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What Remains / Remains What

Bidirectional Poems

by Luigi Pascal Rondanini

Publication Date: 5 May 2026

*Twenty-seven poems that transform when read in reverse.
Same words. Different direction. Nothing changes except you.*

The Announcement

Rondanini Publishing Ltd announces the publication of *What Remains / Remains What*, a formally inventive poetry collection by Luigi Pascal Rondanini. The book will be available worldwide on **5 May 2026** in paperback and eBook through all major retailers, bookshops, and libraries.

The collection comprises twenty-seven bidirectional poems — works that deliver one meaning when read from top to bottom and a transformed meaning when read from bottom to top. The words and lines remain identical. Only the direction changes. Only the reader does.

Pre-orders are now open at all major online retailers.

The Concept

Each poem in the collection was composed as a single act of attention, descending line by line into its subject, then tested by the return journey. Many did not survive the reversal. What remains are the poems that proved themselves true in both directions.

Read downward, a poem about separation becomes, read upward, a poem about return. A meditation on betrayal reverses into gratitude. An elegy for a closed factory rebuilds a community. A voice of inner criticism, read backward, becomes inner defiance. The bidirectional form reveals that despair and hope are not opposites but perspectives — two ways of reading the same evidence.

As the author writes in the collection's epigraph:

*Read me once
and you will see the dark
Read me twice
and the dark becomes light*

The Collection

The twenty-seven poems are arranged across five thematic movements and an interlude section:

I — Love and Its Reversals: Poems of separation and return, betrayal and gratitude, forgiveness given and forgiveness refused.

II — Self and Shadow: Self-rejection meets self-acceptance. Inner critics become inner champions. Hidden rooms become places of emergence.

Interludes: The form laughs at itself. Self-help books, therapy sessions, and meditation apps receive the bidirectional treatment.

III — Time's Arrow: Letters to a younger self, photograph albums, funerals attended, seeds planted in uncertain ground.

IV — The World and Its Weight: The news cycle, borders, homelessness, factory closures, and the things we choose not to see.

V — Endings and Beginnings: Last chapters, closed doors, legacies questioned, and what remains when everything else is gone.

Music Companion

To accompany the publication, Rondanini has composed and recorded original songs based on five poems from the collection. Each song mirrors the book's bidirectional structure: the first half is sung forward through the poem, the second half reverses through the same words. The songs will be released alongside the book on all major streaming platforms.

The five poems selected for the music companion are: *The Voice Inside*, *The Distance Between Us*, *The Apology I Owe Myself*, *The Seed I Planted*, and *What Remains*.

About the Author

Luigi Pascal Rondanini has spent three decades moving between worlds that rarely speak to each other. From trading floors in London, Milan, and Riyadh to consulting rooms across five continents, his work has traced the architecture of risk, identity, and transformation.

Now based in London, he develops books and multimedia projects through Rondanini Publishing Ltd, treating writers as architects of living ecosystems rather than suppliers of content. He composes music under names the algorithms don't recognise, produces for artists who sing in languages that cross Mediterranean borders, and writes books about financial instruments — and books about what remains when the instruments fall silent.

He added Pascal to his name to honour his father, by carrying him forward.

He lives in London with his wife and young child, who is learning that some stories change direction when you read them twice.

Publication Details

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independent bookshops, and library suppliers. Trade discount: 55%.
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Availability

Available for pre-order now through Amazon, Waterstones, Barnes & Noble, Book Depository, Blackwell's, Kobo, Apple Books, and all major online retailers. Also available through Gardners, Bertrams, and other library and trade wholesalers.

Media & Press

High-resolution cover images and author photographs are available on request.

Review copies available in print and digital formats.

The author is available for interviews, features, and podcast appearances.

For all press enquiries, review copies, and interview requests:

Rondanini Publishing Ltd

press@rondanini.com

www.rondanini.com

www.rondanini.com/whatremainswhat

*Because sometimes nothing changes
except the way we see it.*

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