

## As Kingfishers Catch Fire Birds Books By Alex Preston

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"Recensione As Kingfishers Catch Fire is a memoir/gallimaufry of ornithological obsession by Alex Preston. He watches birds in the sky and on the page **darting between myths, stories and memoir like a swift**. The characterful illustrations by Neil Gower add a whole new dimension to this **gorgeous book**. (Damian Barr, Guardian Best Books of 2017) Alex Preston, better known for his novels, joined forces with artist Neil Gower to produce the **delightful** As Kingfishers Catch Fire, **an original look** at the literature inspired by Britain's birdlife. (Guardian Best Nature Books of 2017) **Beautifully illustrated** . . . Focusing on birds from snow geese to swallows, Preston produces **an impressive account** of birds both in nature and literature. (The Observer) A magical book: an inimitable fusion of ornithology, literary anthology and autobiography. (Tom Holland) Neil Gower is a genius. It's as simple as that. (Bill Bryson) It's a luminous book. The glow will stay with me. I cried. The book is worthy of birds, and I know no higher praise. (Charles Foster) As Kingfishers Catch Fire is both **a joyful and a wondrous book**, one that successfully captures the otherness of birds, while celebrating our yearning to transcend our lot, our yearning to touch the unknowable . . . Each bird illustrated by Gower in a mixture of gouache and watercolour that brings to mind both William Morris and Eric Ravilious (Katharine Norbury, the Observer) His pages light up with feathered magic (Evening Standard) Preston's book is less a polemic on conservation than a plea for close looking and close listening. He believes, with Gerard Manley Hopkins (from whom he takes his title), that the world is charged with grandeur - the world of birds especially - and that our lives are the richer when we attend to that grandeur. ""What thou art we know not,"" Shelley tells his skylark, but some of the greatest poems in the language have come from the effort to find out. (the Guardian) The cover, in the colours of a kingfisher's breast and wing, and endpapers are gorgeous, and Neil Gower's illustrations are bright and chirping. I can see it under the Christmas tree of every family with a bird feeder and a copy of the RSPB Handbook . . . Preston captures his birds beautifully. (The Times) Descrizione del libro As Kingfishers Catch Fire: Birds and Books is an illustrated and visually stunning exploration of birds in literature, from Ovid to Ted Hughes. L'autore **Alex Preston (Author)** Alex Preston is a bestselling and award-winning novelist, most recently of the critically-acclaimed In Love and War. He appears regularly on BBC television and radio. He writes for GQ, Harper's Bazaar and Town & Country Magazine as well as monthly fiction reviews for the Observer. He is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Kent."

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