



# RENARD PRESS

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## *PRESS RELEASE*

Date: 13th October 2021

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### *RENARD PRESS BUILDS FICTION LIST WITH HAUNTING NOVEL ABOUT LOVE, BETRAYAL AND BELONGING BY RESHMA RUIA: **STILL LIVES***

- A haunting new novel from an award-winning writer and poet.
- A moving tale about love, betrayal and belonging.
- A highly original tale that delicately deals with heavy themes including identity, race, love and family, and toys with ‘immigrant’ narratives and conventions.
- A beautifully written work that was shortlisted in manuscript form for the [SI Leeds Literary Prize](#) for unpublished fiction by UK Black and Asian women.

Renard Press is thrilled to announce that it has secured the World English rights to *Still Lives* by Reshma Ruia, an award-winning writer and poet. Toying with assumptions about identity, and dealing with heavy themes, *Still Lives* is a richly observed, haunting novel about love, betrayal and belonging.

#### *Synopsis:*

*‘The glow of my cigarette picks out a dark shape lying on the ground. I bend down to take a closer look. It’s a dead sparrow. I wondered if I had become that bird, disoriented and lost.’*

Young, handsome and contemptuous of his father’s traditional ways, PK Malik leaves Bombay to start a new life in America. Stopping in Manchester to visit an old friend, he thinks he sees a business opportunity, and decides to stay on. Now fifty-five, PK has fallen out of love with life. His business is struggling and his wife Geeta is lonely, pining for the India she’s left behind.

One day PK crosses the path of Esther, the wife of his business competitor, and they launch into an affair conducted in shabby hotel rooms, with the fear of discovery forever hanging in the air. *Still Lives* is a tightly woven, haunting work that pulls apart the threads of a family and plays with notions of identity.



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Reshma Ruia is an award-winning author and poet. She has a PhD and Master's in Creative Writing from Manchester University, as well as a Bachelor and Master's from the London School of Economics. Her first novel, *Something Black in the Lentil Soup*, was described in the *Sunday Times* as 'a gem of straight-faced comedy'. She has published a poetry collection, *A Dinner Party in the Home Counties*, and a short story collection, *Mrs Pinto Drives to Happiness*; her work has appeared in international anthologies and journals, and she has had work commissioned by the BBC. She is the co-founder of The Whole Kahani – a writers' collective of British South Asian writers. Born in India and brought up in Rome, her writing explores the preoccupations of those who possess a multiple sense of belonging.

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Registered company number: 12559643

