

*Spring in a Time of Vacancy: Landscapes from the Distant Future* is my poetry chapbook, unveiling busy landscapes from an imagined, underlyingly distressed future. These poems are expressions of change, frustration and freedom by characters who are burdened by the impending apocalypse and certainty of an encroaching societal collapse. These particular characters have adopted a contemporary Back-To-The-Land outlook and lifestyle, a mentality that has resurfaced multiple times throughout history in young adults facing major socio-political unrest. Their disillusionment and detachment from mainstream society are reflected through the prevalence of the natural world in these poems.

While conceptualizing and writing *Spring in a Time of Vacancy: Landscapes from the Distant Future*, I focused heavily on worldbuilding. I created scenes based on the criteria of my initial idea for this dystopia and tried to interpret them as vividly and accurately as possible while also exploring space, form and rhythm. For this chapbook, I researched the Back-To-The-Land movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, as well as doing research in the form of pulling from my interpretations of the future and the minds of future outsiders. I specifically focused my research on observations of similar movements to the Back-To-The-Land movement that emerged during other periods in history and in countries other than the United States. This gave me a sense of how this set of ideals is flexible and universal and how it could emerge again in the future, as it most likely will.

## Works Cited

- Belew, Kathleen. "The Crunchy-to-Alt-Right Pipeline." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 15 Dec. 2022, [www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/12/fringe-left-alt-right-share-beliefs-white-power-movement/672454/](http://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/12/fringe-left-alt-right-share-beliefs-white-power-movement/672454/). Accessed 6 May 2025.
- Glazer, Jonathan, director. *The Zone of Interest*, 9 Feb. 2024, Accessed 6 May 2025.
- Wallmeier, Philip. "Exit as Critique. Communes and Intentional Communities in the 1960s and Today." *Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung*, vol. 42, no. 3 (161), 2017, pp. 147–71. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44425366>. Accessed 6 May 2025.
- Edgington, Ryan H. "'Be Receptive to the Good Earth': Health, Nature, and Labor in Countercultural Back-to-the-Land Settlements." *Agricultural History*, vol. 82, no. 3, 2008, pp. 279–308. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20454851>. Accessed 6 May 2025.