



NEW TITLES

*new fiction, poetry and theatre
publishing 2020–21*

RIGHTS 2021

Renard
PRESS

Hi,

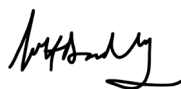
Welcome to Renard Press! What a pleasure it is to send you this, our inaugural rights catalogue. I'm delighted to be able to present our titles – but first a little about us.

Launched in June 2020, Renard Press is a publisher of classic and contemporary fiction, non-fiction, theatre and poetry. Our *raison d'être* is simple: we publish good writing, properly edited.

Much of our titles are rooted in social issues, or highlight the plight of certain repressed groups; for instance, in a year when the publishing scene has been reacting to trans rights, we are thrilled to be adding to the conversation with J.L. Willett's *The Green Indian Problem* – a tale about a young boy who is trying to understand why everyone thinks he's a girl.

Likewise, Reshma Ruia's stunning novel *A Mouthful of Silence*, short-listed for the SI Leeds Literary Prize, revolves around the lives of an Indian family that has settled in Manchester.

We hope that you like the looks of our list; if you would like to find out more about any of these titles, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we very much look forward to hearing from you!



Will Dady • Publisher
rights@renardpress.com



THIS GOOD BOOK

IAIN HOOD

‘Sometimes I wonder, if I had known that it was going to take me fourteen years to paint this painting of the Crucifixion with Douglas as Jesus, and what it would take for me to paint this painting, would I have been as happy as I was then?’

Susan Alison MacLeod, a Glasgow School of Art graduate with a dark sense of humour, first lays eyes on Douglas MacDougal at a party in 1988,

and resolves to put him on the cross in the Crucifixion painting she’s been sketching out, but her desire for authenticity in her portrayal of suffering means that the painting doesn’t see the light of day for fourteen years.

Over the same years, Douglas’ ever-more elaborately designed urine-filled plastic bags bring him exponentially increasing fame, prizes and commissions, while his modelling for Susan Alison, who continues to work pain and suffering on to the canvas, takes place mostly in the shadows. *This Good Book* is a wickedly funny, brilliantly observed novel that spins the moral compass and plays with notions of creating art.

Rights:

World rights available

Audio, foreign/translation, TV/film

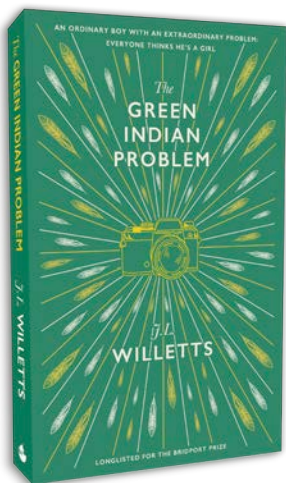


Portrait by Jeremy Andrews

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Iain Hood was born in Glasgow and grew up in the seaside town of Ayr. He attended the University of Glasgow and Jordanhill College, and later worked in education in Glasgow and the west country. During this time he attended the University of Manchester. He now lives in Cambridge with his wife and daughter. *This Good Book* is his first novel.

9781913724528 • Paperback • £10 • 30th March 22



THE GREEN INDIAN PROBLEM

J.L. WILLETTS

'The skirt is the thing I hate most in the whole world. The skirt means the other kids in my class think I'm a girl. I am not a girl, though. I keep telling them that I'm not a girl, but I don't think they understand. The teachers don't understand, either.'

Set in the valleys of South Wales at the tail end of Thatcher's Britain, *The Green Indian Problem* is the story of Green, a seven year-old with intelligence

beyond his years – an ordinary boy with an extraordinary problem: everyone thinks he's a girl.

Green sets out to try and solve the mystery of his identity, but other issues keep cropping up – God, Father Christmas, cancer – and one day his best friend goes missing, leaving a rift in the community and even more unanswered questions. Dealing with deep themes of friendship, identity, child abuse and grief, *The Green Indian Problem* is, at heart, an all-too-real story of a young boy trying to find out why he's not like the other boys in his class.

Longlisted for the Bridport Prize (in the Peggy Chapman-Andrews category)

Rights:

World rights available

Audio, foreign/translation, TV/film



Portrait by Scarlett Arthur

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

J.L. Willetts is a writer from South Wales. *The Green Indian Problem*, his first novel, was longlisted for the 2020 Bridport Prize in the Peggy Chapman-Andrews category. His poetry has been published by *Empty Mirror*, *PoV Magazine* and Unknown Press, and his short story, 'An Aversion to Popular Amusements' was shortlisted for the inaugural Janus Literary Prize.



A MOUTHFUL OF SILENCE

RESHMA RUIA

Father jabbed his finger against my chest. 'You've got an Indian brain – it won't work in America. They will eat you alive.' We stood in the queue at the State Bank of India. I watched him draw out his savings.

'I'll come back rich and famous,' I promised him, slipping the notes inside my wallet.

Father just kept shaking his head, his eyes cloudy with tears.

A Mouthful of Silence is a heart-rending tale that revolves around the lives of an Indian family that has settled in Manchester. The father, PK, a once-successful businessman, looks set to sacrifice everything in pursuit of love and fulfilment, while the family's foundation slowly crumbles and the mango tree in the garden slowly dies.

Rights:

World rights available

Audio, foreign/translation

*(on *Something Black in the Lentil Soup*):*

'A gem of straight-faced comedy.'

THE SUNDAY TIMES

'A debut that sings.'

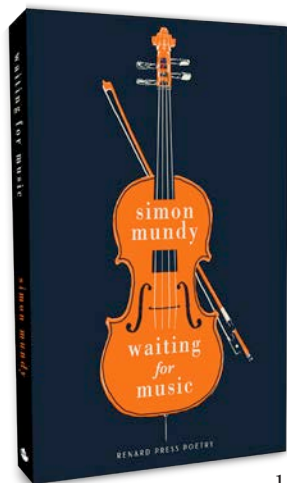
THE GUARDIAN



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Reshma Ruia is an award-winning author and poet. Born in India and brought up in Rome, her writing reflects the preoccupations of those who possess a multiple sense of belonging. She is the co-founder of The Whole Kahani, a collective of British South Asian writers, and she is the fiction editor of *Jaggery* magazine and book reviewer for *Words of Colour*.

9781913724436 • 80pp • Paperback • £10.28th July 21



WAITING FOR MUSIC

SIMON MUNDY

Waiting for Music is the fifth collection of poetry from the acclaimed writer Simon Mundy. A great champion of the arts, his relationships with musicians, visual artists and dancers are the main driving force behind his poetry, and this book sets out a playlist of poems inspired by music – from the classic strains of Brahms’ piano works to a soprano’s solo by Roxana Panufnik which never came into being (itself inspired by a 16th-century portrait).

Published after a year spent waiting for music to appear on our landscape once more, *Waiting for Music* collects the voices of an array of composers, cultures and forms, set against backdrops ranging from Valparaíso to the Veneto, and celebrates the depth of talent and sound that has been missing from our lives this last year.

Rights:

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‘A book I will take with me as my
companion everywhere... Beautiful.’

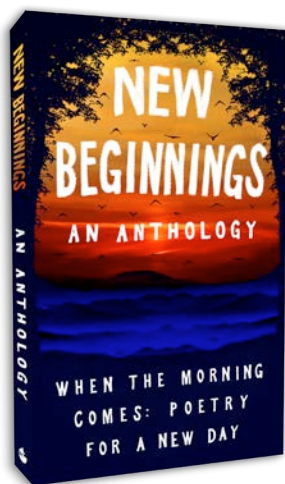
(on *More for Helen of Troy*)

BETTANY HUGHES

Portrait by *The Dubrovnic Times*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Simon Mundy found himself a music critic and arts journalist at 23. A champion of the arts, he has since served as Director of the National Campaign for the Arts and Vice-President of PEN International’s Writers for Peace Committee, and he co-founded the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage. His writing includes biographies, novels, non-fiction, playscripts and poetry.



NEW BEGINNINGS VARIOUS POETS

The Coronavirus pandemic of 2020–21 has been characterised by a suspended state of fear and confusion; political discourse has been pernicious, relationships strained, and the far-off notion of the new dawn promised for autumn is proving just about enough to keep the embers of hope burning.

New Beginnings is a poetry collection with a difference – resulting from an international competition seeking to find those whose voices were silenced in 2020, the resulting anthology forms a celebration of the end of the toxic aspects of 2020 and the pandemic, a glimmer of hope for the future and a manifesto for change.

Rights: World rights available

Audio, foreign/translation

THE JUDGES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT:



Miriam Halahmy is a poet and writer. Having worked with refugees and asylum seekers in schools, her writing engages with historical and contemporary issues that affect children across time – most notably the plight of refugees.



Denise Rawls is an author. She has also been vocal about the lack of career progression for black and brown women, and she works for the National Theatre, where she leads the organisation's communications team.

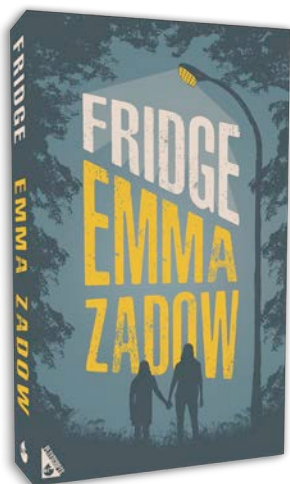


Hannah Fields is a writer, editor and publisher from Texas. She founded Folkways Press in 2020, and launched an anthology that covers a wide range of topics – including issues of race, gender, sexuality and trauma.



Tom Denbigh is the first Bristol Pride Poet Laureate and is a BBC 1Extra Emerging Artist Talent Search winner. He has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, and has brought poetry to Brighton and London Prides.

9781913724238 • 96pp • Paperback • £10 • 31st Mar 21



FRIDGE EMMA ZADOW

From the BBC New Creative behind the brand-new Jigging, coming out in June 2021

Alice hasn't been home for a while – for seven years, in fact. But when her little sister Lo tries to take her own life, she has to return to the life she left behind. The change of scenery from London to Norfolk proves quite the culture shock, however, and Alice has to confront what she left behind all those years ago.

The sisters' relationship hasn't evolved in Alice's absence, and when she steps through the door she's plunged back into the same world she escaped from. Set against Norfolk's bleak landscapes, but masquerading as childhood nostalgia, *Fridge* is an all-too-familiar exploration of the broken promises of youth, and a bitter exposition of a generation left behind.

Rights:

World rights available

Audio, foreign/translation, production, TV/film

'A powerful and thought-provoking look at the intricacies of memory, nostalgia and the tribulations of early adulthood.'

JAMES BELL, A YOUNGER THEATRE

'This play is proof that you don't need much to make a great story: 3 characters and 1 fridge.'

ANNE GALMICHE-JOHNSON

'The emotional resonance is huge.'

ELLIE HAWKES



IN THE MOSS

EMMA ZADOW

Published to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Moss Side Riots; a production at Hope Mill Theatre in Manchester is currently casting.

Exponentially increasing levels of unemployment and simmering racial tension in Moss Side, inner Manchester, exploded into mass riots on the 8th of July 1981, following the siege of a police station.

In the Moss frames the events from the perspectives of Janet, a student nurse working in A&E, and Nav, a Sikh police officer on the streets. Both crave a return to normality and just want to fit in, but when violence breaks out and a teenage boy is stabbed, questions arise about what really happened, and they are thrust together and forced to confront reality.

Rights:

World rights available

Audio, foreign/translation, production, TV/film



Portrait by Rebecca Rayne

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Emma Zadow is an actor, playwright and screenwriter from Norfolk. She trained at Rose Bruford College as an actor, and her plays have been performed at various festivals and theatres. Emma is an alumni playwright from the Soho Theatre Writers Lab, and she was shortlisted for the ETPEP Award and Tony Craze Award. A BBC New Creative, her screenplays include the hit short film *The Cromer Special* and *Jigging*.



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