

# Barbara Friend Ish

Writer, publisher, slave of cats: Barbara Friend Ish is Publisher, Editor-in-Chief, and Wild-Eyed Visionary for Mercury Retrograde Press, which publishes Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Interstitial novels and novellas: a small press dedicated to unconventional authors and works that might undeservedly slip through the cracks at bigger houses. After earning a Bachelor's in English from Rice University, Barbara divided her time between working with small groups of entrepreneurs who didn't know any better than to start their own companies and



swimming against the current of the publishing industry, eventually co-founding Be Mused, an author services company devoted to helping authors and small publishers develop books. She founded Mercury Retrograde Press in 2007. She is insufferably proud of the authors with whom she works, including multi-award-nominated Edward Morris, author of the transgressionist alt-history series *There Was a Crooked Man*; Zachary Steele, whose debut novel *Anointed: The Passion of Timmy Christ*, CEO was considered for the 2010 Sidewise Award; and talented fantasists Leona Wisoker and Larissa N. Niec.

Books edited by Barbara have been covered by *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Locus Magazine*, *The Midwest Book Review*, *SciFiDimensions*, *American Freethought*, *Baby Got Books*, *SFScope*, *SFSignal*, *The Internet Review of Science Fiction*, *January Magazine* and *Green Man Review*. She has been featured in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and on *Baby Got Books* and *SF Signal*, and has appeared at The Atlanta Book Show, RavenCon, Faerie Escape: Atlanta and Opus Fest.

Barbara's debut novel, *The Shadow of the Sun*, is scheduled for release in February 2011. The first volume of the fantasy series *The Way of the Gods*, *The Shadow of the Sun* tells the story of a defrocked wizard, his quest for redemption, and his struggle against the evil in his soul.

For the past 22 years Barbara has been married to her one true love, one of the very first Cold-War-era Soviet émigrés. Together they have ridden the roller coasters of multiple start-up businesses (his and hers) and the raising of two children. Current projects include a garden entirely bereft of nutritional value and a search for the perfect bottle of champagne.

Born in Chicago, at various times in her life Barbara has called Philadelphia, Houston, New Jersey, and Atlanta home. She currently resides in Atlanta, GA, with her husband, her daughter, and two high-maintenance cats.

Barbara is qualified to speak about writing and publishing, creativity and overcoming creative blocks. She has opinions on a plethora of other topics as well.