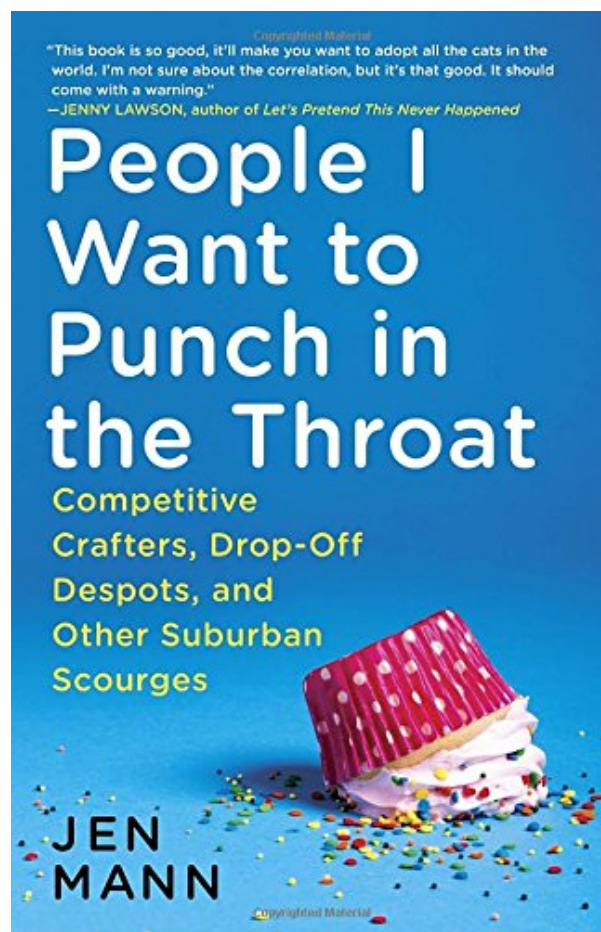


# PEOPLE I WANT TO PUNCH IN THE THROAT: COMPETITIVE CRAFTERS, DROP-OFF DESPOTS, AND OTHER SUBURBAN SCOURGES BY JEN MANN



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—JENNY LAWSON, author of *Let's Pretend This Never Happened*

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Competitive  
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Despots, and  
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Scourges

JEN  
MANN

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NATIONAL BESTSELLER

A debut collection of witty, biting essays laced with a surprising warmth, from Jen Mann, the writer behind the popular blog *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*

People I want to punch in the throat:

- anyone who feels the need to bling her washer and dryer
- humblebraggers
- people who treat their pets like children

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 book.

Advance praise for *People I Want to Punch in the Throat*

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- 224 pages

#### Features

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Most helpful customer reviews

204 of 210 people found the following review helpful.

Petty and hypocritical, but NOT funny.

By Amy R

Really floored people find this funny. I wanted to like it, but I found the author to be petty and hypocritical. She comes across as the EXACT type of mom she's criticizing. For example, she makes fun of other moms for getting up at 4 in the morning to get their kids into the "right" dance camp, then is willing to overlook her son being bullied because the bully's mom can get her into the "right" book group (she even reads the book club selection in advance in anticipation of being chosen for this supposedly "elite" group). She's annoyed that the play group won't let her into the "red group," so rather than leave and find another group (as every other mom I know would do), she sticks it out and ends up being on the board (yes, the play group has a board) just so she can take over and implement her own rules. She's basically a bitter, mean, rude wannabe-stepford wife (with a real jerk of a husband) who can only make herself feel better by putting others down.

Also, if you're a pet-lover, you'll likely be offended by the chapter about dogs. The author and her husband are appalled that a person would pay to have their dog's broken leg set. After all, it'd be so much cheaper to just have the dog put to sleep. So if you feel that pets are actually a responsibility, and not just a toy to be tossed aside once they become inconvenient, you'll likely be ready to punch the author in the throat by the end of this particular chapter.



To top it off, most of the conversations and confrontations come across as terribly fake and contrived. (NOBODY talks like that.)

In my opinion, nothing about this book is funny.

179 of 192 people found the following review helpful.

Include the author as someone I want to punch in the throat.

By Jennie P

This was recommended to me by friends who claimed this was "hilarious". Ugh. Maybe the last 1/3 of the book would I consider "somewhat funny", but the first 2/3 was brutal. Maybe I'm just burned out from all the snarky-bloggers-writing-about-their-mundane-lives-and-run-out-of-material (I'm looking at you, Jen Lancaster). It all felt forced. Going back to the time before she was blogging (didn't realize she was a blogger prior to reading this book). The "Hubs" sounds like a pill. I have no idea why she would be married to him. And the names! Good grief, the fake kids names drove me crazy. Made it hard to think of these stories as anything more than pure fiction.

Edited to add that not five minutes after I posted this "negative" review, it was marked as "not helpful". Fangirl much?

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

look in the mirror, lady

By suepur911

people who think that they are the only ones that are raising kids in the suburbs will think this is an original book. otherwise it's just 'i don't know how she does it' revisited-but without even the job. i'd love someone to write the book 'i don't know WHY she does it' with some insight into the motivation of the scornful ones who go ahead and put themselves into the category of suburban wife/mom then put down everyone around them.

occasionally there will be a laugh line that makes it a '3' in conjunction with decent grammar and prose.

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