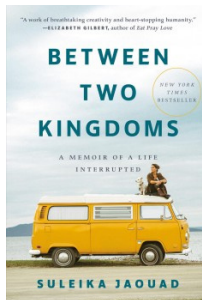


Further Reading

Between Two Kingdoms (Feb 2021)

by **Suleika Jaouad**

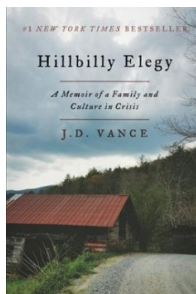
A writer and activist describes the harrowing years she spent in early adulthood fighting leukemia and how she learned to live again while forging connections with other survivors of profound illness and suffering.



Hillbilly Elegy (Jun 2016)

by **J.D. Vance**

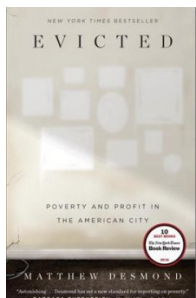
Shares the poignant story of the author's family and upbringing, describing how they moved from poverty to an upwardly mobile clan that included the author, a Yale Law School graduate, while navigating the demands of middle-class life and the collective demons of the past.



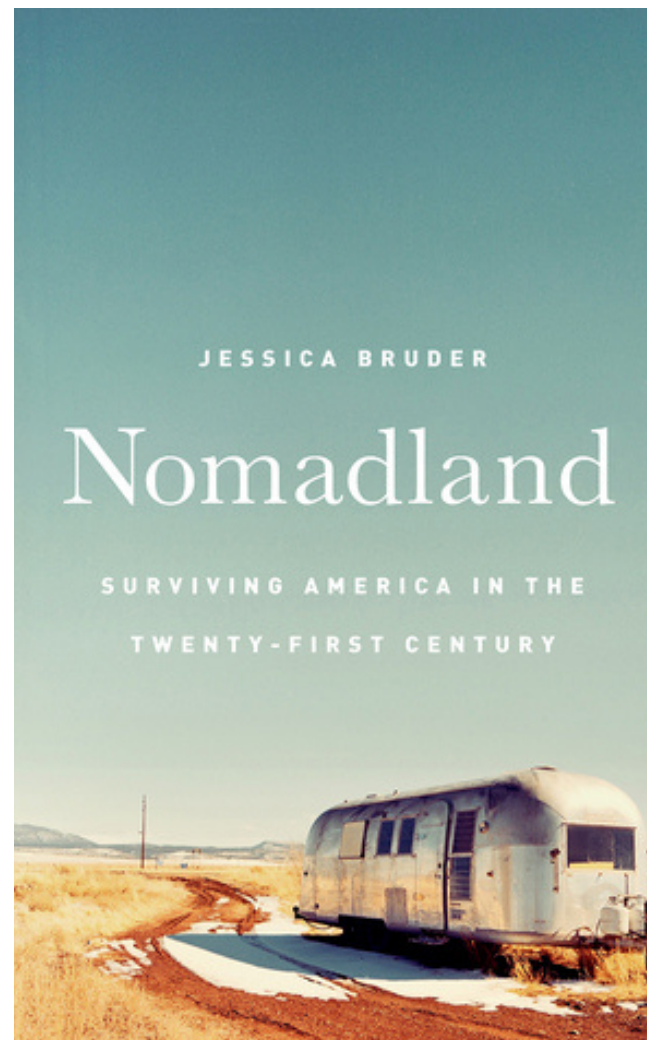
Evicted (Mar 2016)

by **Matthew Desmond**

A Harvard sociologist examines the under-represented challenge of eviction as a formidable cause of poverty in America, revealing how millions of people are wrongly forced from their homes and reduced to cycles of extreme disadvantage that are reinforced by dysfunctional legal systems.



BOOK DISCUSSION



Book Description

Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century is a 2017 nonfiction book by American journalist Jessica Bruder about the phenomenon of older Americans who, following the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009, adopted transient lifestyles traveling around the United States in search of seasonal work (vandwelling).

Discussion Questions

- 1) What parts of becoming a "workamper" do you think would be hardest to adapt to? What would be easiest?
- 2) What aspects of the itinerant lifestyle does the author celebrate or criticize? What aspects of society more broadly?
- 3) What was the most surprising, intriguing or difficult to understand about the people living the nomadic life?
- 4) What parts of "workamper" life or our wider culture do you wish the author had examined in more depth?
- 5) Can you point to a specific part of the book, a particular person's story or an anecdote, which struck you personally--as interesting, profound, silly, shallow, incomprehensible, or illuminating?

6) In her travels, Bruder came across a Kurt Vonnegut quote which van-dwellers share: "Every other nation has folk traditions of men who were poor but extremely wise and virtuous, and therefore more estimable than anyone with power and gold. No such tales are told by the American poor. They mock themselves and glorify their betters." Do you believe this to be true? Why or why not?

7) Does the author--or can you--offer solutions to the problems or issues raised in the book? Who would implement those solutions? How probable is success?

8) When Bruder drove her own van home to Brooklyn, she began to notice vans she hadn't noticed before--parked on a residential street, in a gas station, a store lot. Has reading this book made you more aware of anything like this or people around you?

9) Linda May lives the nomadic life, but dreams of building an "earthship" and settling down. If economic circumstances improved for the people profiled in this book, do you believe many of them would go back to their former ways of life?

10) After reading this book, have you gained a new perspective--or did the book affirm your prior views?

Questions provided by <https://oneread.dbrl.org/>