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People I Want To Punch In The Throat: Competitive Crafters, Drop-off Despots, And Other Suburban Scourges



Synopsis

Jen Mann doesn't have a filter, which sometimes gets her in trouble with her neighbors, her fellow PTA moms, and that one woman who tried to sell her sex toys at a home shopping party. Known for her hilariously acerbic observations on her blog *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*, Mann now brings her sharp wit to bear on suburban life, marriage, and motherhood in this laugh-out-loud collection of essays. From the politics of joining a play group, to the thrill of mothers' night out at the gun range, to the rewards of your most meaningful relationship (the one you have with your cleaning lady), nothing is sacred or off-limits. So the next time you find yourself wearing fuzzy bunny pajamas in the school carpool line or accidentally stuck at a co-worker's swingers party, just think, What would Jen Mann do? Or better yet, buy her audiobook.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I think that this is the "thing" lately with the aging Gen Y (I guess it's "Y"? late 30s/early 40somethings?) set. Mommy blogs, and then there are all the subsets of Mommy blogs, and if you are really good at getting an audience, maybe a book deal. Suburban mom-bloggers come in various flavors - there are the sardonic intellectuals (Dooce.com - is that still a thing?), the callback-to-gentler times god-and-country ones (I recently reviewed *The Antelope in the Living Room: The Real Story of Two People Sharing One Life* - by Melanie Shankle of "Big Mama" blogging renown), and then there's evidently a passive-aggressive sub-genre here in *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*. Do I sound jaded? I keep wanting to love these bloggers. I keep wanting to spot the next Erma Bombeck (late, and great in her tales of a suburbia past.) And I keep

finding women who sound just a bit more like sitcom writers. GOOD sitcom writers, but still...Jen Mann kind of lost me early on, with the story of herself and her husband and their initial meet-not-so-cute, wherein Mann paints a picture of the "Hubs", as she comes to call him as kind of an over-the-top obtuse jerk. He's genuinely, aggressively and egregiously rude as portrayed, supposedly as a defense mechanism because he's just so gosh-darned smitten with Jen. I know writers pick and choose the bits of real life that they share to bring out themes in a characterization, and here it's obviously a comic effect she's after, but I winced. I winced more when she related a story of a highly respected co-worker who lured unsuspecting newbies annually into a 4th of July swinger hot tub bash.

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