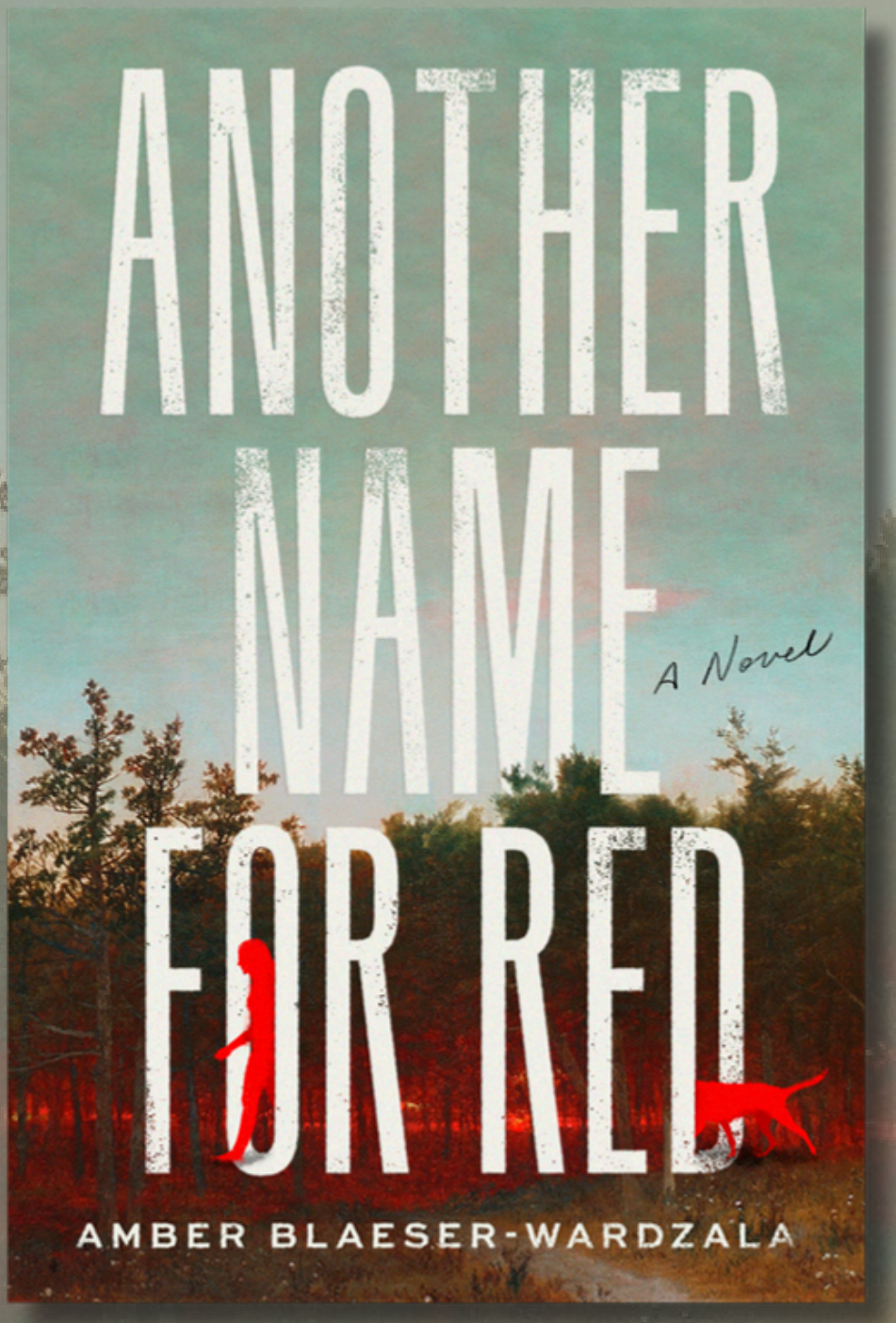
ANOTHER NAME FOR RED

By Amber Blaeser-Wardzala



Book Club Kit

Art credit: Metropolitan Museum of Art

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Dear reader,

Through my novel, *Another Name for Red*, I hope to shine a light on the ongoing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit (MMIWG2S) crisis and contribute to the call for societal and governmental change to protect our Indigenous relatives.

Amber Blaeser-Wardzala

QUESTIONS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. We meet Middle Sister some time after the disappearance of Older Sister, and we quickly understand she is deeply haunted by immense grief. How does grief shape her relationships and her place within her family? How does being "in the middle" affect her sense of responsibility?

2. How does Older Sister's disappearance impact each member of the family differently? What does this tell us about Older Sister's role in the family?

3. Nookomis possesses a unique perspective on life and death. How does her matriarchal status affect each family member? What role does she play in Middle Sister's journey? How do her beliefs and wisdom influence the story?

4. Discuss the role of community in the novel. What factors contribute to Middle Sister's alienation from her community? Is it primarily the result of grief over Older Sister's disappearance, feelings of guilt and inadequacy, or something else?

5. Compare Casanova's relationship with Middle Sister to her relationships with other men in the novel. What makes Casanova's friendship significant? How does their relationship challenge common portrayals of male-female relationships in fiction?

6. John Smith is one of the novel's most unsettling figures. What does he represent within the story? Why do you think Middle Sister finds herself both repelled by and drawn to him?

7. John Smith gives Middle Sister a brooch, a gift she ultimately accepts despite her unease about him. Why do you think she accepts it? In what ways is the brooch both a gift and a source of pain? How does this duality mirror some of the novel's larger themes?

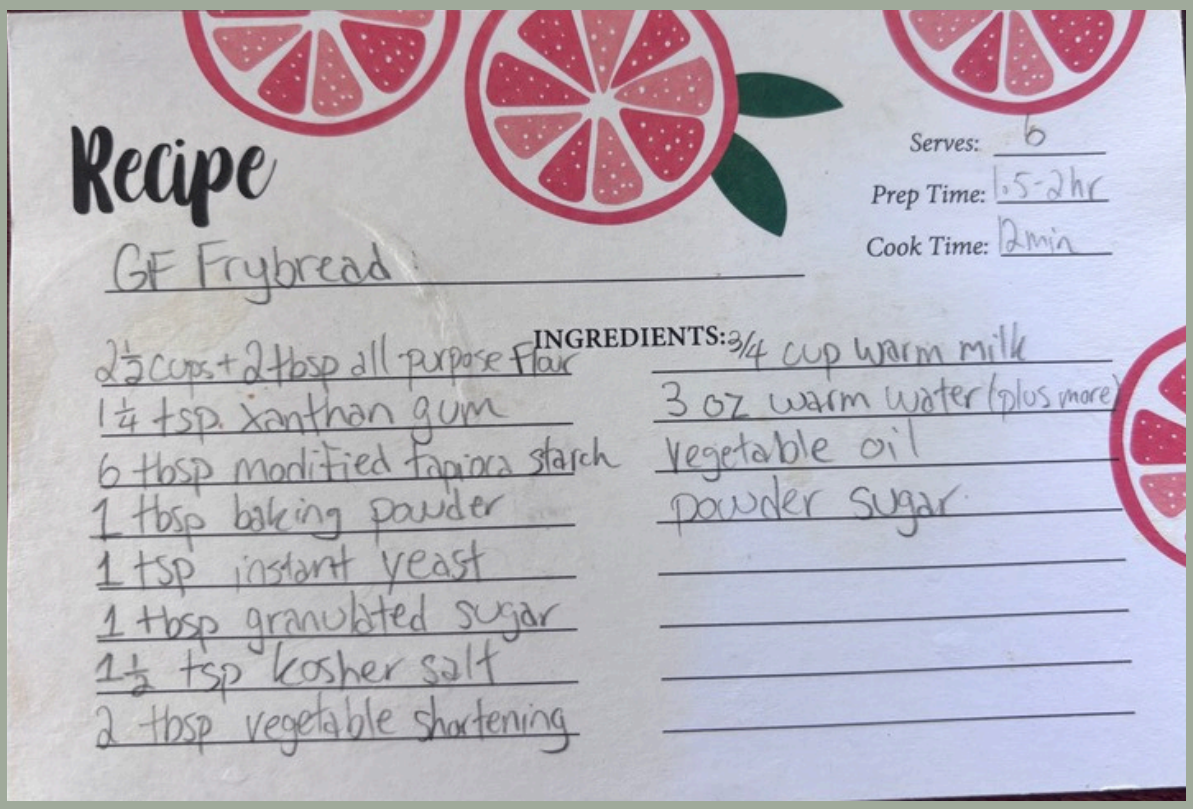
8. What significance do you see in Middle Sister's search for Eric? Do you think her investigation puts her in unnecessary danger, or is it an essential act of love, accountability, and resistance in the face of institutional failure?

9. The novel highlights the crisis of MMIWG2S. Local authorities are portrayed as ineffective in responding to Older Sister's disappearance. How does this reflect larger themes of systemic neglect and injustice? What did you learn from Middle Sister's perspective?

10. Throughout the novel, the color red appears repeatedly. Red can symbolize many things, including love, danger, violence, sacrifice, resilience, and remembrance. Which meanings of the color felt most prominent in the novel? How do these different uses of red connect to one another?

AMBER'S GLUTEN-FREE

FRYBREAD RECIPE



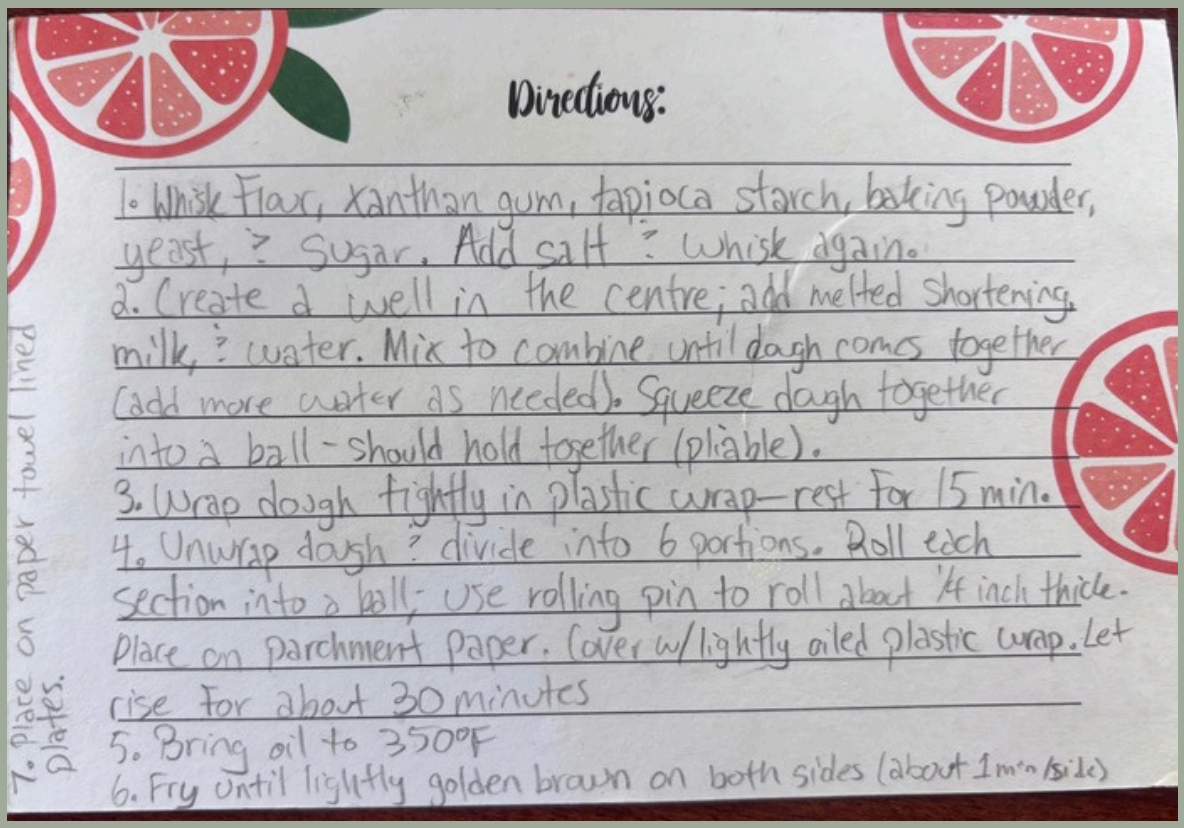
Recipe

Serves: 6
Prep Time: 1.5-2hr
Cook Time: 2min

GF Frybread

INGREDIENTS:

- 2½ cups + 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1¼ tsp. xanthan gum
- 6 tbsp modified tapioca starch
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tsp instant yeast
- 1 tbsp granulated sugar
- 1½ tsp kosher salt
- 2 tbsp vegetable shortening
- ¾ cup warm milk
- 3 oz warm water (plus more)
- vegetable oil
- powder sugar

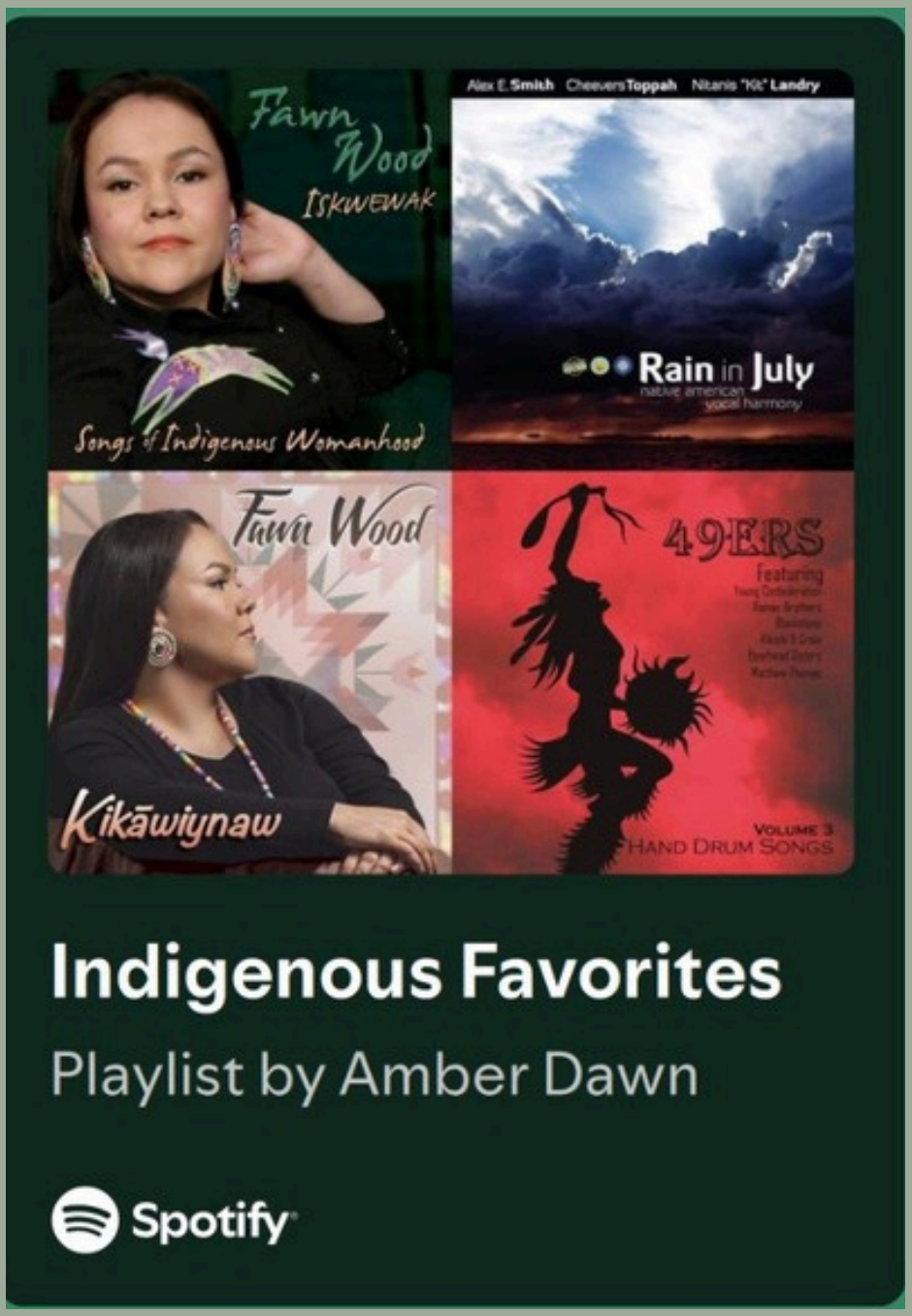


Directions:

1. Whisk flour, xanthan gum, tapioca starch, baking powder, yeast, ⅔ sugar. Add salt & whisk again.
2. Create a well in the centre; add melted shortening, milk, & water. Mix to combine until dough comes together (add more water as needed). Squeeze dough together into a ball - should hold together (pliable).
3. Wrap dough tightly in plastic wrap—rest for 15 min.
4. Unwrap dough & divide into 6 portions. Roll each section into a ball; use rolling pin to roll about ¼ inch thick. Place on parchment paper. Cover w/lightly oiled plastic wrap. Let rise for about 30 minutes
5. Bring oil to 350°F
6. Fry until lightly golden brown on both sides (about 1 min/side)
7. Place on paper towel lined plates.

INDIGENOUS TUNES

TO LISTEN TO AMBER'S PLAYLIST, CLICK ON THE LINK OR SCAN THE QR CODE!



INDIGENOUS FAVORITES PLAYLIST LINK

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MMIWG2S CRISIS?

Scan the QR code above or visit our website at https://sites.prh.com/mmiw-resource-page