

## Song of Belonging

by Michelle St. Romain



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Fiction - Literary

Kindle Edition

Reviewed on 11/28/2025

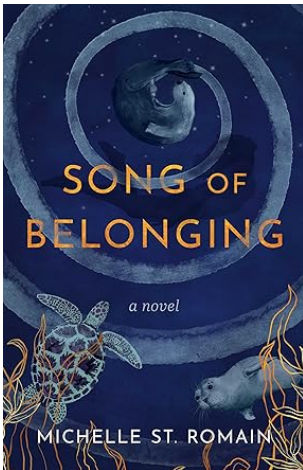
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## Book Review

**Reviewed by Emma Megan for Readers' Favorite**

*Song of Belonging* by Michelle St. Romain is a mesmerizing novel with two timelines: 2019 and 1934. Alice has just moved into a new apartment in North Berkeley, and peculiar things start happening. First, she stumbles upon her great-grandmother's jewelry box, which she received as a child, and then finds a note at the bottom. Reading it, she learns about her family's connection to the natural world. She also learns that she has gifts passed down from one link to the next in her family, gifts meant to be shared with the world, and that she must decide how to use them. Alice starts feeling uneasy and confused as she begins seeing and hearing things she cannot explain. She is determined to make sense of what she experiences and what her great-grandmother meant in the note about her finding her gifts and using them to protect what she loves and to create what she desires.

*Song of Belonging* by Michelle St. Romain is a well-crafted, gripping, and powerful story of deep grief, discovery, healing, belonging, and connections to the past and future, to our ancestors, and to the natural world. This complex, multigenerational novel featuring magical realism and a bit of romance is a must-read, reminding us of the responsibility we have for our actions on the ocean environment. It portrays in great detail a mother's profound grief over losing her gifted child too soon, and shows how Alice, through her writing career, discovers the harm people do to the homes of sea life and animals, ultimately finding her place in a lineage of women healers. Highly recommended.



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### Author Biography



Michelle St. Romain has loved writing and stories since she could hold a pencil. She completed a fellowship for the Bookgarden women's writing program and was a writer-in-residence at Craigardan in the Adirondacks in the fall of 2023.

Co-author of two poetry collections, *Promised Fruit* and *Water's Edge*, her debut novel, *Song of Belonging*, will be released in April 2026 by She Writes Press with distribution by Simon and Schuster.

She leads creative writing workshops for women and has taught English and creative writing to children and teens in California, Hawai'i, and Oregon. She holds a B.A. in English from Loyola University, New Orleans and an M.A. in English/ Creative Writing from California State University, Sacramento.

Her work has been featured in the Poetry Phone Line Project of the Oregon Humanities, *The Rapids* literary magazine, and on Jefferson Public Radio and Ashland Community Radio.