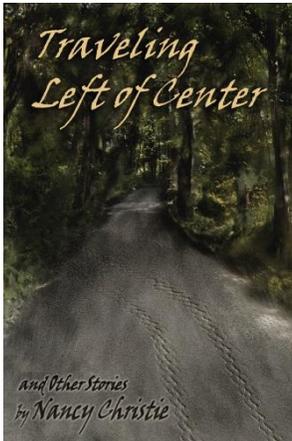


For Immediate Release

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"[Christie's] use of detail really brings the stories to life."

—Hal Blythe, fiction editor, *The Chaffin Journal*

"These 18 stories... [introduce] a fresh voice to fiction that is both ironic as well as gorgeously gloomy." — Mary Sellers, *What Is That Book About*

"...my perfect summer book, short stories that I couldn't put down."

—Sylvia Bradley, *NetGalley*

"Ms. Christie's mastery of the short story is remarkable."

—Margaret Gust, *Coastal Breeze News*

"wonderful... darkly funny at times, collection of stories" —Tucson Susan, *Amazon*

Traveling Left of Center and Other Stories by Nancy Christie

"Girl," my mama had said to me the minute she entered my hospital room, "on the highway of life, you're always traveling left of center."

The opening line of "Traveling Left of Center," one of the stories in *Traveling Left of Center and Other Stories*, perfectly describes the overarching theme of the stories: people who are in some significant way unprepared for the life situations in which they are trapped and so find themselves "traveling left of center." They allow fate to dictate the path they take—often with disastrous results.

As author Nancy Christie explains, "These stories center on people damaged in some way: by what they have done to themselves or by what was done to them, by what they have received, what they gave up, or what was taken from them. All they want is to live a happy, normal, balanced life but instead they find that the tightrope of life vibrates too much and that maintaining equilibrium is but a dream. But while these stories are fiction, somewhere out there is a real person held in thrall by his or her obsessions or controlled by past or present circumstances. These characters in *Traveling Left of Center and Other Stories* are imaginary; unfortunately, their experiences are all too often mirrored in real life."

This collection of 18 tales about unique individuals has been described by reviewers as "complex, varying, and thoroughly imaginative," as stories that "feed our paranoias, our fears, but also our dreams" and "a tantalizing peak into difficulties of the human condition," such as:

- A young woman trapped into caregiving for a vicious old woman
- An elderly man who just can't take any more of his wife's shrewish behavior

- A lonely woman waiting hopelessly for love
- A young man whose attitude of superiority proves his undoing in a small Mexican town
- An anguished mother longing for her child who is lost to her

One reviewer wrote, “[the stories] take us into the lives of the desperate, broken, lost, and lonely. But while the content is dark, Christie’s words hold a poetic beauty. She paints a portrait with vivid colors, creating an image so honest it makes you ache.”

Perhaps the best description of instability of these characters’ lives comes from the narrator in “Skating on Thin Ice”: “I have since learned that thin ice is not only a condition of winter, nor confined to stretches of frozen water. There is thin ice everywhere—between lovers and friends, between reality and obsession, between hope and despair. And sometimes, the only warning you receive is the sharp crack just before the ice breaks and you fall through—to nowhere.”

Reading *Traveling Left of Center and Other Stories*, one can’t help hoping that, for these characters, the ice will hold.

Availability

Traveling Left of Center and Other Stories by Nancy Christie is available as a trade paperback and eBook from all online and bricks-and-mortar bookstores. Review copies are currently available from NetGalley or directly from Cynthia Dadson at Pixel Hall Press.

Publication Date: September 9, 2014

18 stories, 232 pages, 6”x9”

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Category: Adult Fiction, Short Stories, Literary

eBook: \$5.99, ISBN:978-0-9860649-8-2)

About Nancy Christie

Nancy Christie’s fiction has been published in *EWR: Short Stories*, *Hypertext Magazine*, *Full of Crow*, *Fiction365*, *Red Fez*, *Wanderings*, *The Chaffin Journal* and others. She is also the founder of “Celebrate Short Fiction” Day. *Traveling Left of Center and Other Stories* is her first collection of short stories. For more information about Nancy Christie visit her website at www.nancychristie.com, or contact her via email (nancy@nancychristie.com) or phone (330-793-3675).

About Pixel Hall Press

Pixel Hall Press (www.PixelHallPress.com) is a relatively new, old-fashioned small publishing house whose focus is on discovering literary gems and great stories that might otherwise be overlooked. Our mission is to publish books that energize the imagination and intrigue the mind, and to be a conduit between readers and provocative, stimulating, talented authors.

In this era of digital technology, Wall Street involvement and merger mania, many mainstream publishers seem to have lost sight of core principles and the purpose of publishing. At the other end of the spectrum is the veritable avalanche of self-published books that are notoriously uneven in quality. Small boutique imprints like Pixel Hall Press are reclaiming the heart and soul of publishing by reviving the idea that a publisher's *raison d'être* is finding and nurturing great writers, and to provide readers with beautiful, meaningful, truly enjoyable books.

For more information about *Traveling Left of Center and Other Stories*, visit Pixel Hall Press’s website at www.pixelhallpress.com.