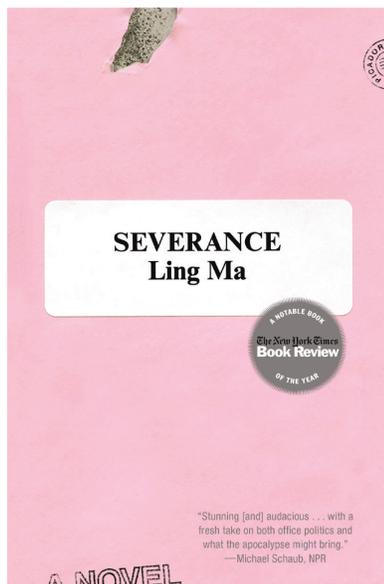
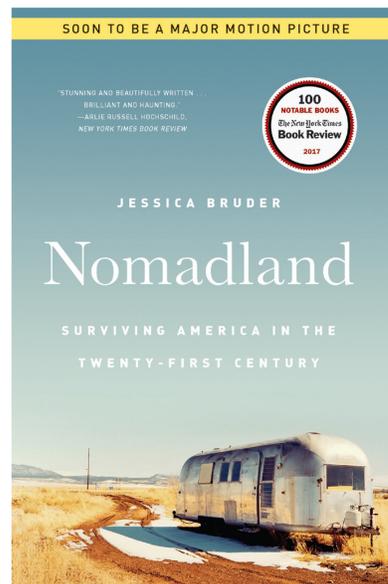


NEVADA READS | 2020

Reading Guides



LING MA
Severance



JESSICA BRUDER
*Nomadland: Surviving America in the
Twenty-First Century*



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

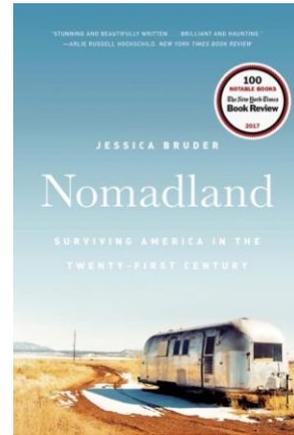


Nevada Reads 2020

Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century by Jessica Bruder

“People who thought the 2008 financial collapse was over a long time ago need to meet the people Jessica Bruder got to know in this scorching, beautifully written, vivid, disturbing (and occasionally wryly funny) book. *Nomadland* is a testament both to the generosity and creativity of the victims of our modern-medieval economy, hidden in plain sight, and to the blunt-end brutality that put them there.”
—REBECCA SOLNIT, *Hope in the Dark*

This compelling work of immersive journalism describes the lives of nomadic workers who travel from one temporary job to another (including in Nevada) to make ends meet. Working long hours at beet harvests and walking miles in Amazon warehouses, these mostly older Americans live in their RVs, cars, or vans and represent an increasing population of migrant workers living just this side of homelessness. Author Jessica Bruder provides both a critique of our current economy and a celebration of human resourcefulness and resilience.



Subjects/themes of the book

RV and vehicle living
Eco-housing/Earthships
Communities and families of choice
Survival strategies/resilience
Retirement
Economic recession/insecurity
Alternative economies
Migrant labor
Working poor
Homelessness



Author: Jessica Bruder

Jessica Bruder is an award-winning journalist whose work focuses on subcultures and the dark corners of the economy. She has written for *Harper's Magazine*, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. Bruder teaches narrative storytelling at Columbia Journalism School and lives in Brooklyn with her dog, Max.

(Author bio courtesy of W.W. Norton's website and jessicabruder.com)



***Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder**

Discussion Questions:

<http://oneread.dbri.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Discussion-Questions-Nomadland.pdf>

Book reviews:

<https://thenewswheel.com/book-review-nomadland-by-jessica-bruder/>

<https://www.denverpost.com/2017/10/18/nomadland-book-review/>

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jessica-bruder/nomadland/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/19/books/review-nomadland-jessica-bruder.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/17/books/review/nomadland-jessica-bruder.html>

Interviews and Articles:

<http://oneread.dbri.org/2019/05/29/2019-one-read-winner-about-nomadland-by-jessica-bruder/>

<http://oneread.dbri.org/author/onereadadmin/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2017/10/25/the-rough-lives-of-older-americans-in-nomadland/#6883c8dd41e2>

<https://www.npr.org/2017/09/25/553532591/nomadland-tracks-rising-number-of-americans-living-on-the-road>

<https://www.risingupwithsonali.com/jessica-bruder-discusses-her-new-book-nomadland-surviving-america-in-the-twenty-first-century-extended-interview/>

Articles by Jessica Bruder:

<https://harpers.org/archive/2017/05/snowdens-box/>

<https://harpers.org/archive/2014/08/the-end-of-retirement/>

<http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2018/05/the-tragic-end-to-a-black-car-drivers-campaign-against-uber.html>

<https://www.inc.com/magazine/201309/jessica-bruder/psychological-price-of-entrepreneurship.html>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/these-workers-have-new-demand-stop-watching-us/>

<https://www.wired.com/story/meet-camperforce-amazons-nomadic-retiree-army/>

Keep Reading! Books similar to *Nomadland*:

Alta California: From San Diego to San Francisco, A Journey on Foot to Rediscover the Golden State by Nick Neely

Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh

Hope in the Dark (Essays) by Rebecca Solnit

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land

Nickle and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

On the Clock: What Low-Wage Work Did to Me and How It Drives America Insane by Emily Guendelsberger

Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes by Ted Conover

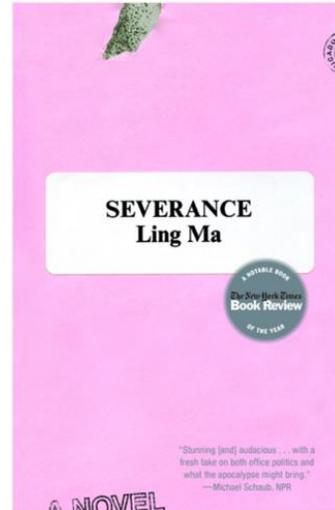
Nevada Reads 2020

Severance by Ling Ma

“A satirical spin on the end times—kind of like *The Office* meets *The Leftovers*.” —Estelle Tang, *Elle*

One of the hundreds of dedicated employees in her Manhattan office tower, Candace Chen is a first-generation American who manages the overseas production of specially designed Bibles. She is so dedicated that she barely notices when a plague of biblical proportions begins sweeping the globe. But as Shen Fever spreads, she eventually flees her decimated city, joining a small band of fellow survivors as they encounter the wrenching sight of fever-stricken zombies who are trapped in repetitive, mundane acts of daily life.

A send-up and takedown of the rituals, routines, and missed opportunities of contemporary life, Ling Ma’s *Severance* is a moving family story, a quirky coming-of-adulthood tale, and a hilarious, deadpan satire. Most important, it’s a heartfelt tribute to the connections that drive us to do more than survive.



Subjects/themes of the book

Modern office culture
Great Recession
Millennial culture
Zombies
Apocalypse
Office Satire
Consumerism



Author: Ling Ma

Ling Ma was born in Sanming, China, and she grew up in Utah, Nebraska, and Kansas. She attended the University of Chicago and received an MFA from Cornell University. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a journalist and an editor. Her writing has appeared in *Granta*, *VICE*, *Playboy*, *Chicago Reader*, *Ninth Letter*, and other publications. A chapter of *Severance* received the 2015 Graywolf SLS Prize. She lives in Chicago.



Severance by Ling Ma

Discussion Questions:

<https://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides/fiction/11347-severance-ling-ma>

<https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/severance/guide>

Reading Guide:

<https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/severance/guide>

Book reviews:

<https://locusmag.com/2019/02/ian-mond-reviews-severance-by-ling-ma/>

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/36348525-severance>

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/ling-ma-severance-captures-the-bleak-fatalistic-mood-of-2018>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/21/books/review/severance-ling-ma-we-can-save-us-all-adam-nemett.html>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/the-business-of-survival/>

<https://www.vox.com/culture/2018/8/21/17722168/severance-ling-ma-review>

Interviews with Ling Ma:

<https://chireviewofbooks.com/2018/08/14/severance-ling-ma-interview/>

<https://pen.org/pen-ten-interview-ling-ma/>

<https://www.killyourdarlings.com.au/article/conversation-with-ling-ma/>

<https://www.latimes.com/books/la-ca-jc-ling-ma-20180824-story.html>

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/10/637473748/in-satirical-severance-a-stricken-country-works-itself-to-death>

<https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2018/08/22/apocalyptic-office-novel-an-interview-with-ling-ma/>

Keep Reading! Books similar to *Severance*:

Friday Black by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

Future Home of the Living God: A Novel by Louise Erdrich

Golden State by Ben Winters

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Tell the Machine Goodnight by Katie Williams

Then We Came to the End by Joshua Ferris

Trick Mirror: Reflections of Self-Delusion by Jia Tolentino

We Can Save Us All by Adam Nemett

You Are Not a Gadget by Jaron Lanier