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The Wheel Keeper

By Robert Pepper-Smith

NeWest Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Wheel Keeper, Robert Pepper-Smith, This novel is set in a fictional village in south-eastern British Columbia, in a valley near the Rockies. The narrator of the story is the child of an Italian Canadian family in a predominately Italian Canadian village. 'The Wheel Keeper' turns around two central events: the grandmother's forced emigration from Italy as a young woman -- an unwed mother, she must either flee or give up her child to the church -- and the building of a hydroelectric dam which will flood the BC village in which the story is set. From the late 1800s on, many peasants left southern Italy to work in the orchards and vineyards of the Argentine and of British Columbia. These peasants were called golondrinas: the swallows. This is a story about displacement and the ways children overcome fragmentation through ritual, memory, identity, and relation.



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Reviews

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