



MEDIA KIT

Cold Chaos: Stories from a North

By Nathalie Guilbeault

BOOK INFORMATION

Title: *Cold Chaos: Stories from a North*

Author: Nathalie Guilbeault

Genre: Literary Fiction • Interconnected Short Story Collection

Publication Date: 2025

Formats: Paperback • eBook • Audiobook

Publisher: Montreal Publishing Company

ABOUT THE BOOK

Cold Chaos: Stories from a North is an interconnected collection of literary stories set in Northern Québec.

Drawing on her formative years spent in the North, Nathalie Guilbeault explores the emotional landscapes of memory, identity, belonging, adolescence, grief, and resilience. Although each story stands on its own, together they reveal a larger portrait of life shaped by isolation, community, and the enduring influence of place.

More than a collection about Northern Québec, *Cold Chaos* examines how geography becomes memory, how memory shapes identity, and how ordinary lives carry extraordinary

emotional weight. Through quiet, character-driven narratives, Guilbeault offers an intimate portrait of people searching for connection in one of Canada's most striking and demanding landscapes.

RECOGNITION

★ Kirkus Starred Review

Featured in the August 15, 2026 issue of *Kirkus Reviews*

"Guilbeault...has crafted a masterwork."

— *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review)

"...a masterwork that you can't help but stick with no matter what."

— *Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review)

"Thoughtful and quietly powerful... a book that stays with you long after you finish reading."

— *Chicago Book Review*

AT A GLANCE

- ★ Kirkus Starred Review
 - Featured in the August 15, 2026 issue of *Kirkus Reviews*
 - Interconnected literary short-story collection
 - Set in Northern Québec
 - Explores memory, identity, family, resilience, and belonging
 - By the author of *When I Became Never*, selected as a **Best Pick** by *The Seaboard Review of Books*
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nathalie Guilbeault is a Montréal-born literary author whose fiction explores trauma, memory, identity, and the enduring consequences of violence across generations.

Her short story collection, *Cold Chaos: Stories from a North*, received a **Kirkus Starred Review** and was selected for publication in the **August 15, 2026 issue of Kirkus Reviews**. Her novel *When I Became Never* was named a **Best Pick** by *The Seaboard Review of Books*.

Before becoming a full-time writer, Nathalie spent more than two decades in organizational leadership and executive coaching. She holds a Master's degree in Management Sciences from HEC Montréal.

She is the author of:

- *Inhaled*
- *When I Became Never*
- *Cold Chaos: Stories from a North*

Her work has appeared in literary journals, magazines, and anthologies, and has been recognized for its psychological depth, emotional resonance, and literary craftsmanship.

Nathalie is the co-founder of Montreal Publishing Company and former French Section Editor of *The Nelligan Review*. She lives in Montréal, Québec.

THEMES

Cold Chaos explores:

- Memory and identity
- Family and belonging
- Adolescence and coming of age
- Trauma and resilience
- Isolation and human connection
- Landscape and place
- Northern Québec
- The emotional geography of home

WHY THIS BOOK MATTERS

Cold Chaos offers a rare literary portrait of Northern Québec written by someone whose adolescence unfolded there.

Rather than focusing solely on survival or wilderness, the collection explores the emotional realities of northern life—the invisible transformations, quiet losses, enduring relationships, and moments of unexpected grace found within isolated communities.

Its interconnected structure gradually reveals a larger emotional narrative, making *Cold Chaos* both a collection of individual stories and a meditation on memory, identity, and place.

INTERVIEW TOPICS

Literary Fiction

- Why the short story form?
- Building an interconnected collection.
- Writing place as character.
- Memory as narrative.

Psychology

- Writing trauma with restraint.
- Emotional resilience in fiction.
- Family memory and identity.
- The psychology of ordinary lives.

Canadian Literature

- Northern Québec as literary landscape.
- Regional voices in contemporary Canadian fiction.
- Place-based storytelling.
- Writing from lived experience.

Craft

- Transitioning from novels to short fiction.

- Revision and structure.
 - Character over plot.
 - The relationship between memory and imagination.
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READERS WHO MAY ENJOY THIS BOOK

Readers of:

- Literary fiction
- Canadian literature
- Contemporary short-story collections
- Character-driven fiction
- Place-based narratives

Readers who enjoy the work of:

- Alice Munro
 - Elizabeth Strout
 - Miriam Toews
 - Kent Haruf
 - Richard Wagamese
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SELECTED PRAISE

Kirkus Reviews ★ Starred Review

"Guilbeault...has crafted a masterwork."

"...a masterwork that you can't help but stick with no matter what."

Chicago Book Review

"Thoughtful and quietly powerful... Cold Chaos is a book that stays with you long after you finish reading."

Jason Arias, Author

"An exquisite testimony to how powerful the short form can be in the right hands... Each piece is executed with such scalpeled precision... This will end up in your top ten."

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Accent Series, Montréal
 - CITY-TV
 - CJAD – *Passion* with Dr. Laurie Betito
 - *Passion* Podcast
 - *Femmes et Pouvoir*
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SPEAKING

Nathalie Guilbeault is available for:

- Literary festivals
- Author interviews
- Library events
- University lectures
- Book club discussions
- Creative writing workshops
- Literary podcasts
- Panel discussions

Topics include:

- Literary fiction
- Trauma and storytelling
- Northern Québec

- Place-based writing
- The short story
- Memory and identity
- Women in contemporary literature

Languages: **English • French**

DOWNLOADS

Available upon request:

- High-resolution author photographs
 - High-resolution book cover
 - Book synopsis
 - Discussion guide
 - Interview questions
 - Short and long author biographies
 - Press-ready promotional images
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CONTACT

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