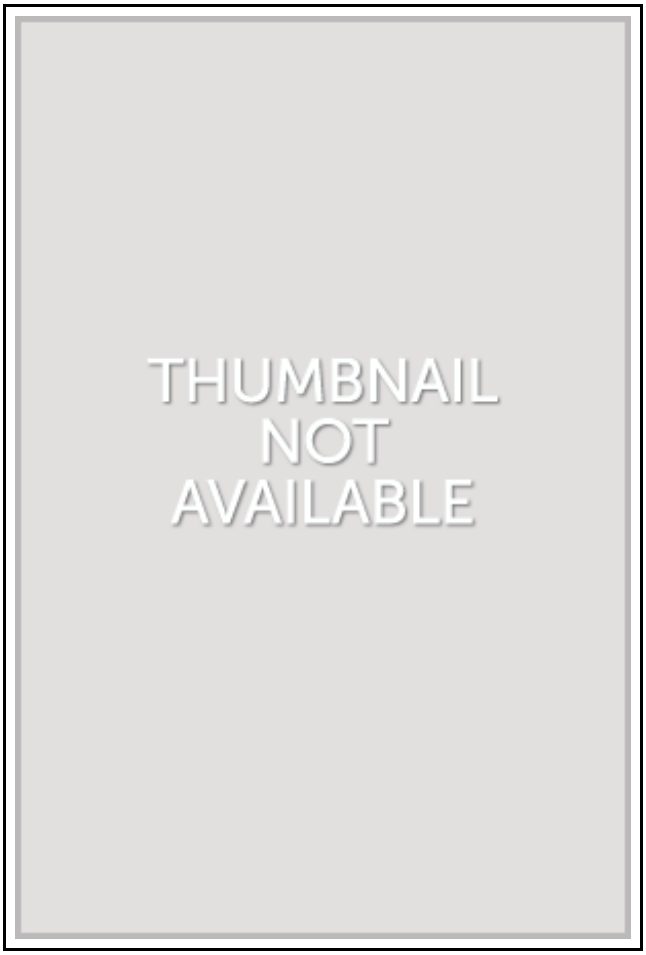
Whale People



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WHALE PEOPLE

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Harbour Publishing. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Whale People, Roderick Langmere Haig-Brown, For ages 12+. Beloved BC author Roderick Haig-Brown was at the height of his creative powers when he crafted this coming-of-age story set in an aboriginal whaling village on the West Coast. In 'The Whale People', young Atlin must one day succeed his father Nit-gass, a great whaling chief of the Hotsath people. The boy trains for his role with the mixture of yearning and apprehension experienced by every youth racing toward adulthood -- except that in Atlin's case, his whole community is depending on his success. With lean, sure-footed prose, Haig-Brown captures the tangled emotions of adolescence, and in the process conveys a vivid portrait of pre-Columbian life on the West Coast. Never preachy or condescending, the book is richly furnished with the material and spiritual mainstays of its characters: canoes, harpoons, animals and 'tumanos', the personal magic a great whaler and leader must possess. 'Timeless' is a term too freely bandied about, but seldom has a story so deftly married the moment with the millennia. Written 40 years ago -- it was named Book of the Year for Children by the Canadian Library Association in 1964 -- it could be set 400 years ago, yet there is not one quaint or dated sentence in it.

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