

In a Kingdom of Birds



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Reviews

A high quality pdf as well as the typeface applied was exciting to see. It really is written in simple words and phrases rather than difficult to understand. You will not really feel monotony at any time of your time (that's what catalogs are for relating to in the event you question me).

(Robyn Nolan)

IN A KINGDOM OF BIRDS

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Pinyon Publishing. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 88 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.8in. x 0.4in. Ken Fontenot is one of the most original, moving poets in the world. I have treasured his work for years-his images startle us awake. His wisdom sears. -Naomi Shihab Nye, a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and author of *TRANSFER* In Fontenots *In a Kingdom of Birds*, I find exactly the kind of poems for which I am most grateful: poems self-aware enough to recognize that in all things exist both tragedy and light, but poems not so besotted with that conniving paradox to dwell too solemnly on it for too long. There's exquisite craft in knowing how to navigate those skies. And navigate them, he does, a bird himself in this kingdom of birds. For truly, everything does both fly and sing-the great gray owl, the swan of stretched legs, the panting sparrow, the quickening sparrow, the nighthawk, the black-throated grackle, the foraging doves. As well, the gnat that lands inside the poets ear, the oscillating fan his grandmother keeps running for decades straight, and the loose, elusive presence of the ghosts of both the living and the dead: the strangely solid phantom forms of friends, relations, lovers, and authors that haunt the walls of this poetic house (to be sure, it is a just, benevolent, knowledge-weary haunting of which I speak). And too: the ghosts of those ghosts. Light has everything to do with pain, and darkness has everything to do with love, Fontenot writes. And later, the world is bleak, the world is glorious . . . You go on filling your jar of hope with yet more hope. These poems convince me that night is solely purposed for better viewing of the stars, and the stars own shimmering brightness exists...

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