



## Calling a Wolf a Wolf (Paperback)

By Kaveh Akbar

ALICE JAMES BOOKS, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In Heritage, a fierce poem dedicated to an Iranian woman executed for killing the man attempting to rape her, award-winning poet Akbar proclaims, in books love can be war-ending/.in life we hold love up to the light/ to marvel at its impotence. Yet if real-life love is disappointing ( The things I ve thought I ve loved/ could sink an ocean liner ), Akbar proves what books can do in his exceptional debut, which brings us along on his struggle with addiction, a dangerous comfort and soul-eating monster he addresses boldly ( thinking if I called a wolf a wolf I might dull its fangs ). His work stands out among literature on the subject for a refreshingly unshowy honesty; Akbar runs full tilt emotionally but is never self-indulgent. These poems find the speaker poised between life s clatter and rattle, wanting to retreat ( so much/ of being alive is breaking ) yet hungering for more ( I m told what seems like joy/ is often joy ). Indeed, despite his acknowledged disillusion and his failings ( my whole life I answered every cry for help...

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### Reviews

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