



RENARD PRESS

PRESS RELEASE

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RENARD PRESS ACQUIRES TRUTH OR DARE, THE MOVING DEBUT SHORT-STORY COLLECTION BY NADIA KABIR BARB.

- The debut collection from an acclaimed writer.
- A moving collection that takes the reader from London to Dhaka, foregrounding a wealth of experiences.

Renard Press is thrilled to announce that it has acquired World rights to the debut short-story collection by Nadia Kabir Barb. First published in Bangladesh in 2018, but lost following the publisher's collapse, the collection has been revised and expanded for its first UK publication with Renard in 2023, and comes with glowing endorsements of a host of international writers and reviewers.

Synopsis:

'Right now, someone else's life was in his hands. He couldn't say whether it was a few seconds or minutes that they both stood staring at each other, but he had never been so scared in his life.'

In *Truth or Dare* we follow, spell-bound, as chance encounters bring violent pasts roaring into the present; we wait on tenterhooks as a woman sits by her husband's hospital bed as both their lives hang in the balance; we watch anxiously as a homeless man begs a woman with her life and career stretching ahead of her not to jump to her death.

By turns comedic, heart-wrenching and moving, these stories paint powerful pictures of pain, love and empathy, and celebrate the power we have over one another. From the rain-soaked waterways of London to the bustling streets of Dhaka, *Truth or Dare* is a stunning collection that spans two continents and sees the best and worst in both.

Reviews:

'Showcasing the best and worst of humanity, *Truth or Dare* is a powerful and riveting collection that will have you turning the pages until you've devoured every last word. Soaked in compassion, love and a host of other emotions, Nadia K Barb's



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work will remind you of Gabriel Garcia Marquez at the height of his powers. Rich and evocative, this is a collection to be cherished and savoured.'

Awais Khan, author of *No Honour*

'These stories draw you in, hold you, speak to you, tell you secrets, and show you worlds, and then let you go at just that point when you can't stop thinking about them. Each one is a journey, each story a gem. Short fiction has a new torchbearer in Nadia Kabir Barb and this remarkable debut is just the beginning, I hope.'

Nadeem Zaman, author of *The Inheritors*

'Nadia Kabir Barb writes with compassion and imagination about her characters, who are varied and richly drawn. She keeps the reader close to the stories, allowing us to experience their anguish, fears and joys on an intimate level.'

Sharbari Z. Ahmed, author of *Dust Under Her Feet*

'Effortlessly switching between London and Dhaka, Nadia Kabir Barb's humanity shines through in this tender and diverse collection.'

Bee Rowlatt, author of *In Search of Mary: The Mother of all Journeys*

'Sharply observed and vivid in detail, Nadia Kabir Barb's stories lay bare the poignant, the powerful, the traumatic moments on which our lives turn. These delicate, penetrating vignettes are glimpses that encapsulate a greater whole. Hers is a memorable short fiction debut.'

Steven J. Fowler, author of *The Guide to Being Bear Aware*

Nadia Kabir Barb is a British Bangladeshi writer and journalist. Her work has been published in international literary journals and anthologies including *Wasafiri*, *The Missing Slate*, *Open Road Review*, *Eclectic Mix*, *Golden Bangladesh at 50*, *Bengal Lights* and *Six Seasons Review*. She was longlisted for the 2021 Bridport Prize Peggy Chapman-Andrews First Novel Award for *Walk in My Shadow*. She has an MSc from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and has worked in the health and development sector in both the UK and Bangladesh. *Truth or Dare* is her debut collection of short stories. Nadia lives in London.

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