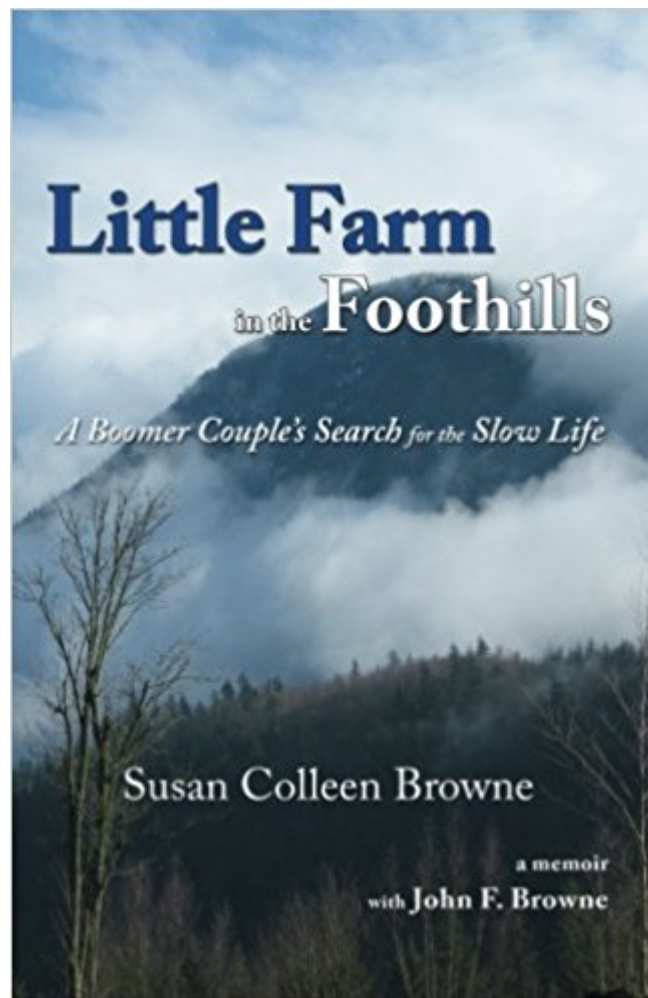




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Little Farm In The Foothills: A Boomer Couple's Search For The Slow Life



Synopsis

When two Boomers flee the city for a slower, simpler, and more serene lifestyle, they discover that simplicity can get awfully complicated—and life becomes anything but serene. In this feel-good tale for gardeners, nature-lovers, and dreamers of all ages, *Little Farm in the Foothills* follows a midlife couple's pursuit of the "new" Great American Dream—living closer to the land—as they start growing their own organic food, living locally, and transforming an old clear cut into a little homestead. At the time Susan and her husband John first conceived the notion of having a country place, they'd settled in a comfortable and convenient home in the city, happily raising some vegetables and berries in the back yard. Being experienced gardeners, they figured that relocating would be no big deal—they'd expand the garden a little, have a bit more peace and quiet. So they bought 10 acres in the middle of the woods and prepared to pretty much transfer that comfortable town life to the new property. But this modest plan becomes an adventure that is more life-changing than they could have ever imagined. There was so much to this new life they never faced before—for starters, the back-breaking labor of breaking ground by hand and wildlife predation of their first crops. Despite a tight budget and many roadblocks along the way, they must also cope with unexpected adversity like isolation, infrastructure failures, and extreme weather. *Little Farm in the Foothills* is not a memoir about farming—it's a warmhearted story of making a dream come true. As Susan writes of their Foothills home, "it's not a farm, it's not even a farmette, but it's the dream of a farm." A delightful account. *The Bellingham Herald*. *Little Farm in the Foothills* | A Washington State Library "Summer Reads" book selection: "The Browne's foray into slower living in Whatcom County is an enjoyable read. Their delightful, yet very real, experiences in making the big leap toward their dreams make for a humorous and charming book." Washington State Librarian Jan Walsh

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Customer Reviews

The Browne's foray into slower living in Whatcom County is an enjoyable read. Their delightful, yet very real, experiences in making the big leap toward their dreams make for a humorous and charming book. --Jan Walsh, Washington State Librarian

It's the story, in memoir form, of a couple's commitment to their 'starter homestead,' a ten-acre former clear-cut in the western foothills of the Cascades. Author Susan Colleen Browne and her husband, John, relate their tale of migration from the overdeveloped suburbs of Bellingham to a place they could raise their own food, start a small orchard, and generally live what they thought would be the slow life of boomers at the cusp of retirement. Along the way, they discover that what they want is not always what may be best for them.

--BackHome Magazine

Describing their yearning for a return to nature and a slower-paced lifestyle in this memoir, author Susan Browne and her retired policeman-husband trace the origins of this sentiment in a deeply personal story. Raised in a city, she longed for 'outdoor space'

the story of the complications that went with this search for a rural site to homestead reveals the hopes and foibles of a couple in pursuit of the Great American dream.

--Current Books on Gardening and Botany

Susan Colleen Browne is a graduate of Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University. A community college creative writing instructor and novelist, Susan is the creator of the Village of Ballydara series, set in Ireland. Susan lives with her husband John at Berryridge Farm in the foothills of the Pacific Northwest. When Susan isn't digging compost, weeding veggie beds, or wrangling hens, she's working on her next Village of Ballydara story! You can contact Susan at www.susancolleenbrowne.com. You'll also find recipes and tales from Berryridge Farm at www.littlefarminthefoothills.blogspot.com

This was a good book and I enjoyed it. I wished that it had focused more on the farm than some other things. The most meaningful part to me was when the author wrote about her husband's near heart attack when they were in a near snowbound condition. It brought to mind just how important it is for those in middle or older age groups to locate near a place where accessibility and medical

facilities are a reasonable distance away. Reading that section of the book made the entire book worthwhile! We live in the country on forty acres but are actually only three miles from a town of 2500 where there is a small hospital with an emergency room. Another blessing is that our driveway is flat so it would not be difficult for a four-wheel drive vehicle to get to our house.

The story was somewhat interesting, I probably will not read it again though.

Little Farm in the Foothills is a great book! Anyone who wants to "get away from it all" and live off the land really does need to read this book. Living off the land is a good thought but this author brought real life in the mix. It's hard work. So, when you finish reading this book it makes you think twice about giving "it" all up. It gives you something to think about!

Entertaining and enjoyable reading about a couple who decided to simplify their lives and the trials and tribulations that went with this decision. Truly well written and well worth reading. Makes people wonder, "Could I do that?".

I wanted to read about the farm in the foothills not all her personal life including about her first marriage. There was too little about the farm which there never was a farm Just what they called it.

This story had a lot of ups and downs and really makes you think before rushing out to buy land to build on. I learned a lot about how much work and money it will take and appreciate this author being honest. I wish her and her husband the best in health, safety and happiness.

I enjoyed this book immensely. Most likely because I am a Boomer myself and because I could identify closely with the Brownes. I am also familiar with the area in which this book set, so it was like listening to the experience from a friend whom I haven't seen in a while. If you like stories about starting a small farm from scratch in a somewhat hostile area, you will like this book. And the fact that the folks doing it are in their retirement years is a life affirming bonus.

My husband and I recently moved onto seven acres in the country so I could relate to much of this book. The writing is easy to read and enjoyable. If you ever dreamed of getting away from it all on your own land you'll appreciate the author's experiences.

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