



## Welcome to the Anthropocene

**Alice Major**

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Because the universe is big and all but incomprehensible, the average Jills and Joes don't dare ask too many existential questions. It is left to poets to face the truth in those places the rest of us fear to tread. The author of eleven books of poetry and essays, Edmonton's first poet laureate, and a woman comfortable in the realms of math, science, and cosmology, Alice Major is uniquely qualified to guide humanity through perilous ecological times. Thank you, Alice.

### *Annual grains*

*Agriculture's pornographic fact:  
reproduction gets co-opted for consumption.  
See that cornfield, tossing blonde tassels  
and swelling into snug green corsets —  
it's just the calculated wildness  
of market forces. No truly wild plant spends  
so much of its energy on sex,  
on putting out, on hanging on  
to seed heads that should shatter, scatter  
small grains into earth's soft box.*

*And all this captive sexuality goes for what?  
Youth, on its shallow roots, is taken  
at the height of summer, loses all its profit  
to pimped manipulation.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (January/February 2018)

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