

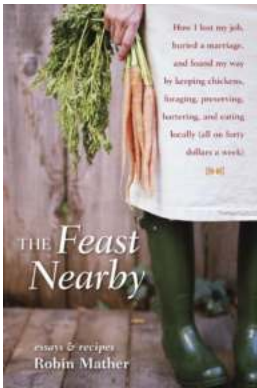
How I Lost My Job, Buried My Marriage, and Found My Way By Keeping Chickens and Foraging



Life can take unexpected turns, leading us down paths we never imagined. It was a devastating moment when I lost my job – a job I had dedicated many years to. Little did I know that this loss would become the catalyst for a journey of self-discovery, eventual healing, and a newfound appreciation for the simple pleasures of life. In this article, I will share the story of how I overcame adversity by immersing myself in the world of chickens and foraging.

The Darkness of Losing My Job

Losing my job felt like the end of the world. I felt lost, hopeless, and uncertain about what the future held for me. It wasn't just the loss of a steady income; it also affected my self-esteem and strained my relationship with my partner. The stress and financial burden overshadowed our marriage, causing a rift that seemed impossible to bridge.



The Feast Nearby: How I lost my job, buried a marriage, and found my way by keeping chickens, foraging, preserving, bartering, and eating locally (all on \$40 a week) by Robin Mather (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3642 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 274 pages



Discovering the Therapeutic Power of Chickens

During this challenging period, I stumbled upon an article about the therapeutic benefits of keeping chickens. Intrigued, I decided to give it a try. To my surprise, these small feathered creatures brought a sense of joy, purpose, and routine back into my life. Watching them roam free, pecking at the ground and finding their own sustenance, I learned valuable lessons about resilience and adaptability.

As I delved deeper into the world of chicken keeping, I realized how interconnected their lives were with nature. Their foraging instincts inspired me to explore foraging for my own sustenance. I started researching the edible plants and mushrooms in my area, and soon I was spending hours in the woods, uncovering hidden treasures and connecting with nature in an entirely new way.

From Foraging to Reconnecting with My Partner

While foraging became a personal passion, it also became a shared activity with my partner. We started going on foraging expeditions together, immersing ourselves in nature and rediscovering the joys of each other's company. It was during these peaceful walks in the woods that we began to heal our broken relationship. The bond we formed over our shared fascination with the natural world and the excitement of discovering new edible treasures brought us closer than ever before.

The Bountiful Harvest of Lessons Learned

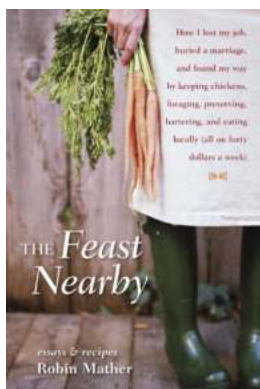
Keeping chickens and foraging not only provided me with a newfound sense of purpose but also imparted valuable life lessons. I learned the importance of adaptability, resilience, and being in tune with nature. By witnessing how chickens foraged for their food, I gained a deeper appreciation for the resources available to us if we only look and adapt. This mindset shift transformed not only my personal life but also my professional one, as I began to explore new career opportunities with a fresh perspective.

The Power of Self-Discovery and Healing

In the end, losing my job and burying my marriage became the catalyst for discovering a side of myself that had remained dormant for far too long. By keeping chickens and foraging for food, I unearthed a deep connection to nature

and a newfound sense of purpose. These humble activities were not just means of survival; they became a source of profound healing and personal growth.

Life may throw unexpected curveballs our way, but it is how we choose to respond that defines us. Sometimes, finding solace and direction in the simplest of activities can have a profound impact on our lives. So, if you find yourself in a dark place, consider keeping chickens, exploring the wonders of foraging, and embracing the therapeutic power of nature. You might just find yourself on a transformative journey of self-discovery, just like I did.



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Within a single week in 2009, food journalist Robin Mather found herself on the threshold of a divorce and laid off from her job at the Chicago Tribune. Forced into a radical life change, she returned to her native rural Michigan.

There she learned to live on a limited budget while remaining true to her culinary

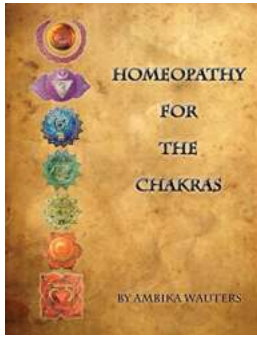
principles of eating well and as locally as possible. In *The Feast Nearby*, Mather chronicles her year-long project: preparing and consuming three home-cooked, totally seasonal, and local meals a day--all on forty dollars a week.

With insight and humor, Mather explores the confusion and needful compromises in eating locally. She examines why local often trumps organic, and wonders why the USDA recommends white bread, powdered milk, and instant orange drinks as part of its “low-cost” food budget program.

Through local eating, Mather forges connections with the farmers, vendors, and growers who provide her with sustenance. She becomes more closely attuned to the nuances of each season, inhabiting her little corner of the world more fully, and building a life richer than she imagined it could be.

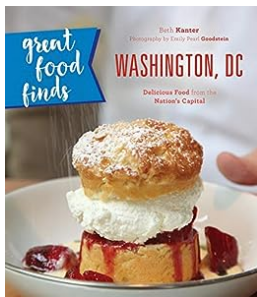
The Feast Nearby celebrates small pleasures: home-roasted coffee, a pantry stocked with home-canned green beans and homemade preserves, and the contented clucking of laying hens in the backyard. Mather also draws on her rich culinary knowledge to present nearly one hundred seasonal recipes that are inspiring, enticing, and economical--cooking goals that don't always overlap--such as Pickled Asparagus with Lemon, Tarragon, and Garlic; Cider-Braised Pork Loin with Apples and Onions; and Cardamom-Coffee Toffee Bars.

Mather's poignant, reflective narrative shares encouraging advice for aspiring locavores everywhere, and combines the virtues of kitchen thrift with the pleasures of cooking--and eating--well.



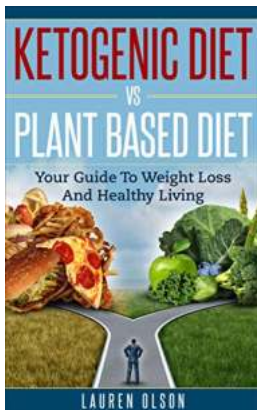
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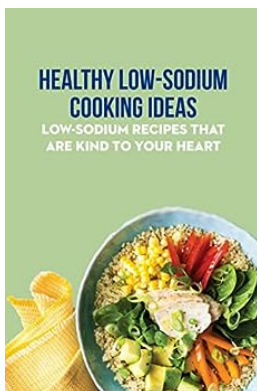
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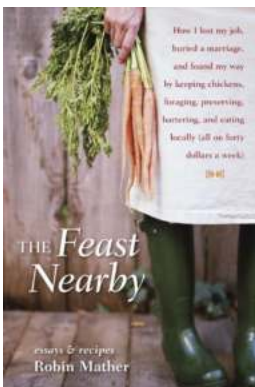
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