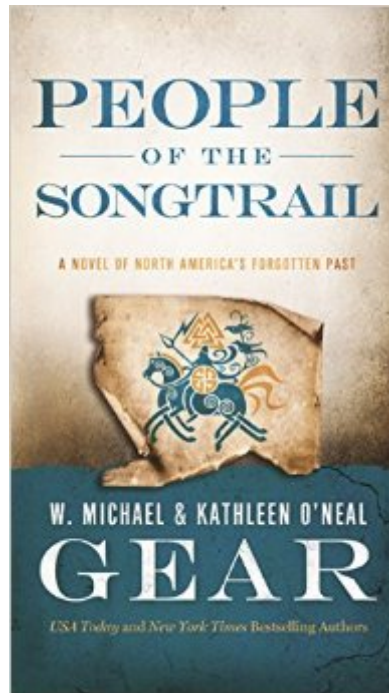


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# People Of The Songtrail: A Novel Of North America's Forgotten Past



## Synopsis

From "New York Times" and "USA Today" bestselling authors Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear comes an epic story of the first contact between Native Americans and Vikings. On the shores of what is now northeastern Canada, a small group of intrepid settlers have landed, seeking freedom to worship and prosper far from the religious strife and political upheaval that plague a war-ridden Europe . . . 500 years before Columbus set sail. While it has long been known that Viking ships explored the American coast, recent archaeological evidence suggests a far more vast and permanent settlement. It is from this evidence that archaeologists and early American history experts Kathy and Michael Gear weave their extraordinary tale. Based on recent archaeological discoveries, "People of the Songtrail" is the saga of the first European settlers to land on the shores of the new world. It is a story, like so many in America's history, of the swift and violent clash of cultures, and extraordinary men and women on both sides who are brave enough to work for the fragile hope of peace. A story that has remained untold, until now.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Five Hundred years before Columbus, the Vikings set sail. When they landed and met Native Americans, both worlds changed forever, but none more so than young Thyra, an accomplished practitioner of Odin magic. The year is A.D. 1002, and warfare has broken out in Europe after King Aethelred's slaughter of the Danish part of England, the Danelaw. In the midst of the turmoil, a great Viking seeress is kidnapped and her young daughter, Thyra, enslaved. Thirteen years later,

Thyra finds herself aboard a Viking ship filled with colonists headed to Vinland. Though she is a thrall to the wicked Thorlak the Lawspeaker, Thyra has been learning the skills of the Darkness-Riders, powerful practitioners of Odin magic. Her goal is to find her mother. As the mystery of who abducted her mother and what happened to her unfolds, it becomes clear Thyra is not the only person trying to find the legendary Vethild. In England, King Aethelred's son, Edmund, is massing forces to seize his father's throne, and the Danish king is just waiting for the clash so he can attack and take England as his own. All sides want Vethild. Some want her alive. Some want her dead. The story includes majestic descriptions of crossing the ocean during the Medieval Warm Period, a dramatic period of global warming, and murderous confrontations between North America's native peoples and Vikings. The violence is softened by touches of mysticism and magic that enhance the plot. The thread that binds the story together is the growing romance between the young Anchorite slave, Kiran, and Thyra. But two of the most complex and interesting characters are the rough-hewn former criminal, Godi Gunnar, and a tenderhearted Native American shaman, old Asson.

People of the Songtrail by W. Michael Gear, Kathleen O'Neal Gear (Goodreads Author) You would think they could not do it again, but the W. Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear have accomplished again another tale to amaze their readers. They have created another set of characters that you feel a heart-deep connection. The reader struggles with the characters against impossible odds, deadly and diverse problems that make you hold your breath striving with the character to find a solution. The story of the connections and interactions between the Vikings and the people of Hvitramannaland (People of the Songtrail) has depth and magic beyond my imagination. The melding of the belief systems the interaction of three diverse religions makes the context of this story a literary wonder. The characters Thyra, Kiran, Vethild, Thorlak, Chieftain Gunnar, Asson, Chief Drona, Ewinon, Camtac, and Pobebeek make your spirit feel the struggle that this conflict of cultures would have produced. The seamless story makes the reader feel that they are seeing this diverse conflict of culture and people real. You struggle with the heroic ideology of Kiran and his new religion (Christianity) as he comes to grips with the wonder and magic of the Norse beliefs, and that of the People of the Songtrail. Thyra sends the reader into a tailspin as you follow her tragic story, of betrayal and loss becoming a Thrall to the man who took her from her loving mother. Thorlak's desperate grab for power and wealth beyond him, his driving nature make him a fearful and deadly enemy.

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