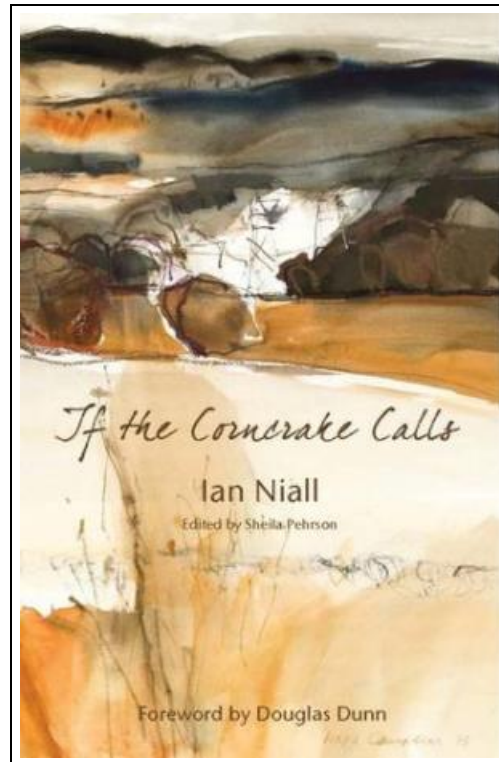


If the Corncrake Calls (Hardback)



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IF THE CORNCRAKE CALLS (HARDBACK)



NEIL WILSON PUBLISHING, United Kingdom, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Barbara Greg (illustrator). Language: English . Brand New Book. When the Scottish writer John McNeillie died on the 24th June 2002 aged 85, he left behind a legacy of over 40 books, several of them minor classics, and several decades of weekly journalism in the dentist's favourite sedative, Country Life. Almost all were written under his pen name, Ian Niall. He made his debut at the age of 22 when Putnam's published his novel Wigtown Ploughman: A Part of His Life in 1939, a Scottish classic that caused a national controversy and provoked improvements in social conditions. In later life John McNeillie did not like to be reminded of his ferocious account of peasant life in Galloway, as one fan described it! He saw himself differently, an essayist and a recorder of landscape and natural life. It is certainly here that McNeillie's output is best represented and where his well-crafted prose reveals the eye and the ear of a poet, a gift for telling a good story and just something of the realism that haunted his first book. The natural history essay was his true metier as found in such volumes as The Poacher's Handbook (1950), Trout from the Hills (1961) and his memoir A Galloway Childhood (1967). Drawing on these and others of his non-fiction books, and including the chapter of his first novel, his daughter, Sheila Pehrson, has put together an anthology that both showcases his talent and reveals the world that shaped the writer he became. John Kincaid McNeillie was the eldest son of Robert McNeillie and Jean McDougall. It was during an epidemic of meningitis, in which his younger sister died, that the infant John McNeillie was despatched from the family home near...



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