



He Who Hunted Birds in His Fathers Village The Dimensions of a Haida Myth

By Gary Snyder

Counterpoint. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 160 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.5in. x 0.5in. In 1951, as a student of anthropology in Oregon, Gary Snyder set himself to the task of analyzing the many levels of meaning a single Native American myth might hold. He Who Hunted Birds in His Fathers Village is the result of Snyders critical look at a Haida tale that was told by the great oral poet Ghandl (Walter McGregor) to John Swanton sometime before 1905. A version of the ubiquitous swan maiden story, it tells of a chiefs son who falls in love with a wild goose-girl, loses her, follows her into the sky, and returns to land as a seagull. Snyder goes deep into the transformations that occur in the myth, considering versions of myth from around the world, and explaining how the story might apply here and now. He writes: To go beyond and become what-a seagull on a reef Why not. Our nature is no particular nature; look out across the beach at the gulls. For an empty moment while their soar and cry enters your heart like sunshaft through water, you are that, totally. We do this every day. So this is...

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