



For Immediate Release

XOXOXpress announces the print and e-book publication of

Alice Modern

a novel by Michelle Auerbach



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Gambier, Ohio (30 September 2016) — Vienna is a city of tensions, fears, desires, and historic momentum. It's the city of Sigmund Freud, the Viennese Opera, the Jewish culture of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and portents of the future that everyone is striving to ignore. Enter Alice Modern, who embodies a city spinning into history. She is a Jewish girl living in a bourgeois household that, on its surface, seems permanent and immutable. Alice no longer fits into this static world, having served as a nanny for the poet HD and writer Bryher in Switzerland and having been exposed to free love, promiscuity, homosexuality, and women as artists and agents in their own lives. This book is a tour through psychoanalysis, literary history, and the ending of the old world through the loves and passions of Alice Modern.

Modernist poet H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) and her lover, Winifred Ellerman (known as Bryher), are central protagonists in this story of 1930s Europe. In this graceful, erotically lush novella, young Alice Modern tells the tale of leaving her bourgeois Jewish home in Vienna to work as a nanny in the household of H.D. and Winifred, caring for their young child Perdita. Entranced by the keen literary lives of “Kat” and “Gryphon” in Switzerland, Alice begins to transcend her tightly-bound life and discover who she is and might become. Her world opens and her sexuality awakens in a time of political turmoil and existential hazard, reckoning with her own inner storms and the approaching flames of fascism and holocaust.

“This taut, handsome tale brings the gone world so gleamingly to life you could imagine it was all happening just yesterday or earlier today or even tomorrow. Not only does Auerbach write excellent sentences, she deploys them with great care and craft to build a gripping tale of war, love, friendship, and the deep wells of the mind.”

— Laird Hunt, author of *Neverhome* and *Kind One*

Michelle Auerbach is the author of *The Third Kind of Horse* (2013 Beatdom Books). Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *Chelsea Magazine*, *Bombay Gin*, and the literary anthologies *The Veil* (UC Berkley Press), *Uncontained* (Baksun Books), and *You, An Anthology of Essays in the Second Person* (Welcome Table Press), among other places. She is the winner of the 2011 Northern Colorado Fiction Prize. Michelle is an organizational storytelling and communications consultant and lives in Colorado.

Alice Modern is available now through Ingram, at Amazon, and direct from the publisher at xoxopress.com

For more information about Michelle Auerbach, please visit www.michelleauerbach.com

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Cover painting by Anna Muntada, Barcelona, Catalunya

