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Author bio:

Zain Rishi is a writer from Birmingham, UK. He graduated with a masters in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh in 2023 and has since worked in independent bookselling. He won the 27th annual Ware Poets Competition, placed third in the 2024 Oxford Poetry Prize and was highly commended in the Poetry Wales Award 2024-25.

His poetry has featured in *Magma*, *Wildness*, *Fourteen Poems*, *New Writing Scotland*, *Gutter*, *Propel* and various anthologies. He is currently based in Edinburgh.

Noon is his debut poetry pamphlet.

Noon

Zain Rishi, cover design or artwork by Manvir Dobb
Noon is a luminous debut exploring identity, inheritance and the quiet power of memory.

- Rishi is based in Edinburgh, but grew up in Birmingham, where many of the poems in *Noon* take place
- A coming-of-age collection that moves across place, sexuality and family ties with tenderness and clarity
- Draws on British-South Asian heritage, from Kashmiri chai to schoolyard heat, weaving personal and cultural memory
- Interrogates language, belonging and generational inheritance in poems that are intimate, lyrical and bold

About the book

Two brothers wrestle, a bird lies in a young boy's hand, an entire field lives within the eye of a needle.

Noon is a sparkling debut from Birmingham-born poet Zain Rishi, exploring home, family and faith.

From the heat of the school relay and his grandmother's Kashmiri chai to the images of a young man kissing a city goodbye, these poems chart a coming-of-age journey across place, sexuality and family ties.

Rich in its interrogation of language and inheritance across generations, *Noon* announces Zain Rishi as one of the UK's most exciting new voices.

Reviews

"The poems in *Noon* are precise, elegant, surprising and romantic. Tracing an arc across heritages, through language and the spark of human touch, they reach up towards a zenith, a heaven just beyond knowing but nevertheless palpable in the tenderness of these poems. Full of rich imagery and formal intuition, *Noon* is a bright balm of a book." ~ Seán Hewitt

"In *Noon*, Zain Rishi deftly explores the loves, histories and griefs held together on the tongue and in the body. Lyrical and precise, these poems explore how it is possible to hold memory as a physical weight, and how we carry it with us across cities and continents, through silence and across lost tongues. There is grief here, but stitched together with that longing is a poetry that feels vibrantly alive, as words slip into sound and reform as something new. I have been waiting for a pamphlet as beautiful and as aching as this one." ~ Hannah Copley

"Dazzling, tender, unexpected, these poems tell an affecting story of a young queer man moving between worlds. Zain Rishi's love of language shines through *Noon* as he reveals all the things that make us who we are. An original and exciting new voice in the poetry world! Hip hip!" ~ Jackie Kay