

**KAVEH AKBAR**

*“Kaveh Akbar renders the full spectrum of life, and death, with great beauty and care.” —Raven Leilani*

**Kaveh Akbar is not only one of the best-known poets in America for some time, but also one of the most well-recognized novelists of the last few years. His poetry appears in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Paris Review*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. His bestselling debut novel, *Martyr!*, was a National Book Award Finalist and one of the *New York Times* Ten Best Books of the Year. His work is a welcome reminder that art and literature can save your life and sustain the soul.**

Kaveh is the author of two poetry collections: *Pilgrim Bell* and *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*, in addition to a chapbook, *Portrait of the Alcoholic*. He is also the editor of *The Penguin Book of Spiritual Verse: 100 Poets on the Divine*. Kaveh’s first novel, *Martyr!*, was an immediate bestseller. John Green praised it, saying, “So stunning, so wrenching, and so beautifully written that reading it for the first time, I kept forgetting to breathe. I will carry this story, and the people in it, with me for the rest of my life.”

The recipient of multiple Pushcart Prizes, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship, the Levis Reading Prize, and named one of the TIME 100 Next, Kaveh was born in Tehran, Iran, and currently lives in Iowa City, IA. He currently is one of two Roy J. Carver Professors of English at the University of Iowa. Kaveh continues to be a strong voice in the poetry community as the Poetry Editor for *The Nation* and the founder of *Divedapper*, a home for dialogues with the most vital voices in American poetry. With Sarah Kay and Claire Schwartz, he wrote a weekly column for the Paris Review called “Poetry RX.”