

News From Somewhere

**by Project Alphistia
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Foundling Gotcha Day



Labor Day weekend in 2018, I was a depressed mess. My cat Misha had died just one week before. I missed him terribly, but decided to try living without a kitty for a while. I was definitely mourning him, and it was tough.

As I went out with a load of laundry on Saturday morning, I saw an orange kitten sitting just outside the front door of my apartment house. There was a bowl of water and some food there. Someone was being nice to a stray, and being such a cat lover, I talked to this cute little furball.

He was extremely affectionate and came right over to me and rubbed up

against me, meowing loudly. He certainly wasn't afraid of people. I took my clothes down to the laundry room, and on the way back sat down and petted the kitten a little more. He was bright and alert, but he had fleas. I thought right away he probably had been dumped by someone cruel. It was possible he somehow had gotten lost, but probably not. I decided to make a "LOST CAT?" flyer to post around the neighborhood.

When I finished up with my clothes, I had passed the cat 4 times. Each time he seemed to beg me to stay with him. After the last time, I decided to knock on the door of the lady who lived across the hall from me. She had two cats and perhaps had put the food and water out for this stray.

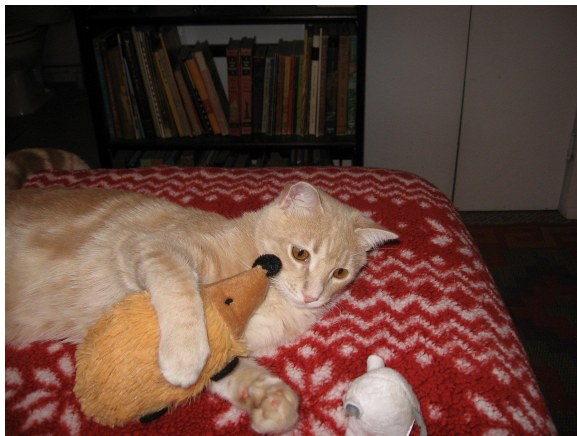
She had. She said she had been feeding him for almost a week. She told me she would've taken him in but her two cats did not want a third one in the house! She had tried that once before and it was a disaster! Her plan was to take the stray to the animal shelter right after the holiday. She volunteered there a few hours a week.

I went back downstairs, took another look at the little guy, who now hugged my leg. I picked him up, and thought, well at least I could bring him inside for the rest of the weekend. It was clear he was a good boy, probably used to being inside. He was very happy to be cuddled as I took him upstairs.

Except for vet visits, Pushkin has lived inside with me since that Labor Day weekend seven years ago. On the morning after the holiday, I left a note under the door of my neighbor and told her I took in the stray cat. And that his name was now Pushkin. Also, nobody ever claimed Pushkin...after a couple of weeks, I took down the "LOST CAT" flyers I had put up...

So yes, I wasn't over my previous cat Misha's absence, and Pushkin did have fleas. But I got him fixed and deloused, and he settled in very quickly. Got fat too! And he has been very happy since Day One. Extremely happy!

Each Labor Day, I celebrate "Gotcha Day" with my lil orphan. He is extremely affectionate and only gets a little frisky once or twice a month...with zooms at three in the morning, or nipping at my heels as I dry off after a shower now and then. He's nicer than a lot of people I've known, and like most cats and dogs, he loves unconditionally. And I sure do anthropomorphize the hell out of him. I love him too, unconditionally.



Pushkin in 2018, about a week after I found him xox.

Mad Max America

Mad Max is a series of movies set in a post-apocalyptic Australia. The first one was made in 1978 and there have been several more up through 2016. Each film is set in a bleak landscape, environmentally degraded and largely uncivilized. Modern society has collapsed and has been replaced with chaos and anarchy. There does not seem to be a national government anymore, or state government either. There are only loose

factions, "tribes", clans, and other small groups of people trying to survive. There is no reliable source of energy, and this lack features starkly in the films: the various groupings fight one another incessantly to have access to a minimum of fuel to keep what few vehicles and machines are left running.

There is no happy ending in any of the Mad Max movies. The world is cruel and many are dead or are killed all along the way. There is no democracy or elections of course. There is simply raw, brutal power. Greed is there as it always has been, as is the base nature of most of humanity.

It is not entirely "survival of the fittest", although that is the norm. Small groups of "civilized" people are hidden here and there, in the ruins of flattened cities, or isolated away from the remnants of a road network where there are gang settlements, fortresses, encampments and gated communities, protected by thugs and inhabited by their clans. Conflict is neverending.

The third decade of the 21st century in the United States is an environment politically, economically, and socially hurtling headlong into Mad Max America. One of the country's two political parties is controlled by a criminal gangster and his minions. They have captured the political system in a democratic election, by manipulating a massive faction of disgruntled and ill-educated voters that has been exploited by endless propaganda. The gangsters control all three branches of government, and many state legislatures and governorships. They are allied with far-right media outlets, think-tanks, and the leaders of most of the country's largest

corporations. There is a particularly ominous connection between the technology oligarchs who are buying elected officials. They intend to impose their undemocratic political ideas, control the economy for their own enrichment, and subject the population to their own economic and social whims to render them powerless and beholden to them, little more than serfs.

The result is a democracy on its deathbed, with a weakened opposition party that is incapable of fighting back (through its own corruption and deliberate blindness). Plenty of people oppose what is going on, but they are largely being shut out of the political process and intimidated into silence. The vast propaganda machine scapegoats minorities, but in particular immigrants (legal and undocumented, especially Latinos) and absurdly...an absolutely tiny group of transgendered individuals. They are abused as a substitute target short term for the right's traditional homophobia.

It's anyone's guess what the next decade will bring. Economic collapse due to the egregious mismanagement by the current political regime, along with real effects of climate change are both likely. A trumped up national emergency in order to declare an outright dictatorship is not out of the question. Already bad actors from the far right are colluding with their corporate counterparts to promote a collapse of norms at all levels of society. A Mad Max America with chaos and anarchy just like the Australian movies depicted is not unimaginable.

Small isolated communities like Project Alphistia's prototype could conceivably exist in such a reality, although it would not be a

secure situation. The medium/long term goal would be to exit Mad Max America for a safer territory, and that is explained in many other documents from Project Alphistia. Alphistia as a small community of one town and several villages would be self-sustaining as far as possible, existing under the radar and hoping to survive the transition long term to a sovereign country somewhere far from Mad Max America, which would be beyond redemption.

Urbana Small Press Fest on October 11



On Saturday October 11, I will participate in the Urbana Small Press Fest at Lincoln Square Mall in downtown Urbana. The fest is from 11 am to 5 pm. I'll sell my two books "Alphistia is My Homeland" and "The Reluctant American" for remarkably low prices! Nearly free will be several zines: "Info Alphistia" "Alphistia Zine" and "Alphistia Small and Beautiful". Lots of other vendors will be there too, and the whole thing is a great vibe, truly representative of The People's Republic of Urbana! Please come if you live within 6,000 miles of me 😊

Booklets about Alphistia in pdf format

Email me and I can send you a copy of any or ALL these booklets!

1 Alphistia Factzine A comprehensive introduction to Alphistia, published in 2023. 38 pages.

2 The Alphistian Manifesto A basic exhortation explaining why and how Alphistia should exist. Written 2005.

3 History of Alphistia The first volume, covering the years 1967-77. Written in 2014.

4 History of Alphistia from A-Z An alphabetical list of entries of Alphistia's history from 1967-77. Written in 2004.

5 Alphistian System of Government All aspects of Alphistia's government described. Written in 2021.

6 Alphistian System of Government (1975) This was written in 1975 by hand and was Alphistia's first real book.

7 Encyclopedia Alphistiana Alphabetical basic coverage of many topics about Alphistia. Written in 1998.

8 Constitution of Alphistia Text of current constitution of Alphistia, from 2005. This was published in 2010.

9 Constitution of Alphistia (1976) The original Alphistian Constitution, written in 1976.

10 CityBeat article about Alphistia

Article from Cincinnati CityBeat, an alternative newspaper. Article published in 2023.

11 Alphistia Zine A collection of basic information and articles about Alphistia, written in 2021.

12 Geography of Alphistia A description of the future geography of Alphistia arranged by each province. 2005.

13 Alphistia and Micronations A discussion of the micronation phenomenon and how Alphistia fits into it. 2023.

14 Alphistia Info A short description published for zine fests about Alphistia. 2023.

15 Alphistia in the 1970s A description of Alphistia in the 1970s, based on informational sources from that time.

16 Interviews with an Alphistian A collection of several interviews by journalists through the years 1995-2005.

17 Imagine Alphistia A booklet describing what Alphistia would be like after it is established. Written in 2011.

18 Alpha Village A description of Project Alphistia's Alpha Village, a small preliminary community. 1997.

19 Landanomikle A literary work about a mythical Alphistia from prehistory to the time of the Great Plague.

Comments welcome at alphistia@gmail.com

