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## A HIGH CALLING or where do you get your ideas from?

## JOHN GREENING

- A guide to the history and creation of poetry, told through memoir, rich with photos, in the tradition of writers like W.G. Sebald.
- By a successful and widely published poet.
- A widely respected voice on the subject of poetry, as recently interviewed by Aled Jones on BBC1.

Sharing what he's learnt during half a century's creative work, John Greening gives us an insight into the life of a poet, playwright, editor, reviewer, teacher and performer. Eminently readable, amusing and informative, *A High Calling* is a rich resource for anyone with an interest in good writing.

Navigating a wide-ranging career, including a spell as a children's magician and a time at the BBC with musicologist Hans Keller, as well as years spent living in Upper Egypt, we are taken on a journey around the globe and through time and literature. With an extraordinary cast of poets, including correspondence with Ted Hughes and a meeting with Seamus Heaney at Little Gidding, Greening paints a compelling portrait of the lives behind the writers we meet.

Rich in anecdote and literary insight and interwoven with autobiographical sketches and original poems, *A High Calling* is anything but lofty in its approach, and is chock-full with down-to-earth advice for readers and writers.

'A poet whose unbounded curiosity has taken him through the wide (and often conflicted) world with a passion for details that root his work in place.'

JAY PARINI (on *The Interpretation of Owls*)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

John Greening is recipient of several major prizes and a Cholmondeley Award. Beyond the many collections represented in *The Interpretation of Owls: Selected Poems 1977–2022* (ed. Gardner), he has produced anthologies and editions of major poets. Having lived in Egypt, Scotland and New Jersey, he and his family settled in East Anglia.

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