

# CAITLIN PRESS

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL  
& HOME OF DAGGER EDITIONS

## SPRING 2021

*featuring*

**CHRISTINA MYERS**

**BARBARA BLACK**

**BARBARA NICKEL**



# THE LIST OF LAST CHANCES

## A NOVEL

BY CHRISTINA MYERS

In this witty and heartwarming novel, Ruthie launches a last-ditch effort to pull herself up from rock bottom, only to discover that life and love don't always go as planned.

At thirty-eight years old, Ruthie finds herself newly unemployed, freshly single, sleeping on a friend's couch and downing a bottle of wine each night. Having overstayed her welcome and desperate for a job, Ruthie responds to David's ad: he's looking for someone to drive his aging mother, Kay, and her belongings from PEI to Vancouver. Ruthie thinks it's the perfect chance for a brief escape and a much-needed boost for her empty bank account.

But once they're on the road, Kay reveals that she's got a list of stops along the way that's equal parts sightseeing tour, sexual bucket-list, and trip down memory lane. As David prods for updates and a speedy arrival to his home in Vancouver, Kay begins to share details about a long-lost love and Ruthie takes a detour to play matchmaker, but finds herself caught up in a web of well-intentioned lies.

With the road ahead uncertain, and the past and present colliding, will Ruthie be able to forge a new path? Heartfelt and humorous, *The List of Last Chances* follows a pair of reluctant travel companions across the country, into an unexpected friendship, new adventures, and the rare gift of second chances.

**CHRISTINA MYERS** is a former journalist, a freelance writer and editor, and a lifelong book nerd. She is the editor of the BC bestselling non-fiction collection *BIG: Stories About Life in Plus-Sized Bodies* (Caitlin Press, 2020) and her writing has appeared in anthologies, newspapers, magazines, and online. A fan of red lipstick and dresses with big skirts and deep pockets, she juggles stay-at-home-parenthood and creative work from her home outside Vancouver, BC.

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# MUSIC FROM A STRANGE PLANET

## STORIES

BY BARBARA BLACK



A striking and genre-bending debut short story collection from writer and composer Barbara Black, woven through with eerie tones, quirky imagery and sharp lyricism.

Off-beat, provocative, philosophical, *Music from a Strange Planet* traces the fault lines of identity and emotional attachment. Grief, tenderness, and longing soak the pages, admitting the reader into the intimate places of the heart: An awkward child envisions herself as a darkling beetle; an unemployed business analyst prefers water-walking over “rebranding” himself; after being kidnapped, a psychologist rejects the idea of marrying herself; and in the squatters’ district, a biogenetically-altered couple visits an attic to observe a large cocoon. From the ruins of a dystopian city to the inner self-created landscapes of a coma victim, this unique story collection places characters at the core of their vulnerabilities. With a masterfully crafted tone and a register that ranges from contemplative to comic, the subversive, immersive stories in this collection brim with humanity. Expect your planet to tilt a little to the strange after reading this engaging, vivid and incisive collection of stories.

**BARBARA BLACK** writes fiction, flash fiction, poetry and librettos. Her work has been published in Canadian and international magazines including *The Cincinnati Review*, *The New Quarterly*, *CV2*, *Geist* and *Prairie Fire*. She was recently a finalist in the 2020 National Magazine Awards, nominated for the 2019 Writers’ Trust/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize and won the 2019 *Geist* Annual Literal Literary Postcard Story Contest. She lives, gardens, sings and motorcycles in Victoria, BC.

Find Barbara online: [barbarablack.ca](http://barbarablack.ca)  
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# ESSENTIAL TREMOR

## POEMS

BY BARBARA NICKEL

Award-winning poet Barbara Nickel returns with a contemporary and enchanting reflection on the many manifestations of the body—human life, the divine, and the world.

Taking the name of a nervous system disorder that causes involuntary shaking, *Essential Tremor* undertakes an exploration of the body that holds disruption at its heart. The captivating and timely poems in *Essential Tremor* attend to many bodies—the body of the world, changing, unreachable, at times momentarily illumined; the human body, loved, ill, mourning, passing or passed from this world; and the divine body, questioned, encountered and not, sought by people from the margins in the body of a biblical palimpsest.

In her third collection, award-winning poet Barbara Nickel blends sonnets in sequences and scattered stand-alones with more formal innovations and extensions—erasures of the notes accompanying da Vinci's anatomical drawings, lines found from Beethoven's autopsy, and the musings of poet isolating in the midst of a twenty-first-century pandemic. Nickel asks her readers to consider the many facets of the body, how it finds the words, lines and poems that together form an essential life, a gift among our deepest wounds and terrors.

**BARBARA NICKEL** is an award-winning writer and editor. *Essential Tremor* is Nickel's third collection of poetry. Her first, *The Gladys Elegies* (Coteau Books), won the Pat Lowther Award. and her second, *Domain* (House of Anansi), was a *Quill & Quire* Best Book. Her work has also appeared in many magazines and anthologies including *The Walrus*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, and *The Malahat Review*. She was the editor of Ian Hampton's non-fiction memoir, *Jan in 35 Pieces*, which was shortlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize and a BC Book Prize in 2019. Barbara is also an author of books for young people, which have been shortlisted for the Governor General's Award, the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award and won a BC Book Prize. Barbara lives and writes in Yarrow, BC.

Find Barbara online: [barbaranickel.ca](http://barbaranickel.ca)



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