Rae Carson is quickly earning a spot on my "Always Buy" list. This series is a masterpiece. Set during California's gold rush with a small, fantastical twist, this book is utterly unputdownable. Carson faces the atrocities of that time period without being too didactic, and yet highlights some of the good that come from the push westward as well. Her main character is flawed and wonderful, and her supporting cast is fully realized, too. I cannot say enough good things about this book, this series, and Carson's work in general. If you like historicals, fantasy, or YA heroines who make complicated choices, then this is an author for you to fall in love with.

I thought where *Walk on Earth a Stranger* felt very much like a journey and a setup to the sequel, *Like a River Glorious* really delivered and told a story of Lee Westfall and her new friends trying to make a home for themselves in California. The threat of Lee's uncle, Hiram Westfall, is a constant and his determination to get his hands on Lee is one that drives the plot of this book. I didn't think I would be so attached to the little band of misfit characters who travelled from Independence, MO all the way to California, but there are moments that are heart warming and others that will absolutely

break your heart. The romance between Lee and Jefferson feels like a slow burn, but it's been developing ever since *Walk on Earth a Stranger* and I'm glad to see how everything turns out. We're introduced to some new characters, as well as seeing Frank Dilley and the rest of the Missouri men again. I was especially interested in how this book would handle the story of the Chinese and Indians who lived in California during the Gold Rush. The book didn't skirt around showing the brutality and how wrong the situation was in how they were treated in the American fervor to find gold. There's no real cliffhanger at the end, so *Like a River Glorious* gives a nice, satisfying ending. This has been a lovely read from start to finish, and I'm curious to see what happens to Lee, Jefferson, and the rest of her friends in book three. *Note: A HUGE thank you to EpicReads for giving me an ARC of this book!*

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