

Wynne Leon (00:01)
Hi Barbara!

Barbara Nickless (00:03)
It's so good to be here and talk to you again.

Wynne Leon (00:06)
I love reading you. I love talking with you. And this is just wonderful crossover. It's so good. And you know, we've been talking about you writing because you're writing the second book of your Helen Belle Benedict Hoffman series. so we've been talking about that, and I can't wait to to talk to you more about that. But I just finished reading A Voice in the Dark. Let me

Barbara Nickless (00:13)
It is so fun.

Right.

Wynne Leon (00:30)
Hold it up there. So good. it's just delightful. And I'm I'll read a little bit of the description from Amazon. An online manipulator with a deadly hold on his followers challenges an FBI agent to stop him in a gripping novel of psychological suspense by a Wall Street Journal best-selling author. And boom, you nailed it.

Barbara Nickless (00:34)
Thank you.

Thanks. I really appreciate that. It's it it was a challenge writing that book, but it was a lot of fun too.

Wynne Leon (01:00)
Yeah.

Okay, tell me what was challenging about it.

Barbara Nickless (01:07)
the gaming part of it. my son was a huge gamer and unfortunately he's no longer with us so he can't help me, but he had finally gotten me interested in video games. He'd explained it to me. He'd had me watch a couple of documentaries. so the interest was definitely there. I just did not I didn't know anything about it. So I started watching

Wynne Leon (01:08)
Mm, mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Barbara Nickless (01:30)

these gamers play online. I read a bunch of books, including Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow it's a fabulous book and I really recommend it. and so yeah, steep learning curve and then I still got things wrong. And fortunately there was time in that very final editing phase for me to run it by an actual gamer.

Wynne Leon (01:50)

Mm-hmm. Right, right, but I bet it brought your son a little bit closer. That's I mean that's sweet. Yeah. But it's what we all want to do with our kids, which is, inhabit the world with them.

Barbara Nickless (01:51)

So he could fix things for me.

It did. It did. I could hear his voice. Yeah, definitely like mom.

Yes, exactly. And understand what motivates them. And he was so incredibly disciplined. And then playing video games in the evening, that was his reward. So maybe I'll give it a try. Maybe.

Wynne Leon (02:19)

Yeah, right? Yeah. Maybe. Yeah, I mean that

well those multiplayer online you know, I feel like, you know, I even watching my kids with their small games. It's like, Well, you know, they're doing the driving and I want to check over my shoulder, you know, I'm like can I go the next lane and what it's not like Mom! You can't do that That's not how you drive in a video game.

Barbara Nickless (02:27)

Yeah.

Yeah Yeah, right, three point jack and yeah No Mom, no ~

Wynne Leon (02:48)

My bad I think I didn't I didn't signal.

Barbara Nickless (02:52)

totally be me. I mean years of learning how to drive properly, right? And I think I'd do better at those farming sims, which I which I have in the book, you know, where you peace out on gathering berries and apples and just tending your goats and

Wynne Leon (02:54)

Okay.

Right.

Mm. Mm. Right.

Yeah.

Yeah.

yeah. That that's right. Building up your resources, saving for a rainy night. Yeah. But your writing has such a crispness. I just love it and I'm gonna read a a description that I loved. one of the victims early on in the book runs into somebody in her kitchen.

Barbara Nickless (03:10)

Yeah. Yeah. Exactly.

Wynne Leon (03:27)

And here's the description that you write. It's like a mountain manifested between the stove and island, shoulders wide as the doorway, head square like a box. His thick beard reaches the snap on his jeans. And I was just like Your writing is so good. You could just see that mountain of a man just surprise you.

Barbara Nickless (03:46)

Thank you.

You know, I could spend the whole time writing metaphors. You know, forget plot.

Wynne Leon (03:54)

Yeah. Right?

Put a little plot in between. your protagonists for all your different series and this is your third series, ~ in plus your spy novel, but they all are so smart, but they've endured some trauma. And I wonder, do you do you fall in love with these characters as you write

Barbara Nickless (04:15)

I do. It's it's a little bit, you know, it's a little bit like a romance novel where you're kind of standoffish at first, you're not sure about that other person as you try to get to know them. But people are so fascinating. And when I'm creating a character and I'm looking at their backstory and I'm trying to figure out, you know, who they are, what motivates them, what do they think about themselves, who do they want to be in the world? You know, the same questions we ask ourselves, right?

and it's always a descent, a Yungian descent into the the Netherland, the the underworld to confront those shadow selves. And that's that's the psychology I love. And it I just love people. I love figuring out what makes them tick. So yeah.

Wynne Leon (04:57)

Right. Tell us

Helen Belle's backstory.

Barbara Nickless (05:02)

So she, her parents, she has a brother. Their parents were murdered while they were away from home. It's an unsolved case. and she was taken in by an aunt with alcoholism. So that's extremely affected her. And now her brother is fighting fentanyl addiction. It's I'm I'm fascinated and horrified with why is the human brain so prone to addiction.

Wynne Leon (05:19)

Mm-hmm.

Barbara Nickless (05:29)

Why does it get its claws into us? I mean, I'm the granddaughter of an alcoholic and I heard a lot of terrifying stories. so it's just a whole arena that I'm interested in exploring and wondering how we're gonna fix it. And I think we're gonna maybe touch on this later, but talk about moral injury and how that affects both the addict and and the addicted person's family.

Wynne Leon (05:40)

Right.

Mm-hmm.

Right, right. And I think I mean because Helen's backstory is so compelling, I mean, she's trying to in some ways save people from the same I mean, she's trying to step into the gap when somebody didn't step into that gap for her.

Barbara Nickless (06:05)

Yes.

That's exactly right. Thank you for putting it so beautifully. So, you know, you can get kind of a I need to save the world, right? One person at a time. And so she definitely has a soft spot for for teenagers. Nobody had that for her or her brother and she survived and her brother's still struggling.

Wynne Leon (06:28)

Yeah. You do a lot of research and we were talking about your gaming research. I and the last time we talked you you made the joke, I think it was your husband asked, Can you write a book that you you don't have to research? But I think that's what makes your storyline so compelling is that curiosity that you have. That fascination with people, that you love people. that research is part of what makes it come alive,

Barbara Nickless (06:54)

No, thanks for saying that, because I love the research. I'm sure we talked about this last time. at some point I have to cut it off, but getting to write fiction means I could say, you know, I'm kind of interested in X, Y, and Z. I can center a book around that. and so that's what I do. I wanted to know more about gaming. I was horrified to hear all of these many, many stories.

Wynne Leon (06:58)

Yeah.

Barbara Nickless (07:17)

About young people, teenagers early twenties, getting caught up by online influencers. And, you know, when we're teenagers, we're still trying to figure out who we are. Our brains are still developing. We're very vulnerable. And I can't even imagine. I I my teens were tough enough, and that was before there was anything like an internet. So I can't imagine the pressures that are on these kids now and how we're how we try to protect them. I mean, Britain just made their the law

Wynne Leon (07:38)

Right.

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Barbara Nickless (07:47)

come into effect in the spring, but sixteen and under will not have access to social media. And they're also gonna roll in gaming, online gaming and yeah. It's which is not going to make the kids happy, but I think it's important.

Wynne Leon (07:53)

Thank you.

Mm. Mm-hmm. Right.

But is is a

is a very real danger to them. Yeah. It's funny. I was chaperoning a fifth grade field trip today, right before I came on and one of the kids asked me what MTV was and I was like

Barbara Nickless (08:04)

Risk. Yeah. Yeah.

You survived

Wynne Leon (08:17)

You you know, the things that they yeah, I was like I was explaining like and I started singing, take on me, take on me, then yeah They were like, ~ boy and I was like, you know, but the things that we got sucked into, which were, compelling and remember those VJs? You know, it wasn't DJs, it was VJs and you know, p people that you could watch some of the MTV for hours, right? ~ but yeah.

Barbara Nickless (08:18)

Ha ha

Hey gone me

Yeah.

Yes. DJs, yeah. ~

~ yeah, that

was such a huge thing. I mean, there were before that there was American Band Stand, right?

Wynne Leon (08:45)

That is it was. Right,

right, right. But those things seem so tame compared to what we're dealing with here. And you allude to a real instance of somebody being lured to the dark side of gaming and it makes your book so applicable to our world today, ~ to the dangers our kids face. And and

Barbara Nickless (08:53)

Yeah. Yeah.

Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon (09:07)

What I love about that is it's a narrative doing the work of what we need to think through to to protect them and others.

Barbara Nickless (09:16)

Yeah, and how difficult it is. Even when you feel like you're on top of it. ~ you it's just like law enforcement. Parents have to be one step ahead of what their kids think of and what these influencers think of. And then you throw in AI like

Wynne Leon (09:30)

Yeah. And you were meant right, right.

Which yeah, a whole nother layer to that. before we started recording, you were talking about narrative helping in truth and reconciliation projects and how story really can help us de other. But I I think your books do the same thing for these topics.

Barbara Nickless (09:49)

thank you.

~ that means a lot. Because that's really what I what I feel is so important, something that literature offers in and story. So whether it's whether it's a book or it's a film or it's a TV show or whatever offers that news articles or op eds can't do because it speaks to the heart. It gets us inside of people's heads. It explains to us, shows us what motivates them.

Wynne Leon (09:52)

Yeah.

Barbara Nickless (10:17)

And hopefully that opens up enough of separation between ourselves and those that we tend to other for whatever reason, and help us understand. So certainly with Iran now, we tend to assume that our government is a reflection of the people. and certainly in Iran, I it I would say not here, I you know.

Wynne Leon (10:17)

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Barbara Nickless (10:39)

the statistics, but in Iran for sure, that that even the even the people who helped overthrow the Shah are regretting what that became. So so yeah, so reading, you know, reading Lolita in Tehran, that the title of that book, really gives us insights that we just can't get from the news.

Wynne Leon (10:48)

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm. Yeah. Right.

Right, right. And and that it's sort of that backstory, that arc that we don't see, but that's like when we're bop bah bah bah this happened, right? Yeah, yeah. So you allude to speaking of research, taking rocket fire and being grilled at military checkpoints in your author biography. Is that part of your research?

Barbara Nickless (11:14)

Right. Right.

Yeah.

Yes, it

actually was, although I don't think I can write the book anymore. I had gone to Israel and the West Bank for research for historical novel. And this was in May, so five months before the October 7th attack from Hamas, from the Gaza Strip. So at the time that I was there, there had not been attacks rocket fire from Hamas in in several years. And and so when this

When this happened, it was kind of a stupid American funny story. It's it's a little weird now. but I didn't know what to expect. We'd been told because the idea of the Israeli Defense Force had gone into Gaza and had killed a couple of Hamas leaders, we were told we should expect rocket fire. I meant just a dumb American and

My friend, I call her my travel wife because we travel together, our husbands stay at home. And she was in the shower and all of a sudden I heard this sound like an ambulance coming, except it didn't fade. And I looked at her phone and it was an incoming missile alert. So I of course I ran out to the balcony to see what's going on, you know? And

Wynne Leon (12:30)

Mm.

boy, guys.

Right.

Barbara Nickless (12:43)

Everybody's rushing in from the Mediterranean, from the beach, into shelter, and the Iron Dome is taking out missiles as they're coming in. my friend and I never did make into the shelter because she got out of the shower and she was wearing shorts and a t-shirt. And I said, Kathy, I think we need to we need to go into the shelter. And she looked at me and she said, I am not leaving this room in my shorts.

It's like, okay, well, I was in a bathrobe, but you know. ~ and then we got pulled over coming back from the West Bank, ~ the IDF, the Defense Force pulled us over. And I've never been grilled at a military checkpoint before. And those guns are scary and their attitude is scary. And it was because our driver was Palestinian.

Wynne Leon (13:08)

Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Mm-hmm.

Barbara Nickless (13:31)

And the the plates for Palestine are a different color than the plates for Israel so that they can be immediately spotted. And they had a lot of questions for us. It was it was interesting. And we saw some stuff in the West Bank, you know, settlers threatening the local Palestinians and yeah, it's a troubled place. Yeah.

Wynne Leon (13:40)

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Mm. Wow. Right, right. And again,

getting in there to see those stories makes it just so much more real, right?

Barbara Nickless (13:59)

It does, it does. I managed to sleep through all incoming fire in Ukraine. It's a gift, I guess.

Wynne Leon (14:06)

Well you're yeah, well now you're

now you've ha experienced it more than once. Yeah. Hmm. Wow. that's some that's some real research. And it's it sort of ties into something that you alluded to before. moral injury. especially as it it as it affects our service personnel.

Barbara Nickless (14:14)

Yeah. ~ funny.

Wynne Leon (14:28)

I know you teach writing yes to military veterans. Can you say more about the ~ moral injury, the therapeutic effect of of writing?

Barbara Nickless (14:29)

Teach writing.

Sure.

Yeah, moral injury, I think, is finally getting the recognition that it needs. I actually wrote about it in my second book, and that was back in 2017, after I read a book by a military chaplain called *What Have We Done?* And moral injury, I'll start by saying is different from post-traumatic stress. So post-traumatic stress is driven by fear. that's why you get

if a veteran is driving down the street and he's mentally back in Fallujah and something runs in front of the the vehicle, he has a flashback and that's post-traumatic stress. It's fear-based. moral injury is well, I don't know what to say except it's morally based. So it me we've we've done something or we've been told to do something or we've witnessed something that goes against our personal ethics, which happens in war a lot.

Wynne Leon (15:27)

Mm-hmm.

Barbara Nickless (15:27)

It also

happens in war zones among civilians. So that's why I also work with civilians as well as veterans. So what writing does when we store a memory under traumatic circumstances, it's stored it the memory is broken up and stored in different parts of our brain. And that is what leads to the flashbacks, is what leads to maybe misremembering what happened and taking potentially taking on more blame.

Wynne Leon (15:29)

Wait.

Mm-hmm.

Yeah.

Okay.

Barbara Nickless (15:55)

For what

happened, I could have stopped that, I should have done something, and we actually develop memories that support that fallacy. When we write, we get it out on the page, we create a cohesive narrative, which we then can remember in a in a more understandable way. And then we can start to say, Huh, I guess I really I couldn't

Wynne Leon (16:02)

Mm-hmm.

Uh-huh.

Barbara Nickless (16:18)

overcome what my commandant had said because there was only three of us and I was picturing ten of us and whatever the situation is. So they've there's been all kinds of research on how writing helps. And there's a bunch of different methods, narrative processing.

Wynne Leon (16:26)

Right.

it matter whether you write it in first person or third person? Do you have a an e an easier way of forgiving yourself if you do

Barbara Nickless (16:42)

That

that's a great question. it's a gradual process, you know. We don't go in and say, okay, I want you to pick your worst memory and write about it in the first person. No, it's a process. so third person is often a great way to start so that you keep yourself safely outside the the actual scene. Also writing things that have nothing to do with the incident itself.

So I have students who write science fiction, which Kurt Vonnegut did about his World War II trauma, fantasy, which was J.R. Tolkien. I mean, his whole Lord of the Rings trilogy was his way of dealing with his time in World War One and his son's time in World War Two. and Joe Haldeman with science fiction, it allows you to make it imaginary and thus

Wynne Leon (17:33)

Right.

Barbara Nickless (17:34)

a way a way to handle it. And then you gradually move into if they wish, ~ and if there's counseling available, do not do this without somebody to help you process these memories. But then they'll gradually start writing in first person. They'll write about what happened. And in that case, they'll start with the setting. It was hot, it was dusty, it was another 99 degree day. And just again, just gradually walking into it.

Wynne Leon (17:53)

Yeah.

Mm. Mm-hmm.

Well, I love what you're saying here because it brings us full circle back to, you know, we were talking about addiction and all these different ways to sort of unravel the amazing and fascinating ways that our brain works.

Barbara Nickless (18:16)

Yeah, and so much of it is to protect us. It's like, that was bad. Let's not get into that situation again. That's the thing I can't figure out about addiction. and of course, obviously I'm not a medical doctor, or a neurologist or a psychologist, but I can't imagine the evolutionary benefit of of addiction. And I think it's more our brains developed to process other ways and a

Wynne Leon (18:19)

Mm-hmm.

Mm, mm.

Barbara Nickless (18:40)

other things and addiction wasn't an issue. We didn't have access to alcohol or fentanyl or meth or any of these other things. So it's a definite bug in the system.

Wynne Leon (18:43)

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Right, right.

a recent guest of mine was talking about the the human predilection to either avoid pain or pursue pleasure and that that is a decision that our brain makes over and over again.

Barbara Nickless (18:57)

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

is avoidance of pain. Almost from from what I understand, almost more so than seeking pleasure, it's avoidance of pain.

Wynne Leon (19:04)

Mm-hmm.

Mm. Right.

Right. Right. So you have some great consultants. You this is your sort of third police procedural series. Is that yeah. Yeah. one of the aspects that's so interesting about a voice in the dark is that, you know, it's talking about online gaming and AI and all these things that make

Barbara Nickless (19:19)

Yeah, or law enforcement. 'Cause in this one she's an FBI. So yeah, police and FBI. Mm-hmm.

Wynne Leon (19:33)

you know, fighting crime virtual. It there there isn't I can't remember is it Locard's principle where somebody leaves a fingerprint or or an exchange of matter if when you commit a crime, yeah, you're not it's it's got that that virtual aspect to it or distance of it. So ha I mean and and that's fascinating to think about as you read A Voice in the Dark, or I thought so.

Barbara Nickless (19:36)

Yeah.

Right. ~ as you're right. Something physical.

Wynne Leon (20:00)

Can you talk about how you've seen both law enforcement and people that write about law enforcement deal with the fact that this th these are different crimes.

Barbara Nickless (20:09)

~ I think there's

these I think there's a reason why a number of writers are writing historical mysteries.

Wynne Leon (20:19)

~ this is complicated.

Barbara Nickless (20:21)

That's like

Well and

well just pick up the phone and call the police. I hadn't thought of that. So you're constantly dealing with having to incorporate the tech and and people know it's there. They they know that there's close to universal cell coverage, so you have to be really creative if you don't want your characters using the phone. there's cameras everywhere, and then there's criminals who operate

Wynne Leon (20:38)

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Barbara Nickless (20:50)

completely cyber work. and yes, they they can leave traces, but then it's like a back and forth between, the cops catch up to it and then the criminals get smarter and how they do it. And then the cops catch up to that. And and when I was talking to my FBI contacts, I was blown away with the kind of information that they can get.

Wynne Leon (20:52)

Mm-hmm.

Yeah.

Barbara Nickless (21:13)

It's hard for them too. They have to be much more tech savvy than they than they used to have to be. Also, data is overwhelming. There's so much coming in from so many different places, trying to sort through the noise gets really hard. I really am a stickler for accuracy, which is not to say that my books are one hundred percent accurate. It's just to say I do my best.

Wynne Leon (21:22)

Mm-hmm.

Mm.

You

you trying. Yeah.

Barbara Nickless (21:36)

I try.

I try very hard, but I'll have experts tell me contradictory things. because one group might be ahead of another in terms of what can be done. And also I can't include all of it. It's just too much detail. So I have to kind of take this if a if an expert tells me, Well, you

could just have them trace down the VPN and then they'll do this reverse search and go in through this keyhole and then it's like, stop. The book will end on page five and it's and it's way too complex to try and explain. I'm not even gonna try. So it's it's a real balancing act.

Wynne Leon (22:02)

Yeah, right. Right.

Yeah, right. But you have to understand it awfully well to be able to simplify it in a way that makes sense to to readers. Yeah. Right. Right.

Barbara Nickless (22:20)

And and then run it by the experts. Who pat you

on the head and say, I guess that's okay. They'll come back with two pages, you know, on your on your three sentences. It's like, No, I'm sorry, I'm not including that.

Wynne Leon (22:26)

Right.

But that first sentence is this will pass. This is okay. That's great. So you're working on finishing your second book. It's it's funny because Voice in the Dark launches July first. So it this hasn't even launched officially yet.

Barbara Nickless (22:39)

Yeah. ~

Yes. It's actually

it's actually out for prime members. It's on Amazon First Reads. Yeah. Yeah, yay.

Wynne Leon (22:57)

That's right. I got it from Amazon First Reads yeah. But but

you're all finishing the second book of the series and this one isn't even, you know, past its launch date. Like

Barbara Nickless (23:07)

Yeah,

it's always a weird you gotta promote this book while you're while you're still writing the other one and then I get them mixed up in my head. Let's see, did I mention that part of Helen's past and was that the first book or the second book?

Wynne Leon (23:10)

Yeah.

I'm gonna say and he hints on what's coming next and whether you you want to tell us intentionally or unintentionally.

Barbara Nickless (23:25)

I don't know. I'll tell you,

I am having so much fun with this second book. So it's got the whole vampire culture in New Orleans, which was fun because I actually got to have my interview with a vampire. And

Wynne Leon (23:34)
Mm.

Mm, mm.

~ yay. Wait, no no

are we talking metaphorically the the speaking?

Barbara Nickless (23:50)
W we're talking

about they call it themselves the real vampire community. There are people who do believe that they are vampires. Some of them are sanguinarians, meaning they they feel that they need blood, others are energy vampires. it's a whole yeah. I've met some that won't acknowledge it, but ~ do they suck the life out of you? Yes. ~

Wynne Leon (24:06)
I've met some of those. Yes. Yes, exactly. Huh.

Barbara Nickless (24:18)
And then

there's some of them that are it's just cosplay. They're just having fun. But it's a thing. And when I talked to this former vampire, she no longer believes that she is a vampire, but she said it is frightening the the way people get sucked into that subculture. So I've got that. I have uifologists, which

Wynne Leon (24:20)
Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Mm.

Barbara Nickless (24:42)
Now there it's not UFOs, it's UAPs, right? Unidentified aerial phenomenon gives it a little more scientific edge. Yeah, we've totally updated that. Yeah. UFOs, yeah. You gotta get your acronyms right.

Wynne Leon (24:45)

Hmm. Okay. Yeah, I I didn't know we'd updated that. I'm gonna I'm gonna take my notes so that I I don't date myself with my MTV and my UFOs. I I better, I'm

writing them down. Wow, that is a fascinating mix. Yeah.

Barbara Nickless (25:09)

~ that's gonna be fun. And we'll see

how so the ~ I'm I'm I'm supposed to put a plug in. the first book has been optioned for film and the executive producer hired a crew and a cast and they filmed a book trailer that is sort of a movie trailer. They filmed it in Georgia and that's that's out now and that's

Wynne Leon (25:31)

Wow.

Barbara Nickless (25:36)

It's so wild to see my characters to see how they look and act on screen. It's just it's yeah. It's really interesting. So ~ yeah.

Wynne Leon (25:36)

~ great.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

I

imagine that makes you fall in love with them all over again.

Barbara Nickless (25:52)

Yeah, that's y yeah. It it's interesting because they made a choice. So in the novel, Benedict Hoffman is a college professor at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, and he's a criminal humanist. So he brings literature, philosophy, religion, all of these elements into into understanding what drives criminal behavior. and he almost went into the priesthood. Well,

They hired me to write a film treatment and then they made a few changes. And so in this, he's actually a priest. He's a Jesuit priest. And that's really interesting to see. It's like, so there goes any possible love interest, right? So it changes the dynamic. but totally fun.

Wynne Leon (26:22)

Mm-hmm.

Yeah.

No right, right. Yeah. And does that change what

you write in book two, knowing that that? Does that

Barbara Nickless (26:39)

It can't just because I've already established who my characters are. He's not a priest. I didn't quite have the courage, I think, for that. Or maybe I just wanted him conflicted. You know, he Helen's the it's the Scully and Mulder. Am I saying this right? Scully and Mulder are the X-Files. She's very much the logical FBI agent, you know, show me the proof. And he's very much the not so much I want to believe, but I'm afraid to believe, you know, is evil.

Wynne Leon (26:42)

Yeah.

Mm. Yep. Mm-hmm.

Barbara Nickless (27:06)

a thing? Is it a concrete thing or is it our psychopathy? What you know it's it's a tough question to answer and fun to explore.

Wynne Leon (27:10)

Right. Yeah.

Tough question to answer and fun to explore and you

do it so well. And that's part of that whole, using narrative to explain really interesting and amazing things for us to consider and and delve into.

Barbara Nickless (27:29)

Yeah, thanks. It's that's a lot of fun.

Wynne Leon (27:32)

~ well, talking to you is a lot of fun. I I I love it. because of all the things you try as you're writing a book, I mean it's that curiosity and openness and it just it shines through. Thanks so

Barbara Nickless (27:34)

Yeah, same.

Thanks. Thanks. That's really nice

to hear because I it's it's a great deal of fun. Except for deadlines. Except for deadlines.
That's really fun.

Wynne Leon (27:50)

Yeah. Except for that. Except

for that. Thank you, Barbara. Such a pleasure to talk with you.

Barbara Nickless (27:57)

Thank you so much. It's always fun.