

**The Little Creative Interview**  
*with Nandini Bhattacharya*

*Let's Meet...*

# Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya

**Author, teacher, mother, tree-hugger,  
rooming with two humans and two marmalade cats**

Nandini Bhattacharya was born and raised in India and has called the United States her second continent for the last thirty years. Wherever she has lived, she has generally turned to books for answers to life's big and small questions. Her short stories have been published in Meat for Tea: the Valley Review, Storyscape Journal, Raising Mothers The Bacon Review, The Bangalore Review and Ozone Park Journal. She was first runner-up for the Los Angeles Review Flash Fiction contest (2017-2018), a finalist for the Fourth River Folio Contest for Prose Prize (2018), long-listed for the Disquiet International Literary Prize (2019), and a finalist for the Reynolds-Price International Women's Literary Award (2019). Love's Garden is her first novel. She is working on a second novel titled Homeland Blues. She lives outside Houston with her family and two marmalade cats.

You can find out more about her at:

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/20003001.Nandini\\_Bhattacharya](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/20003001.Nandini_Bhattacharya)

**1) When did you first begin expressing yourself creatively and how?**

The earliest I can remember is age four. I'm ashamed to say that it took me another thirty years to venture into writing, but I'll say in self-defense that I haven't stopped since.

**2) From where do you draw inspiration for your work?**

Great authors, life, and increasingly, futuristic debates and thoughts about our planetary and human future. Wherever I have lived, I've generally turned to books and art for answers to life's big and small questions.

### **3) What work are you currently most proud of?**

My kid; my first novel Love's Garden, a work of woman-centric historical fiction set in India in the last century releasing on October 27, 2020.

(Pre-order at <https://aubadepublishing.com/books/loves-garden/> and use code PREMLATA for free shipping.)

That I'm working on a second novel titled Homeland Blues about love, racism, xenophobia, and other mysteries.

Also, my container-grown Lacinato kale. Yes, that.

My short stories have been published in OyeDrum, Meat for Tea: the Valley Review, Storyscape Journal, Raising Mothers, The Bacon Review, The Bangalore Review, and Ozone Park Journal. I was first runner-up for the Los Angeles Review Flash Fiction contest (2017-2018), a finalist for the Fourth River Folio Contest for Prose Prize (2018), long-listed for the Disquiet International Literary Prize (2019 and 2020), and a finalist for the Reynolds-Price International Women's Literary Award (2019). Proud of these humble accomplishments.

You can read more about my work and interests on my website <https://www.nandinibhattacharyawrites.com>

And my blog <http://oneplanetonlyone.com>

### **4) What advice would you give to others about the creative side of what you do?**

Write as much as you can. I myself can't do the write three hours everyday thing, though that may be because I'm also a Professor and a Single Mom. (Both very respectable professions, though one unpaid. Guess which.) But do write AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, whenever and wherever the urge gets you. READ a ton, and not only in your own genre and category but around it. Talk to and write with other writers. Have a writing group if you can, even virtually. Attend workshops and conferences, local and virtual ones if you can't manage more. Put something you've written aside, and return to work on it a month later. Read your own work aloud to yourself. Travel if you can; it's amazing what it does to refresh you. Take walks if you can. Last but not least, BELIEVE.

**5) What advice would you give to others about the business side of what you do?**

It's important to resist rejection and to keep submitting. Submit shorter work regularly. Follow Publishers Weekly, Duotrope, NewPages, Poets & Writers, etc. Have a Social Media presence. (I know . . . SIGH.) Go to pitching events if you can. Look for Funding for Residencies, Workshops, Retreats (Poets & Writers and Alliance of Artists Communities are great resources, among others).