

- To All The Boys 3 streams on Netflix
- Swift launches first re-recording

CULTURE

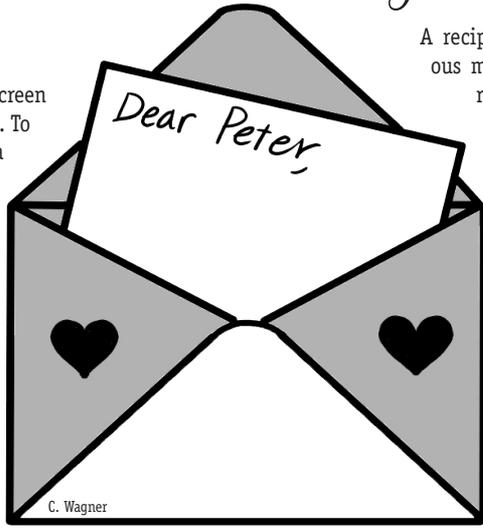
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Gomez walks through To All the Boys I've Loved Before: Always and Forever

by Maya Gomes
People Editor

Netflix released the first film in the book-to-big screen adaptation of the To All The Boys franchise in August 2018. To All The Boys I've Loved Before followed introverted Lara Jean Song Covey (Lana Condor) as her sister released her five secret love letters, leading Lara Jean to begin a fake public relationship with popular athlete Peter Kavinsky (Noah Centineo). The viewer watched Lara Jean and Peter experience the ups and downs of their fake relationship, and more notably, how it became intertwined with their true feelings for one another.

The second film, released in February 2020, focused on the young couple in a completely authentic relationship this time around. During this movie, a new love interest, John Ambrose McClaren (Jordan Fisher), entered the picture.



A recipient of one of the love letters in the previous movie, John Ambrose complicated the couple's romance, leaving us to question who Lara Jean would end up with during the entire To All The Boys: P.S. I Still Love You film. By the end of the movie, Lara Jean came to the realization that she loves Peter and chose him, preparing to set the third movie in action.

The third to the series was released to Netflix on February 12, and the hype around it is still buzzing nearly three weeks later. To All The Boys: Always and Forever begins with Peter and Lara Jean going into their senior year of high school together. The plotline of the movie focuses on the hardships that the two face as they await graduation, namely college acceptances and

decisions. Lara Jean, set on going to school close to Peter, who is going to Stanford University on a lacrosse scholarship, begins to question her plan for the fall when she takes on a trip to New York City with her classmates. Having already determined that she wants to go to UC Berkeley and transfer to Stanford to be close to her boyfriend, Lara Jean unexpectedly falls in love with New York University.

The third To All The Boys movie received a three-star rating on IMDb. While most of us (I hope) cannot relate to Lara Jean and Peter's ultimate "fake relationship love story," the third film accurately portrays the pressure that high school seniors experience every year when it comes to college decisions, and how they can affect relationships with our family, friends, and significant others. You can watch To All The Boys: Forever And Always on Netflix today!

CHAN INTRODUCES US TO BETWEEN FRIENDS

by Jordan Chan
News Editor

BETWEEN FRIENDS is a three-person indie-pop band based in Los Angeles whose songs will make you feel as though you're in

your own coming-of-

age movie. In early

February, the group

released a new EP

entitled tape 001,

which is composed

of five new songs.

They also put out

a music video for

one of the songs,

shiny, at the time

of release. Thir-

teen days later,

another music

video dropped for

the song gushers.

They shot most of this

video with a handheld camera through a fisheye lens

which, combined with clips of kids skateboarding and

careless dancing, reflects the "coming-of-age" feel

that accompanies almost all of their music.

A brother-sister duo, Brandon and Savannah

Hudson, and drummer Brennan Benko comprise the

group. Before forming BETWEEN FRIENDS, the three

artists had created music with a similar sound to The

Heirs, a group that performed on America's Got Talent

for some time. However, their new band's journey took

off in September 2018 with a single titled iloveyou,

which preceded their debut EP, we just need some

time together. They recorded the music video for

iloveyou on a VHS camera, echoing the feel of their

most recent video. Since their journey began, they have amassed almost 100,000 followers and 1,463,267 average monthly listeners on Spotify. I'm certain these numbers will only continue to grow.

The band's biography on Spotify reads, "We make music in our bedrooms for u to listen to in yours." I think the personal, casual ambience of their music makes them special. You can tell that they've poured a lot of themselves and their emotions into their art. In a weird way, the band sounds both generic and unique at the same time; it's as though you can understand the emotions that went into their

piece while still being impressed at how creative each song is.

Although I think a broad variety of listeners would enjoy their music, I especially recommend giving this band a go if you like dream pop or indie rock music. Some of their songs are slightly reminiscent of other artists like Dayglow, Silver Sphere, and Kid Bloom, but — coming from somebody who listens to a crazy mishmash of genres — you might enjoy BETWEEN FRIENDS, regardless of whether those artists are familiar to you or not. Their music is perfect for blasting in the car with your friends (once quarantine is over) or just listening in your room while romanticizing a life you don't have right now (I'm kidding of course).



B. Gibson

Nomadland portrays unique lifestyles

by Alia Arafah
Editorial Editor

Starring Frances McDormand and directed by Chloé Zhao, the movie Nomadland is an exquisite and unparalleled take on the struggles of working-class America, as well as a journey of self discovery. McDormand's exceptional performance as the protagonist, Fern, in this simple, yet powerful story, provides an outlet for those who are often overlooked in modern society.

Empire, NV, was once the location of a large gypsum mine owned by the United States Gypsum Corporation. This mine employed much of the town until 2011, when it was shut down, leaving Empire a ghost-town. Fern is a former Empire resident who loses everything as a result of the mine closure. With nothing left, Fern decides to travel the country in a van and take on jobs wherever and whenever she can. Along the way, she befriends people who, like her, travel the country as American nomads.

Nomadland introduces a frequently forgotten demographic of Americans to the audience. This group of people consists of different backgrounds, age groups, and passions, but they all have the same goal: to leave common society and instead surrender themselves to the kindness of strangers and the brutality of nature. These so-called van

dwellers often meet during gatherings, or they find each other on the road.

McDormand's portrayal of Fern offers further depth to the story. Fern is a complicated character who deals with an even more complicated loss. She has trouble accepting help and dealing with her emotions, and the actress perfects this struggle throughout the film. In fact, when she

was younger, McDormand

herself dreamt of one day

living in a van, changing

her name to Fern, and

traveling the country.

In a sense, Nomadland

allowed her to achieve

this dream. The co-stars of

the movie, Swankie, Linda May, and

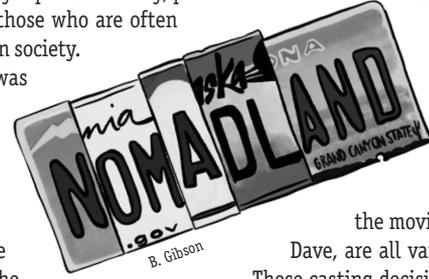
Dave, are all van-living people in real life.

These casting decisions allow the movie to feel less fictionalized and provide a deeper connection between the characters and the audience.

In addition, breathtaking landscapes are captured throughout the movie, with Fern's most notable travel destinations including Badlands National Park and Point Arena in Northern California. The variation in climate and scenery between the different locations acts as a collage of some of America's most stunning and beautiful environments.

It is difficult to accurately portray a unique and hidden lifestyle such as the one in Nomadland, but McDormand and Zhao do so gracefully. The movie is a must-watch for those who want an escape from their daily lives, even if it is for just a couple of hours.

(Sources: Variety, MSN News, Decider, Hulu)



Dr. Seuss Enterprises ceases publication of six works

by Jordan Chan and Jenna Roselli
News Editor and Center Editor

On Mar. 2, which was Read Across Amer-

ica Day and beloved children's book

author Dr. Seuss's 117th birth-

day, Dr. Seuss Enterprises

(DSE) announced that it

would cease the publi-

cation and licensing of

six works containing

cultural stereotypes

and racist depictions of

characters. "These books

portray people in ways that

are hurtful and wrong," the

company proclaimed. This decision

is part of a "broader plan to ensure

[DSE's] catalog represents and supports all

communities and families." The discontinued

titles include And To Think That I Saw It on

Mulberry Street, If I Ran the Zoo, McElligot's

Pool, On Beyond Zebra!, Scrambled Eggs Super,

and The Cat's Quizzer. DSE has sold nearly

seven hundred million copies of the books

in question globally, but it's unlikely

that this decision will have a signif-

icant financial impact on

the company.

And To Think That I Saw It on

Mulberry Street includes an illustration

of an Asian man donning a conical hat while eating from a bowl of rice with a pair of chopsticks. The original story's illustration called this character a "Chinaman" and gave him bright yellow skin, although

Seuss revised this picture to say "Chinese man" and have colorless skin in the 1980s. If I Ran the Zoo features depictions of two African men with bare feet and grass skirts.

DSE's announcement has caused the sales of Dr. Seuss books to increase dramatically on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. In fact,

the top 20 slots on Amazon's bestseller list included both And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street and If I Ran the Zoo, along with multiple other favorites from Seuss like The Cat in the Hat, which has also received criticism in the past, although DSE did not choose to discontinue it. Furthermore, many libraries intend to keep the six stories on their shelves.

The New York Post published a quote from Seuss's step-daughter, Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, in light of the recall, and although she stated "there wasn't a racist bone in [Seuss's]

body," she believed the DSE decision to stop publication of the six books was "a wise decision."

The announcement did, however, cause an uproar from conservative figures in the media and in Congress. Kevin McCarthy, the House Minority

leader, showed his sup-

port for Seuss by

posting a video to

his social media

accounts of him-

self reading from

Seuss's Green Eggs

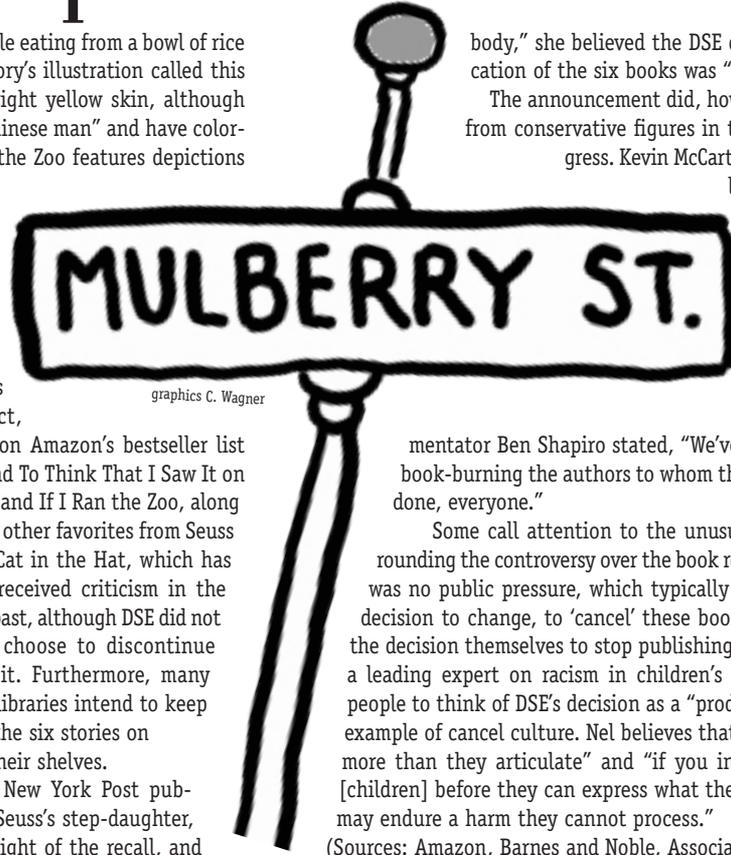
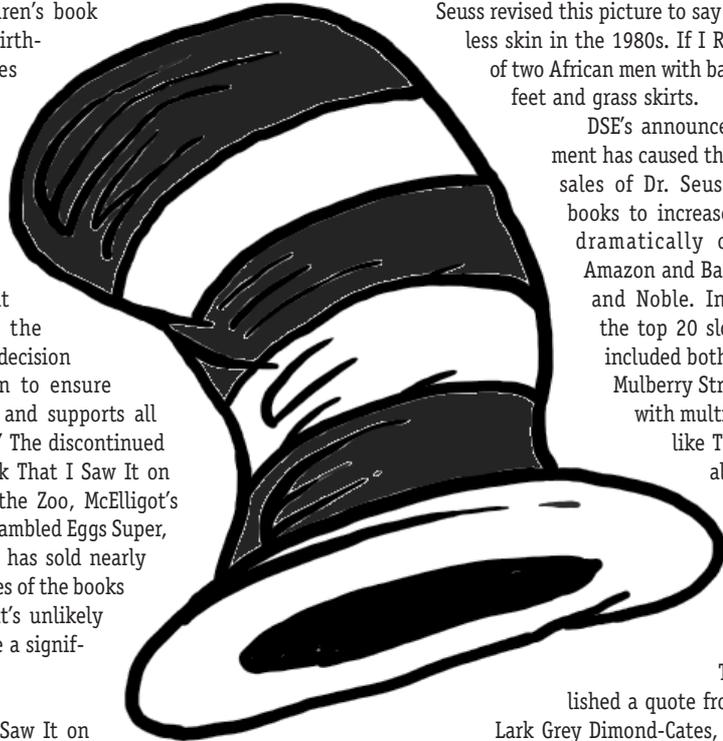
and Ham. Conser-

vative political com-

mentator Ben Shapiro stated, "We've now got foundations book-burning the authors to whom they are dedicated. Well done, everyone."

Some call attention to the unusual circumstances surrounding the controversy over the book recall, noting that there was no public pressure, which typically precedes a company's decision to change, to 'cancel' these books. Instead, DSE made the decision themselves to stop publishing the books. Philip Nel, a leading expert on racism in children's literature, encourages people to think of DSE's decision as a "product recall" and not an example of cancel culture. Nel believes that "children understand more than they articulate" and "if you inflict racist images on [children] before they can express what they're articulating, they may endure a harm they cannot process."

(Sources: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Associated Press, Washington Post, Dr. Seuss Enterprises, NPR, The Guardian, NY Times)



graphics C. Wagner