

## NEWS FROM

*Gary Gautier, Author*  
*shakemyheadhollow.com press*

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### Alice

Alice  
Gary Gautier  
Shakemyheadhollow.com press (with KDP)  
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Alice lives with her lover, Evelyn, in a cabin set in a dreamlike forest. Their hamlet, New Arcadia, is a small hippie utopia, but the utopian surface begins to crack for Alice when strange things start happening. A small deformed creature with a bowling ball head appears out of nowhere and turns to Alice for support. Her trips to the pond start to bring transcendental omens and strange visitors. Thus begins a journey in which Alice wanders away from her idyllic home to find another world and to slowly connect the dots of her own world's missing history. This post-apocalyptic adult hippie fairy tale is comic, poignant, thoughtful, and sparkling, a magical tapestry with many threads.

Award-winning writer Gary Gautier has taught university writing and literature and given numerous radio interviews. He has had an Amazon #1 bestseller (90-minute reads free), a novel shortlisted for the Faulkner-Wisdom Prize, a novella selected for the Innovative Fiction Book Club, and a screen adaptation of his novel, *Mr. Robert's Bones*, was selected to the second round (top 10%) at the Austin Film Festival. Gary has hitchhiked through 35 states and 16 countries and currently lives in the pueblos mágicos of central Mexico.



# Reviews and Endorsements

“The poetry of the novel is alluring, striking in tone, reminiscent of Brautigan’s *In Watermelon Sugar*”

Michael T. Tusa, Author of *And Trouble Followed* and *Chasing Charles Bukowski*

“Interesting throughout, with the dialogue and the ending especially well-done”

Dan Adams, author of *Fivehead*

*Gary Gautier is an Amazon #1 bestseller (90-minute reads free) and a two-time Faulkner-Wisdom Prize finalist.*

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Amazon: TBD

# Alice – Sample

Alice sat by the pond cupping her hand in the water, as if searching for an undersea plant or animal. The sun was going down. She stripped off her gown and dove in to do something but she could not remember what. When she came up, something was in her hand and the stars were above. They were the same stars as ever, but the constellations were different. Virgo and Scorpio and all the others were gone, and some new arrangement had begun. Something moved in the woods beside the pond. Not really in the woods. In a juniper bush. It was too big to be a fairy. Alice did not know what it was that moved in the juniper bush.

As Alice approached the shack, she could hear in the dark the whispering of the forest. She saw the lovely silhouette of Evelyn through the window, sleeping in bed. She entered, and Evelyn opened her eyes.

“I was at the pond,” Alice said.

“Was the rain king there?” asked Evelyn.

“No. Not today. But something happened. I dove in and the whole cosmos changed. The stars are still there but all the old constellations are gone. Virgo and Scorpio are gone now.”

Evelyn sat up. She was taller than average, with a nobility of stature that contrasted with the petite Alice.

“So then it’s a new age,” said Evelyn.

“Yes.”

Alice sat on the bed. Evelyn leaned toward her, pushed a brown curl from the brown eye of Alice, and kissed her twice. Once on her favorite birthmark in the whole world, the pink crescent moon on Alice’s neck just above the collarbone. And once on the mouth.

“We can hope,” she whispered.

“Yes,” said Alice. “And when we can’t hope, we can love.”

And they lay down together in the wood frame bed in the wood frame house in the woods.

The next day, John Wilson came over to the shack. No one ever called him “John.” They always said, “John Wilson.”

“Something happened with the fairies last night,” said John Wilson.

“I knew it,” said Alice.

# Alice

Gary Gautier

## Detailed Synopsis

Alice lives with her lover, Evelyn, in a cabin set in a dreamlike forest. Their hamlet, New Arcadia, is a small hippie utopia, but the utopian surface begins to crack for Alice when strange things start happening. A small deformed creature with a bowling ball head appears out of nowhere and turns to Alice for support. Her trips to the pond start to bring transcendental omens and strange visitors. Thus begins a journey in which Alice wanders away from her idyllic home to find another world and to slowly connect the dots of her own world's missing history.

Alice's quest is not without its series of guides: first, the mysterious sweeper, one of the archetypal figures who haunt the edges of New Arcadia; then Mab, a timeless spright whose dominion is the pond; then Rebecca, a medieval lass from many centuries back. Together, they form a chain of women whose transcendental power links them across time and space.

As Alice seeks to understand her place in the chain of visionary women, her ground-level expedition brings her to El Dorado, an alternative social order to her beloved New Arcadia. It is here that she discovers the specific history of her people. After the forgotten Hoarder Wars, in which civilization as it was known was wiped out, survivors branched into two groups, New Arcadia and El Dorado, based on two approaches for steering society away from another cycle of hoarding and war (approaches epitomized in the Lab in El Dorado and the Factory in New Arcadia). Alice discovers that the two societies are once again headed to conflict, and everyone is implicated -- she and her new friends in El Dorado as well as her old friends in New Arcadia.

The climax comes when Alice is detained in El Dorado, her friends from New Arcadia show up looking for her, and the heretofore invisible masters of the Lab and the Factory meet for a showdown. The climax, though, is not one of space battles or high-speed chases. This is fundamentally a human story, a story framed not by the conventions of the action genre but by something more intimate and philosophical. Thus, the reintegration of history, and of Alice's personal identity, is transacted in a space of reflection rather than in a space of high action. But it is a space of reflection still shimmering with the novel's unique landscape. This post-apocalyptic adult hippie fairy tale is comic, poignant, thoughtful, and sparkling, a magical tapestry with many threads.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. (English), Univ. of Colo. at Boulder, 1993; M.A. (English), Univ. of Texas at Austin, 1985.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Fiction

*Love's Ragged Claws* (shakemyheadhollow.com press, 2021), view at [www.garygautier.com](http://www.garygautier.com).

*Goodbye, Maggie* (shakemyheadhollow.com press, 2020), view at [www.garygautier.com](http://www.garygautier.com).

*Hippies* (CreateSpace, 2017), view at [www.garygautier.com](http://www.garygautier.com).

*Mr. Robert's Bones* (shakemyheadhollow.com press, 2015), view at [www.garygautier.com](http://www.garygautier.com).

### Children's Literature

*Spaghetti and Peas* (All About Kids Press, 2002), view at [www.garygautier.com](http://www.garygautier.com).

### Poetry

*Schematics and Assemblies of the Cosmic Heart* (shakemyheadhollow.com press, 2021).

Poetry published in *Masticadores International* (2021), *Solid Quarter* (2010), *Natchez Poetry Anthology* (2006), *Concrete Wolf* (2002), *Louisiana English Journal* (1998), and *Silver Quill* (1996).

### Literary Criticism

#### Books

*Landed Patriarchy in Fielding's Novels* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1998), 360 pages.

Intro. to the Random House edition of John Cleland's *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* (2001).

#### Selected Articles

"Slavery and the Fashioning of Race in *Oroonoko*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and Equiano's *Life*," *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 42 (2001): 161-79.

"Gothic Villains, Romantic Heroes, and a New Age of Power Relations," *Genre* 32 (1999): 201-34.

"Henry and Sarah Fielding on Romance and Sensibility," *Novel* 31 (1998): 195-214.

"Class, Gender, and the Unreliable Narrator in *Fanny Hill*," *Style* 28 (1994): 133-45.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

### Children's Literature

- "The Angel, the Clown, and the Chinese Dragon." 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Deep South Writers Conference.
- *Spaghetti and Peas*. Featured in the 2002 *Children's Writers and Illustrator's Market* (p. 112).

### Scholarly Books

- *Landed Patriarchy in Fielding's Novels*. Selected for Edwin Mellen Press's Studies in British Literature series.

### Novels

- *Hippies*. 4.1 stars in 85 Amazon ratings. Selected for Oregon Community Radio interview.
- *Mr. Robert's Bones*. Screen adaptation selected to 2<sup>nd</sup> round (top 10%) at Austin Film Festival.
- *Love's Ragged Claws*
  - Shortlisted for the William Faulkner-Wisdom Prize.
  - #1 Bestseller on Amazon's 90-minute reads (free) list.
  - Selected for the Innovative Fiction Book Club.

## PERSONAL

Born in New Orleans, I've hitchhiked through 35 states and 16 countries, run two marathons, and once, due to a series of misadventures, spent six months as the chef at a French restaurant. I hold a Ph.D. from CU-Boulder and have taught writing and literature at several flagship universities. My publications include children's and scholarly books, novels, poetry, and peer-reviewed articles.