

Michael Crummey



Picture: [Canadian Books and Authors](#)

Writer-editor [Zsuszi Gartner](#) was born in Winnipeg and grew up a Calgarian.

Her new short story collection, [Better Living Through Plastic Explosives](#), was a 2011 Giller nominee.

Reviewing this book in the *National Post*, [Jeet Heer](#) summarizes the context of [Alice Munro](#) and then describes Gartner as the Anti-Munro. That is, rather than the "green and hardy physical world" inhabited by Munro's characters, those of Gartner are "immersed in a completely technological environment."

Gartner is interested in speculative fiction, and she edited [Darwin's Bastards](#), a short story collection (D & M 2010). *Globe and Mail* reviewer [Micah Toub](#) places Gartner and this book, along with Margaret Atwood, [Douglas Coupland](#) and [William Gibson](#) in "an important [futuristic] counter-tradition" that stands in opposition to CanLit's dominant historic fiction.

Other works by Zsuszi Gartner include [All the Anxious Girls on Earth](#) (Key Porter 1999) and various works in the [Walrus](#) and other magazines. Gartner was once the senior editor of *Saturday Night* and in 2007 she won a National Magazine Award for Fiction. A long-time reviewer for the *Globe and Mail*, she has also appeared on the CBC program [Canada Reads](#).

In September 2011 she was interviewed by Michael Bryson in [The Danforth Review](#).