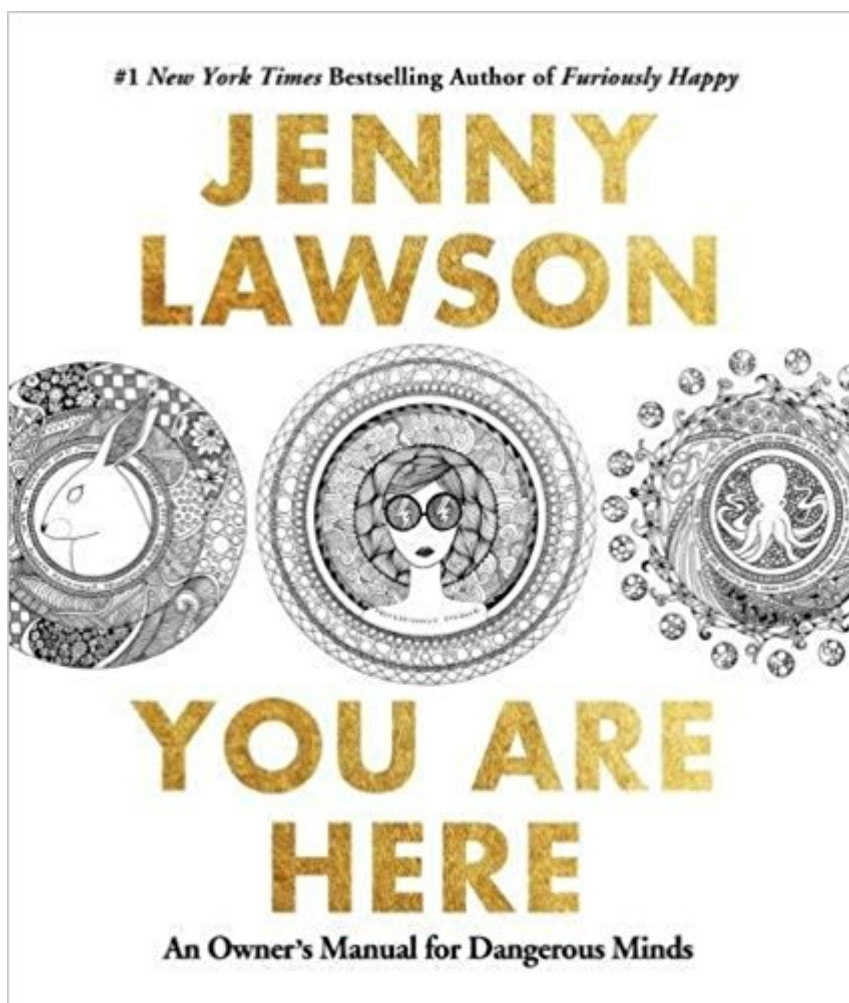


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You Are Here: An Owner's Manual For Dangerous Minds



Synopsis

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A new book from #1 New York Times bestselling author Jenny Lawson, destined to be a classic—part therapy, part best friend, part humor, part coloring book. When Jenny Lawson is anxious, one of the things she does is to draw. Elaborate doodles, beautiful illustrations, often with captions that she posts online. At her signings, fans show up with printouts of these drawings for Jenny to autograph. And inevitably they ask her when will she publish a whole book of them. That moment has arrived. *You Are Here* is something only Jenny could create. A combination of inspiration, therapy, coloring, humor, and advice, this book is filled with Jenny's amazingly intricate illustrations, all on perforated pages that can be easily torn out, hung up, and shared. Drawing on the tenets of art therapy—which you can do while hiding in the pillow fort under your bed—*You Are Here* is ready to be made entirely your own. Some of the material is dark, some is light; some is silly and profane and irreverent. Gathered together, this is life, happening right now, all around, in its messy glory, as only Jenny Lawson could show us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

JENNY LAWSON, *The Bloggess*, is an award-winning humor writer known for her great candor in sharing her struggle with depression and mental illness. Her two memoirs, *Let's Pretend This Never Happened* and *Furiously Happy*, were #1 New York Times bestsellers.

This book just walked in my door and I flipped through it, reading the short quips on some of the pages. The first one I saw was "you will get through this" and it made me cry. I am usually pretty pulled together but the last week has been difficult and that was exactly what I needed to be reminded of. I am now on to purchase 4 or 5 more for my friends. Text friends, of course, I don't have real life friends. That's how we Generation X peeps do it.

Wow *ÀÂÇÃ â Ñ* this book really made a big impression on me. It is not simply a coloring book, it is a collection of thoughts on life and how to cope. I had not read Jenny Lawson's blog but I see that it is something I must do in the future. Her writing is funny, tells a great story and shows her struggle with finding her place in the world *ÀÂÇÃ â Ñ* in other words, pretty much what all of us are doing as well. There is some profanity, which doesn't bother me, but I mention it in case it is an issue with some. The designs are outstanding. It's wonderful that such a talented writer can express herself so beautifully in drawings as well. The subjects of the designs are all over the place and are quite detailed with some having a heavy use of black ink. This is definitely the coloring book that I will keep at my side for a while to come. There is just so much to color and to read that it demands attention. I'm very happy to own it and plan on buying a copy for each of my daughters. This is what I saw while coloring in this book and testing the paper with my coloring medium. 160 pages with stories, life lessons, and fantastic coloring pages. The designs are printed on mostly one side of page (some are back to back). Paper is mostly white (some color pages), heavy weight, slightly rough and has perforated pages. Glue Binding but with perforated pages so removing a page is fairly simple. The designs stop well before the perforations. Alcohol-based markers bleed through this paper. If you use these with back to back page designs, the ink will ruin the design on the back of the page. For designs printed on one side of the page, I suggest either removing pages from the book to color or using a blotter page under your working page. I like card stock as it keeps ink from seeping through and damaging the pages below. Water-based markers, gel pens and India ink pens leave shadows of color on the back of the page but do not bleed through the paper. Coloring pencils work well with this paper. I was able to get good color, layer the same color and multiple colors and blend easily using a pencil style blender. I tested both oil and wax-based pencils with similar results.

First, I think it's important to acknowledge that I consider Jenny Lawson a friend. Granted, I think a few hundred thousand other people do too, so that acknowledgment might not carry much weight. Nevertheless, I wanted to be perfectly transparent from the opening line of this review. Spoiler alert:

transparency is kind of a theme here. Second, I'm not going to make this a numbered "list" review. That ends now. (Sorry, number people.) If you're familiar with Jenny Lawson's two previous books, you already know what you're in for with *You Are Here*. You know it's going to be defined by a compelling strangeness that embraces your own strangeness as "perfectly normal." You know it's going to be both blunt and sharp, concise and rambling, confident and uncertain, and many other paradoxical pairings. Because Jenny is all those things. And with *You Are Here*, she is once again sharing herself with you, fearlessly. Except that's not quite true. She's just as afraid as you are. She just happens to have a wide, wild group of misfits surrounding her with love, weaving themselves together into a kind of human safety net that gives her the strength to publicly share her unfiltered, well-worn truth (this time, in words and pictures). If you're looking for a coloring book with butterflies you can color to subtly remind you just how inadequate you are compared to nature's own coloring game, this isn't a book for you. Jenny's drawings are abstract, dreamlike. They're lovely and twisty and turny and patterny and wistfully [just go with it, Spellcheck] the kind of doodles that are born at the intersection of beautiful and broken. And so are the accompanying encouraging words, whether written in Jenny's familiar stream-of-consciousness style, or succinctly, as when she writes, "This is a safe place. Stay a while. You are welcome. By the way, that's not *you* are welcome, *you* are welcome, as in 'glad I could do this for you,' but *you* are welcome, as in 'come on in, stay a while, have some cookies, pet the cats, let's watch Dr. Who together. You see, that's the magic of Jenny's writing (and now her drawing, too) - it welcomes you. I mean, yeah, she sometimes talks about stabbing things. But it's a welcoming kind of stabby. And who doesn't prefer that kind of stabby? Come for the pictures, stay for the words. Or come for the words, stay for the pictures. Then buy a copy for that friend you know who could use a little more 'welcoming.' She'll thank you. Then you'll say 'you're welcome.' And then she'll probably feel compelled to say 'thank you' again. This could go on for days. You might want to plan for that. Bring snacks.

Please understand, I adore this author and consider us best friends, even if we never will meet. Her blog "gets me." Her past works (both NYT bestsellers) had me laughing and crying. This latest is so

much more than an adult coloring book. Words are written that have such power and validity. Can this be wallpaper? Wonderful!

This is so much more than I expected. I knew I was getting doodles to color, and I knew the art would be fantastic. But I'm blown away all of her art is amazing and her writing is so comfortable and insightful. It's like a best friend giving fun little stories and thoughts to help you through the tough times. This book is going to get a lot of use for me. I might buy a second copy. I need a copy to color and take pages out to frame and a copy just as is.

It's beautiful and perfect! Her humor, her candor--everything about Jenny Lawson's written and now drawn work speaks to me on a level I can't explain. I cried happy tears when it arrived today, and continued to sniffle as I devoured it front to back. It's like she's had a peek into my dreams and my nightmares and my hopes and my fears, and she just gets ME.

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