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## Two Birds (An Ekphratic Poem) – for Deanna

Sara Anne Hook

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**Two Birds** (An Ekphratic Poem) – for Deanna

Sara Anne Hook

*Though I have never caught the word  
Of God from any calling bird,  
I hear all that the ancients heard.*  
from “Nothing Is Far” by Robert Francis

Two birds converged  
in front of my house one spring morning.  
The cardinal sang from high in a tree.  
His bright plumage contrasting  
with the rough-hewn bark of the branches.  
A sign that those we love will live forever.  
Saucy blue jay with jaunty crest  
swooped low, landed on my front porch.  
Sneakily snatched one of the peanuts  
intended for the squirrels.  
Azure feathers a symbol of healing.



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Two birds emerged.  
Tenderly, intentionally, reverently.  
The artist chose paper and pencils, prepared a color chart.  
Rendered delicate strokes, layered marks.  
For one bird, vibrant red, orange for his beak  
his black feet, balanced on a tree limb.  
For the other bird, steel blue, grey and white  
drew him looking up, cackling from his perch  
after stealing the squirrel’s peanut.



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Two birds preserved.  
One set became beautiful cards to bless others.  
The other set, etched onto my memory.