

NOMADS



LOGLINE

Trapped in a high cost, low wage nation, several Americans seek to thrive—and survive—on wheels.

SYNOPSIS

The number of Americans living out of their vehicles is soaring: senior citizens who can't fund retirement; families squeezed by long hours and low wages; millennials unable to afford housing. *Nomads* follows three unique characters as they each embark on an unforgettable road trip across a

strange new America. A 60-year-old woman desperate to escape a toxic marriage moves into a minivan, and sets out on a quest for belonging. A young girl comes of age in an RV after her parents sell their suburban home and embrace “roadschooling.” A self-made YouTube star saves others from homelessness—one van at a time. Along the way, hopes and expectations confront hard realities. They seek true freedom, but at what cost? How will this radical experiment change them? How will their journey change the way we see America?

TREATMENT

Jo Lynn stands at the baggage claim in a regional Oregon airport, trembling with anticipation. She's finally left a failed, 35-year marriage that had her sitting around “waiting to die.” By moving into a minivan, she can join a vibrant community of senior citizens living out of their vehicles on public land. “This is the first time I've really truly felt free,” Jo Lynn says. Fast-forward several months and this rugged lifestyle begins to test her resilience like nothing else has. To make it, she must learn radical self-reliance, while confronting a painful past.

Less than fifty miles away, 12-year-old Leilani unpacks Harry Potter books in a 350-square-foot RV—the new home she'll share with her two younger brothers and their parents, Eric and Allana. Sick of working longer and longer hours and never spending time as a family, Leilani's parents hatched a new plan: travel the country, find remote work, and “roadschool” the kids. “We live right now in the moment,” Eric explains. It's a family mantra that's all too real for Leilani, who suffers from a potentially fatal blood disorder. But optimism runs aground when repairs drain their savings. Desperate for work, Eric and Allana discover a nationwide network of employers who rely on RV migrants for seasonal labor. It's an entirely different roadschooling than the one they imagined.

Thousands gather in the Arizona desert to hear 65-year-old Bob Wells, a self-described “van evangelist,” and the pied piper of this radical new counterculture. He preaches nomadism as a solution to economic insecurity, depression, and mindless consumerism. It's a message that resonated with Jo Lynn and nearly 400,000 YouTube subscribers, many of them baby boomers wiped out by the 2008 crash. When a global pandemic strikes, Bob gets ready for a wave of refugees. He commits to a new mission: acquire land and guarantee safe harbor. “The Titanic just hit the iceberg,” Bob says. “My moral obligation is to get as many people as possible into lifeboats.”

Nomads is the story of three Americans at a dramatic turning point in their lives—exploring themes of home, belonging, and reinvention.

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