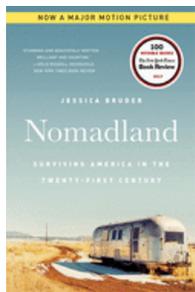


Bookbites

Bookends on Main

Nomadland



Having just watched the movie version of Nomadland, I was drawn to revisit the book by Jessica Bruder, published in 2017. The “nomads” are a group of mostly older people whose loss of jobs and homes during the Great Recession turned them into migrant workers living in vans and RVs. They travel

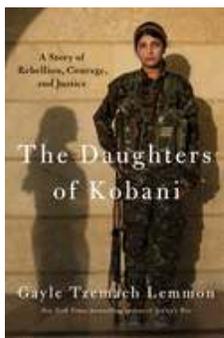
to seasonal jobs in the beet fields, Amazon warehouses and campgrounds and take in both the grandeur and harshness of the American landscape. They show incredible resilience, find community, friendship and a lot of solitude. They aren’t particularly sad or pathetic. They “do what you have to do” to survive but mostly they also are choosing this lifestyle over other options available to them.

The “senior living” villages

in America emphasize a certain amount of luxury, good weather, and social life. Nomadland is more or less the opposite, an alternative view of aging in America motivated by independence and ingenuity.

The book Nomadland has had a long shelf life, one of those books kept continually in stock. The movie is being touted as Oscar-worthy, especially for Frances McDormand as Fern. Read the book, see the movie.

The Daughters of Kobani, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon



The Daughters of Kobani: A Story of Rebellion, Courage, and Justice chronicles an amazing story. In 2014 a band of women faced off against ISIS in the small Kurdish town of Kobani,

Syria. ISIS was capturing and brutalizing women. Under the leadership of a fearless woman, an all-women’s militia was formed, gaining the respect of men and the support of US Special Operation forces in the process, and beat ISIS. They didn’t stop there. They worked to install their own political vision based on women’s equality. Women are participating in town councils, are educated, are continuing their leadership in de-

veloping an egalitarian country.

This remarkable story is being turned into a min-series: Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, are set to produce their first scripted television drama through their company HiddenLight Productions.

2021

March

March: Women’s History Month

2021 Theme—

Valiant Women of the Vote:

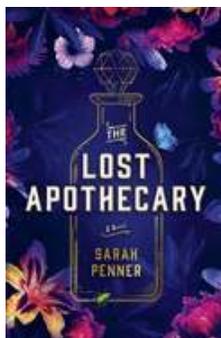
Refusing to Be Silenced

Int’l Women’s Day March 8



Annual Downtown Events have been given assigned dates. Winter-Daze 2021 will surely come back, the Community Cookout in September also, don’t you think? Three Ladies Nights Out are planned. The Mabel is planning an outdoor concert in late spring. “Back to normal” will creep up on us, but will we resist it?

The Lost Apothecary, rev. by Heather Obenberger



The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner was a very entertaining read. It moved between modern day London and London in the 1790s. First, the reader meets

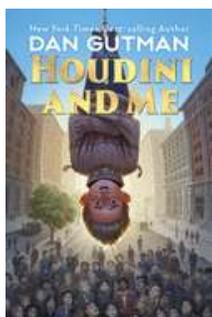
Nella, the owner of a hidden apothecary shop who dispenses various poisons to women who come to her for help ridding themselves of men who have done them wrong. One such customer sends her servant girl, Eliza, to procure a poison from the

apothecary. Eliza is fascinated by both Nella and her shop and over time the two become friends. Eliza ultimately becomes Nella's apprentice, but sadly their friendship ends in tragedy.

Over two hundred years later, a young woman named Caroline arrives in London on what was to be a romantic tenth anniversary trip for her and her husband. Caroline has just learned of her husband's infidelity and decides to go to London alone to process her husband's betrayal and to decide if she wants to remain in her marriage. On one of

her soul-searching walks along the streets of London she learns of a mudlarking tour of the River Thames and decides to give it a try. Mudlarking is searching through river mud in the hopes of finding items of historical interest or value. Caroline finds such an item and its true value is revealed over the following days as Caroline endeavors to uncover the mystery of the small blue vial. In doing so, she discovers the fascinating history of the apothecary and her apprentice and more importantly she rediscovers something about herself.

Houdini and Me, rev. by Pat Trotter



Houdini and Me by Dan Gutman
Middle reader

Harry is obsessed with anything about Harry Houdini. In fact, Harry lives in the house the real Houdini

lived in while in New York. As an 11-year-old, Harry believes he should be

able to have his own phone. His mom says, "no." But Harry is given and old

Is he really Houdini?

flip-phone on his birthday and he keeps it hidden from his mom. Then strange things begin to happen. Harry starts

receiving text messages from someone who claims he is the real Harry Houdini and he is contacting Harry from the other side. Is he really Houdini? Is this some sort of prank someone is playing on Harry? Why does this Houdini texter want Harry and what does he want with him? Does he really want to change bodies with Harry? What would happen if he really does change bodies with Harry and leave Harry trapped back in 1921? A fascinating read for all fans of magic and Houdini.

For St. Pat's Day (Check your cookbook for instructions)

Irish Stew Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1 pound mutton or lamb cutlets, bones removed, cut into 2-inch/5-centimeter chunks (or how about beef?)
- 2 pounds potatoes, peeled and cut into quarters
- 1 cup roughly chopped onion
- 1 cup finely sliced leeks (cleaned)

- 1 cup roughly chopped carrots
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 pints dark beef stock
- Salt, Pepper
- Optional: 2 or 3 cabbage leaves, thinly sliced



Irish Soda Bread Ingredients

- 4 to 4 1/2 cups flour
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 Tbsp butter
- 1 cup currants or raisins
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 3/4 cups buttermilk



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How to Triumph Like a Girl

by Ada Limon

I like the lady horses best,
how they make it all look easy,
like running 40 miles per hour
is as fun as taking a nap, or grass.
I like their lady horse swagger,
after winning. Ears up, girls, ears up!
But mainly, let's be honest, I like
that they're ladies. As if this big
dangerous animal is also a part of me,
that somewhere inside the delicate
skin of my body, there pumps
an 8-pound female horse heart,
giant with power, heavy with blood.
Don't you want to believe it?
Don't you want to lift my shirt and see
the huge beating genius machine
that thinks, no, it knows,
it's going to come in first

Passover starts March 27, Easter April 5, Ramadan starts April 12

Children's books add modern
perspectives to these traditional
spring religious feasts. Here are a
few samples:

