



COOKING THE BOOKS : NOVEMBER 2024

Disclaimer...you may end up with too many books!

Soy and Ginger Steamed Fish



Hello

Hope you remembered to turn back the clock. And now you have an

extra hour to read my newsletter at leisure, explore the links, and even make some purchases if you're the mood for retail therapy.

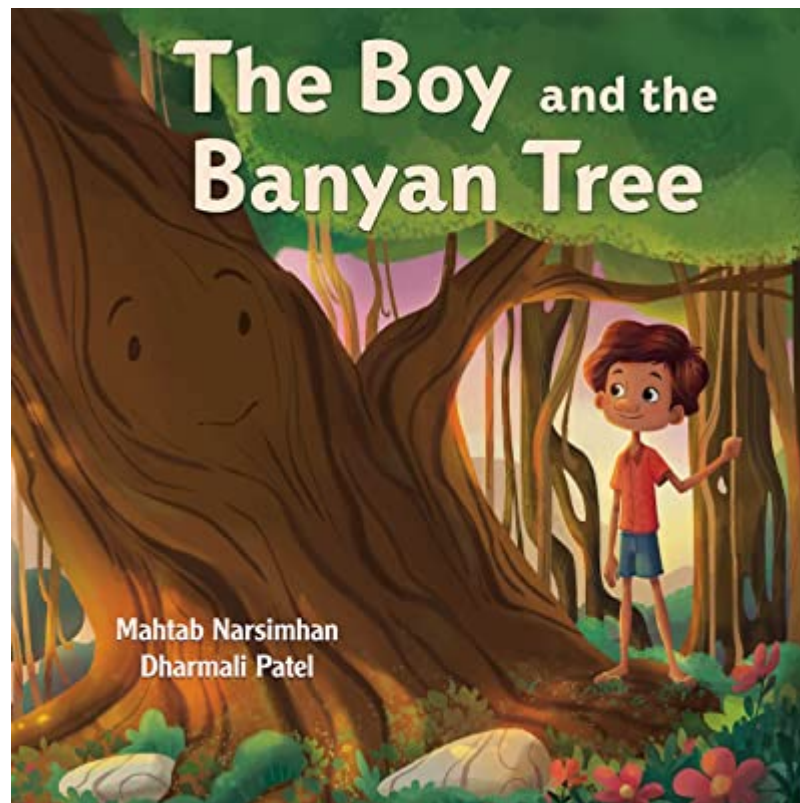
You have got to try this recipe! I know...I know. I say this for every single one I include in my newsletter, but that's the whole point, isn't it? I try it out first, tweak as needed, and share it with all you lovely readers.

Marion Grasby (Marion's Kitchen) is one of my fave chefs and I love almost all of her recipes! [This](#) one is no exception. Simple, delish, and healthy!

If you don't have a steamer at home, there's a workaround. Try it! Let me know what you think.

Have any other (fish or veggie) steamer recipes kicking around? Shoot them my way. I'm always up for trying out something new. If I include it in one of my upcoming newsletters, you get the credit!

A gift for someone you love!



This remains one of my fave picture books (which I wrote!). An appreciation for those who loved and nurtured you. IMO, a thoughtful gift that will last a lifetime.

Some of my fave reviews for The Boy and the Banyan Tree:

[Story time with Stephanie:](#)

"No shade to Shel Silverstein but The Giving Tree is a book that needs to find a place at the back of the bookshelf to make room for

this new and improved version of a tree story. I love how Mahtab Narsimhan has taken inspiration from a classic and beloved book and has updated it for a new generation of readers. In this story, the banyan tree does not have to sacrifice herself for the needs of the boy. She doesn't have to give all of herself just to make him happy. Instead she lovingly guides him to make his own decisions and to help himself when he is in need and in turn the boy knows how to pay it forward.

In a world sometimes constantly filled with hate, this book is a balm of kindness. Through sharing this story with young readers, adults are sharing the message that we need to lift each other up and help each other while also taking care of ourselves in the process."

~Stephanie Lamb

"This beautifully written and illustrated story should be on every child's bookshelf.

I love that the things the boy receives go beyond the one-sidedness of providing him with shelter, food and enjoyment. Instead, he discovers that the full joy in a relationship comes not from simply taking, but in the gratitude, mutual caring, and a desire to give back.

An excellent choice for classroom discussions that foster personal growth in our youngsters." **~ Valerie Sherrard, Writer**

"The Boy and the Banyan Tree by Mahtab Narsimhan, illustrated by Dharmali Patel, is a lovely tribute to nurturing, kindness and giving back to those in need, and to caregivers.

A young boy and his village are sheltered by a large banyan tree. It provides shade, a place to play, food, shelter and even a view to where help can be found when drought and hunger hit the village. Beneath its canopy, the boy learns valuable life lessons, including caring for others who are less fortunate. One day he sets out into the bigger world equipped with the tools to nurture as he has been nurtured.

Many years later, the boy, now a father, returns. Sadly, the tree seems to be forgotten by his village. By introducing his daughter to his love for the tree, he and his daughter are able to awaken the villagers love, and the tree is once again appreciated and celebrated by being included in village life once again.

Narsimhan's understated text is complemented by luminous illustrations. A perfect addition to family and school libraries with an important message and broad cultural appeal." **~Anonymous Reviewer**

Get a copy from your fave bookstore, today!

What I've been up to...



This picture was taken on [Al's Habrich Trail](#). My feelings about hiking and writing are pretty much similar.

I love having done it!

It's challenging, hard, even frustrating while I'm doing it, but the joy at having completed it, is out of this world. This picture was taken on

the return journey. Smiles, utter relief, and a sense of accomplishment.

I've started a number of smaller projects now; a picture book, a short story and fleshing out a couple of sold books. New projects are so much fun and life is good!



Saw the northern lights earlier this month. This picture was taken around midnight from my balcony. They looked better in pictures but it was a thrill to see the faint green streaks in the sky.

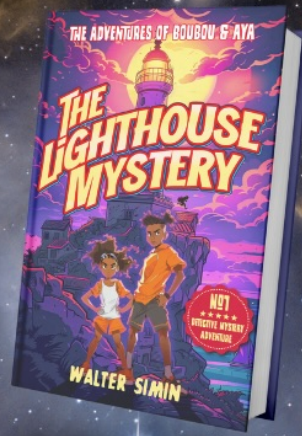




Also had the pleasure of seeing one of today's best stand-up comedians [Sindhu Vee](#). Went backstage to meet her after her Vancouver performance. A wonderful, warm, person and just as funny as her stage persona.

If you have never watched a Sindhu Vee show, I urge you to watch it now! Fair warning, some of them have profanities. BUT for the most part, Sindhu riffs on her personal life and family matters. *Love!*

Something exciting your way comes...



Get your Christmas gifts early..



I've totally butchered Bradbury's novel title (forgive me)but you know what I mean.

I'm making Christmas easy by nudging you, a couple of months in advance, to check out these cool middle grade and children's books (including The Third Eye!) for the avid reader in your family.

https://books.bookfunnel.com/BFHOSTKIDS_NOV/r3idoslj6f

I bet there's at least *one* book here you'll love. And if it happens to me mine, I won't mind one little bit ;)

Some final words...

That's it for this short and spicy newsletter. Make that soy and ginger steamed fish and you'll know what I mean.

My current fave quote:

All that is Gold Does not Glitter, Not All Those who Wander Are Lost."
~ J.R.R. Tolkien

Please remember to [whitelist my email address.](#)

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter, and if you did, please share it with people you think might enjoy it. Or better yet, ask them to subscribe.

Until the next newsletter...[rock on!](#)

xo

Mahtab

Stardust Stories

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