



## **I Like You Just the Way I Am: Stories About Me and Some Other People**

*Jenny Mollen*

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*By the actress, writer, and one of the funniest women on Twitter, an outrageous, hysterical memoir of acting on impulse, plotting elaborate hoaxes, and refusing to acknowledge boundaries in any form* Jenny

Mollen is an actress and writer living in Los Angeles. She is also a wife, married to a famous guy (which is annoying only because he gets free shit and she doesn't). She doesn't want much from life. Just to be loved—by everybody: her parents, her dogs, her ex-boyfriends, her ex-boyfriends' dogs, her husband, her husband's ex-girlfriends, her husband's ex-girlfriend's new boyfriends, etc. Some people might call that impulse crazy, but isn't "crazy" really just a word boring people use to describe fun people? (And Jenny is really, really fun, you guys!) In these pages, you'll find stories of Jenny at her most genuine, whether it's stalking her therapist (because he knows everything about her so shouldn't she get to know everything about him?); throwing a bachelorette party so bad that one of the guests is suspected dead; or answering the eternal question, *Would your best friend blow your husband on a car ride to dinner if she didn't know you were hiding in the backseat?*

*I Like You Just the Way I Am* is about *not* doing the right thing—about indulging your inner crazy-person. It is Jenny when she's not trying to impress anyone or come across as a responsible, level-headed member of society. With any luck it will make *you* better acquainted with who *you* really are and what *you* really want. Which, let's be honest, is most likely someone else's email password.

## I Like You Just the Way I Am: Stories About Me and Some Other People Details

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## From Reader Review I Like You Just the Way I Am: Stories About Me and Some Other People for online ebook

### Bunny says

Full disclosure: I am a fan of Jenny Mollen. I initially found out about her existence because she played Nina on *Angel*, a role I hated. I follow all Whedon alum through Twitter, and added her without much thought, expecting the usual trivial career and "Have a blessed day namaste you're beautiful oh goodness, look at my new shoes" tweets I get from 95% of the celebrities I follow.

Jenny falls into the 5%, the celebrities that are actually amusing. On top of that, she has no filter, and her tweets tend to be the ones that keep me returning to Twitter long after most of my friends have abandoned it to Tumblr and the like. Through her retweets, I found her husband (that actor guy), and her friend Jenny Johnson, both with that similar wicked sense of humor.

When Jenny tweeted to bloggers how to request an ARC of this book, I figured I had nothing to lose by requesting a copy. The worst that could happen was the publisher would say no. I was very fortunate to receive this copy, and I take the "responsibility" of reviewing it fairly very seriously.

If you think I couldn't give an unbiased review of an author that I truly adore, please go find my review of Stephen King's "The Colorado Kid". Being a fan of someone makes me even more impatient when the book is awful.

Thankfully, Jenny's debut novel does not disappoint.

Make no mistake, this book is not for the faint of heart. I think within the first five pages she mentions accidentally giving her pussy a mohawk.

But half the fun of this novel is that, while it is a memoir, it is a brutally honest, ridiculously hilarious memoir. No punches are pulled. She admits to every neurosis she learned about herself through decades of therapy, and unapologetically points out all the things about herself you may want to call her while reading.

I cringed far less about what she was saying than I did thinking of the people she was saying it about reading it. I mean, save ex-boyfriends (who are naturally still pining over her) and former friends (who are jealous they aren't still friends with her, and of how thin and beautiful she is), she still has to see these people. She's still related to these people!

Each chapter offers something new, while also referencing what you've learned about her so far. I have figured out (through extensive googling, without which I would've finished this book same day) who at least four of the people mentioned are (I long since knew who Baz was, but had never seen the web series before). I have my suspicions about the others. Should Jenny go on a book tour, and make it to my side of the world, it will be the first question I ask.

As long as you can handle the bluntness, this book is a true delight. Guaranteed to make you laugh aloud at least once. Or, in my case, severely while at work where I'm not supposed to be reading anyway and my coworkers are staring at me.

I am certain she's got far more tales than this, and hope to see more novels from her. Especially now that she's brought a child into this world. One can only imagine the stories.

### **Jen Kirsch says**

If the inner working of my psyche had a name, I would name it Jenny Mollen. I devoured this book in one sitting, though constantly stopped to take a pic on my phone of sentences I'm sure Jenny stole from my own head. I also stopped a handful of times to read sentences aloud to my other half, to which he responded by saying "Did you ghost write this?"

The humour, wit and sheer honesty of Jenny is what makes this such an admirable read. Every single sentence was wildly relatable.

For the past month or two I've been following Jenny on Twitter, and laugh every time I read a Tweet of hers. So, while reading her book of various essays in a memoir style book, it was like reading a much longer Tweet. It left me wanting more, so much so that I'm pretty much back in the December archive of Jenny's Tweets.

The second this book hits the stands, by it and bask in the humour that is Jenny Mollen.

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### **Sarah Levine says**

I didn't even bother finishing this book, and ended up skimming the first 100 pages before giving up entirely. This book just isn't funny, and could perhaps be compared to a poor man's Chelsea Handler. The book reeks of desperation and self righteous craziness.

I really thought I would enjoy this book based on the press it received, but perhaps it is being recognized more for the Jason Biggs connection rather than the actual content.

I rarely rag on a book, but this is just not worth finishing.

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### **Lori says**

I'm not finished this one - and I'm not sure I will. I'm basically skimming it now - so far, the only humorous incident has been about their dogs on the airplane. Otherwise, there are no other redeeming qualities. Her biggest claim to fame is being married to Jason Biggs. Do not believe the hype. She's not funny. Not enjoying this at all.

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### **Michelle Reeder says**

She is not as funny as she tells you she is. And she is kind of a horrible person. Also you know she's reading these reviews. She's really self centered and talks about zits waaay too much. Bleh.

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### **Alice Linley-Munro says**

Most obnoxious woman I've ever read about. Genuinely disliked her by the end of the book, she sounds like a total nightmare.

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### **Jenn Ballmann says**

I was sent a copy of the book for review though Net Galley, as always, all opinions are my own.

I really wanted to like this book since it seems like Jenny Mollen would be very similar to Chelsea Handler, who I do enjoy. Unfortunately, I ended up giving up after reading half a book dedicated to crazy/stalker exploits that I just couldn't find the humor in. Perhaps I'm just not the intended target audience for this one.

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### **Dani says**

I was really disappointed in this book - Jenny Mollen uses shock value to sell her life "stories". I kept hoping it would get better, but it didn't.

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### **Katie Sumner says**

Had to love it because one chapter is based on my daughter, Meegan. I'll let you guess. Knowing she was a friend of Jenny Mollen's, I suspected M. would be in the book but she never said a word. The day the book came out, I was reading it on my kindle in the waiting room at Mayo, about to go through some lump removals from both breasts (clearly, like Jenny, I lack the need to be subtle when a story needs to be told). Naturally, the room was filled with somber or teary eyed women awaiting their procedures, when I started to laugh. I couldn't stop and became bent over, wracked with humor as the tears ran down my own face as well. My companions were clearly not amused.

This book is very funny, very raunchy (except my daughter's chapter, which I was glad to say left me unscathed). Recommended if you can handle a very true insight into the inside of Hollywood through the eyes of one hysterically funny actress.

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### **Ash Wilson says**

Jenny Mollen is a SUPER screwed up human being. That being said ... I kind of love her.

HER crazy makes me feel sooo much better about MY crazy and THAT is awesome.

There must be something about Jennys' that can find the total and complete epic-ness in seriously dysfunctional, because Jenny Mollen reminds me a lot of Jenny Lawson's writing and I totally love that.

I also walked away from this book having a lot more respect for her husband, the actor Jason Biggs, then when I came in.

Either their sex life is out of this world AMAZEBALLS (sounds like it is), or else that man's a saint, because his wife is friggin' nuts.

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Basically, this book had me laughing my butt off most of the way through even when I felt immediate extreme guilt for doing so because whatever she had just said went wholly too far, was extremely immoral, in-politically correct, and/or just downright psychotic. (And I say 'most of the way' because there actually were a few parts where she went too far even for me.)

Credit has to go where it's due, as I had never even heard of her until Danneel Harris Ackles tweeted that we all needed to do ourselves a favor and read Jenny's second and newest book, "Live Fast Die Hot" as mandatory summer reading because it's hilarious.

I was looking for female hilarity, so I decided to start at the beginning with her first book and now I am totally excited for Danneel's recommendation of book number two.

She definitely won't be everyone's cup of tea. But if you can handle some serious dark humor and being totally offended and slightly frightened, Jenny Mollen's the fun loving author for you!

Also, if you're a very big fan of her husband's "American Pie" movie franchise, than you will definitely enjoy and laugh your a\*s off at this book.

[Ash Wilson review on goodreads.com]

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### **Tiffany says**

Since I enjoy raunchy humor and don't really believe anything is funny unless its inappropriate I laughed my ass off while reading this book, and the 3 stars are only because of the dumb shit that should have been left out (how Jenny was offended that no one ever tried to molest her) not funny (the obsession with being thin and having anorexia) that was brought up way too much!!

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### **Maddi Tope says**

I had never actually heard of Jenny Mollen before this book and frankly had no interest in Jason Biggs before discovering Orange is the New Black. What I like about this book is that Jenny Mollen is actually crazy. Not cute and quirky and a little bit whacky but full blown crazy. She had an upbringing that would make most modern day child protection practitioners cringe. Could have done without the stillborn "joke" on page 42 but maybe that's just me not finding dead babies amusing. Overall I enjoyed this delicious insight into the mind of a crazy person married to a celebrity. I like that she's found love and someone that embraces and understands her special kind of crazy. Maybe there's hope for me yet.

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### **Melia Dunn says**

A friend loved this book and loaned it to me. Maybe my expectations started to high? I enjoyed it, there were funny moments, but I also found myself feeling a little turned off by the author's voice. But that's probably a good thing, that she was brave enough to write it as it was, not to bend it to write it in a more flattering light. It was an easy read, fun enough. But I didn't learn anything from it. I wasn't moved by it. And I just prefer books that bring something new and challenging into my head.

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## Elaine says

I really wanted to like this, but she was just too neurotic for me. I read about half and then skimmed the rest and couldn't handle it. I can handle weird and off-balance, but throw in a healthy dose of selfishness bordering on narcissism and I'm not interested.

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## Jenn (One of Many, We are Legion) says

I don't really know how to rate a celebrity memoir style book. It has been a long time since I read one, so I have nothing to compare it to. That said, I enjoyed the stories and the humor in this one, and it's pretty cool "getting to know" the author, so to speak, so I will give this one four stars since I did enjoy it quite a bit.

Jenny Mollen is just a little bit nuts, and she wants you to know it. She won't change herself to ensure you like her, mind, but that's because she knows that an intelligent and worldly person like yourself will instantly recognize how cute, likable, and amazing she is. In fact, she's on a mission to make sure that everyone she meets - and anyone loosely connected to her social circles - know how awesome she is.

In reality, Jenny is well aware of her faults and she has the cojones not just to recognize them, but to emphasize her faults in this narcissistic, self-aggrandizing, matter-of-fact manner, while simultaneously writing her stories in a dry, introspective, but vulnerable way showing that while she is outwardly very confident, she is just as insecure as the rest of us. She tells "truths" about herself that are equally applicable to many of us, but that most of us would not ever admit out loud because we like to pretend we are more well-balanced and secure than that.

As such, although there is obviously an element of truth underlying all her stories - indeed, most of them seem pretty factual - the book is very tongue-in-cheek and exaggerated, as are some of the characters she describes in her stories. Like most comedians, she wants you to know she comes from a pretty "unconventional" upbringing, and that her parents really played a hand in her neuroses, but she also tells these stories from a place of love, and in the afterword mentions that her parents are *"both good sports and fucked me up in all the right ways."*

Mollen is not out to teach you any life lessons, nor is she out to show you how to do the right thing. As she states in the prologue, this book is about her doing the wrong thing, repeatedly, mainly in her quest for acceptance and love - acceptance and love that everyone, of course, will give her within ten seconds of meeting her, because she is so cute and adorable how could you not?!

Her brand of humor has been compared to Chelsea Handler. I don't follow Handler, so I cannot compare the two, but I can say that Mollen is a bit off-brand and her humor is not for everyone. In one chapter, when discussing her fears, she says, *"I was never molested, and sometimes it kind of offends me that nobody even tried."* In the same chapter, speaking of her fear of being raped in a windowless van, she says, *"My therapist [thought] it was incredibly narcissistic of me to assume something so horrible and unusual would happen to me, but I figured she just didn't know me well enough to know how awesome I was."* She often uses caustic language to add flavor to her stories.

If that kind of humor bothers you or you find it insensitive, you will hate this book, because those snippets are tame in comparison to some of the others. If you really want to know whether this book is for you, go here to read an article she wrote for Playboy about the time she and her husband sought the services of an escort. The story is reproduced in this book (with some edits), but will give you a sense of her style and flavor.

In all, this was a fun, easy read about a semi-celebrity.

I won a copy of this book through the Goodreads First Reads program.

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