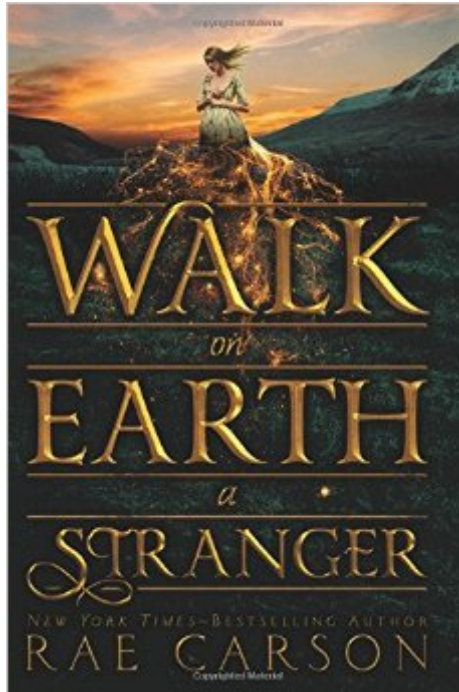


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# Walk On Earth A Stranger (Gold Seer Trilogy)



## Synopsis

Gold is in my blood, in my breath, even in the flecks in my eyes. Lee Westfall has a strong, loving family. She has a home she loves and a loyal steed. She has a best friend--who might want to be something more. She also has a secret. Lee can sense gold in the world around her. Veins deep in the earth. Small nuggets in a stream. Even gold dust caught underneath a fingernail. She has kept her family safe and able to buy provisions, even through the harshest winters. But what would someone do to control a girl with that kind of power? A person might murder for it. When everything Lee holds dear is ripped away, she flees west to California--where gold has just been discovered. Perhaps this will be the one place a magical girl can be herself. If she survives the journey. The acclaimed Rae Carson begins a sweeping new trilogy set in Gold Rush-era America, about a young woman with a powerful and dangerous gift.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Leah Westfall has a secret the she and her parents have kept hidden from everyone they know in Georgia. Lee can sense gold whether it's a piece of jewelry, a stray nugget, or veins of gold deep in the earth. Lee's parents have always feared Lee's magic could lead to trouble for her and their family. They were right. In January 1849 Lee's life changes forever and, for the first time, she is

completely alone in the world. Even her best friend, Jefferson, has left her behind to chase the promise of gold and a fresh start in California. With nothing left to keep her in Georgia and every reason to leave, Lee disguises herself as a boy and sets out to make her own way west and hopefully find her best friend along the way. The road to California won't be easy. With so many people hoping to find gold and security, Lee is sure her witchy ways will give her an edge. If she can make it that far. After losing so much, and with so long to go, Lee will have to decide who she can trust and who she wants to be in *Walk on Earth a Stranger* (2015) by Rae Carson. *Walk on Earth a Stranger* is the first book in Carson's Gold Seer Trilogy. Because this book focuses heavily on Lee's journey to California it does offer a contained story and can easily be read on its own. While *Walk on Earth a Stranger* is very much in the same vein as traditional westerns, it does not offer a sanitized or romanticized version of the west as characters grapple with racism, sexism, and the physical dangers on the trail while also beginning to grasp the enormous change this great movement of people will bring to the western territories of the United States. Although Lee has a magical ability to find gold, *Walk on Earth a Stranger* is a historical novel at its core, and extremely well-done at that. Carson has surpassed herself in this well-researched and nuanced novel that covers so many details and perspectives of the 1849 gold rush. Lee falls in with a ragtag cast of characters on her travels west. This varied and diverse group add a lot of dimension to what is already a very rich story. Lee's first person narration brings the landscape and the era to life as she makes her long trek from Georgia to California. Against the vivid backdrop of her travels, Lee's story is often quite introspective as she ponders her own place in the world and her future out west. Lee's journey to find herself while also finding her way to a new life is riveting and empowering. *Walk on Earth a Stranger* perfectly captures the freedom and possibility that can come with following gold west at a time when picking a new identity was as easy as adopting a new name. *Walk on Earth a Stranger* also returns, again and again, to the idea of choice as Lee is left to choose who she wants to be, and also who she wants beside her, on the long road ahead. A stunning start to a series that is sure to be gold for many readers. I can't recommend this book highly enough.

What if you could sense gold? Your body tingles, and sometimes it's hard to breathe? Your parents know, but your Daddy is ill and your mama well...she prefers that it just not exist. As the only child, you are the one responsible for making sure everything around the claim is taken care of - so even though you're a girl, you can shoot straighter, track farther, and work harder than many boys your age. But then...danger comes calling, and in order to stay true to yourself, you have to become someone else and leave everything you've ever known. This is the story of Leah Westfall, a

15-year-old girl from Georgia. The year is 1849, the gold "rush" in Georgia is tapped out, but everyone is talking about California being the next big thing. Wagon trains are leaving, sometimes several in one day. People are heading west, hoping to outrun their past, strike it rich, have their own land...the reasons are as varied as the people. Death stalks those wagon trains as well, in forms both surprising and not. In the middle of all of this, Leah learns who she is, and that family isn't always blood. This is an unusual fantasy novel, in that there is actually very little typical fantasy. Cold, hard reality based on history is the majority, even though the main character has her own magic. The fact that this is the first in a planned trilogy is excellent, because it will be interesting to see where the author takes the story. I suppose it could be argued that history is its own magic, and in this case, that would be correct. The slight intertwining of the power that Leah has just emphasizes that even more. As for the writing itself, it would appeal to young adult audiences, as well as adult. There are a few descriptions that are very blunt, but nothing sexual or crude - more to do with the everyday dangers faced on the trail. Depending on the audience, this book could be an excellent resource for a homeschooling unit, as well as just a great conversation-starter about the fascinating history encompassed by this period of time. I will be looking forward to reading the second book in the series, and plan to share this one with my friends.

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