A Heartwrenching Novel

Born into a powerful clan of women, Picture Maker is gifted with the ability to etch drawings that foreshadow the future. Her prophecy of war saves her beloved Ganeogaono people, but leads to her own brutal capture by the savage Algonquins. Through her courage and resilient spirit, and aided by a remarkable storyteller, she escapes her captors and finds refuge with the Naskapi, a peace-loving tribe. But her journey does not end there. Picture Maker’s travels take her across North America and into the distant corners of the Western Hemisphere. Certain that her future lies to the east, she crosses an icy ocean and joins the resourceful Inuit tribe. It is here that she meets Halvard, a Norse hunter who holds the key to the riddle of her birth. Together, they sail to Greenland, where Halvard’s way of life comes under attack and Picture Maker is shunned as an outcast for her special gifts. Her destiny comes full circle as she struggles to save her young daughter from being taken from her, as she was long ago torn from her own clan. A towering saga of adventure and survival, love and
loss, Picture Maker brings the fourteenth century to vibrant, unforgettable life . . . from the savage Iroquois Wars that marked a land forever, to the Norse invasions, and through the bloody rise of Christianity. It is a stunning achievement from an award-winning historical writer.

**Personal Review: Picture Maker: A Novel by Penina Keen Spinka**

This book was a serendipity find. Be ready for an adventure into a wild yet picturesque North America, slightly inhabited and highly spiritual. Shrewd and intelligent tribes fight ammong each other--territorial hunting grounds and fruitful lands amiss. The immense details of the life of 14th century North America [what is present day upper New York/ lower Toronto borders] bring to life a thriving native nation. Spinka imparts an insightful understanding of the differences in tribal spirituality/religion and ethnicity/culture. She weaves a lush yet believable set of scenarios that Picture Maker survives. I like the book as it conveys timeless issues that even I have battled in my life; thus identification with the characters. One such issue is the meeting of cultures/races-North American Natives and Norse. The further unification in literal marriage of "old world" &"new world" brings more challenges which has to be overcome during one of the most environmentally strife-ridden times, a short ice-age in Greenland. Spinka, like Sword Song (The Saxon Chronicles, Book 4)Cornwell, makes some comments about Christianity that are relevant and undeniable. Because of its original take on an old theme, "man" vs environment, both natural and social, it is a historical must-read. Its follow-up book is Dream Weaver.