

Let's Pretend This Never Happened by Jenny Lawson Reading Map

I. Book Cover

<http://thebloggess.com/lets-pretend-this-never-happened-a-mostly-true-memoir/>

II. Book trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHq2XxLzFLY>

III. About the Author

Known for her sardonic wit and her hysterically skewed outlook on life, **Jenny Lawson** has made millions of people question their own sanity, as they found themselves admitting that they, too, often wondered why Jesus wasn't classified as a zombie, or laughed to the point of bladder failure when she accidentally forgot that she mailed herself a cobra. Her blog (www.thebloggess.com) is award-winning, extremely popular, and she is considered to be one of the funniest women alive by at least three people. (<http://thebloggess.com/lets-pretend-this-never-happened-a-mostly-true-memoir/>)

IV. Reviews

- **Kirkus**

In blogger Lawson's debut book, "The Bloggess" (thebloggess.com) relies entirely on her life stories to drive an unconventional narrative. While marketed as nonfiction, it's a genre distinction the author employs loosely (a point made clear in the book's subtitle). On the opening page she defends the subtitle, explaining, "The reason this memoir is only *mostly* true instead of *totally* true is that I relish not getting sued." Yet Lawson also relishes exaggerative storytelling, spinning yarns of her childhood and early adulthood that seem so unbelievable they could hardly be made up. Nearly every line is an opportunity for a punch line—"Call me Ishmael. I won't answer to it, because it's not my name, but it's much more agreeable that most of the things I've been called"; "And that's how I ended up shoulder-deep in a cow's vagina"; "there's nothing more romantic than a proposal that ends with you needing a tetanus shot"—and while the jokes eventually wear thin, by that point readers will be invested in Lawson herself, not just her ability to tell a joke. The author's use of disclaimers, editorial notes and strike-thrus leaves the book feeling oddly unfinished, though it's a calculated risk that serves well as an inside joke shared between writer and reader at the expense of the literary elite.

While Lawson fails to strike the perfect balance between pathos and punch line, she creates a comic character that readers will engage with in shocked dismay as they gratefully turn the pages. (Kirkus, April 17, 2012)

- **Booklist**

In this mordant memoir, Lawson, who calls herself “The Bloggess,” displays the wit that’s made her a hit on the Web. She makes hilarious hay out of her rural Texas upbringing, during which her taxidermist father thought nothing of bringing feral creatures into the house (on her future husband Victor’s first visit to meet the family, dear old Dad tossed a baby bobcat into the unsuspecting lad’s lap). Plagued by anxiety attacks, Lawson is loath to go out in public, and when she does, she inevitably makes a scene. At a Halloween party, she regales guests with a tale of being attacked by a serial killer (turns out it was just her corpulent cat). Lawson, whose award-winning website, TheBloggess.com, averages more than half-a-million page-views per month, delivers some mild moments among the mayhem. At a women’s retreat replete with bonding and wine, she happily discovers that girls really aren’t so bad. Lawson is funny, but her over-the-top tales eventually take their toll, prompting jaded readers to wonder how much of this stuff she’s making up. (Booklist, April 1, 2012)

V. Read-alikes

- [Tina Fey](#)
- [Jen Lancaster](#)
- [Laurie Notaro](#)
- [Celia Rivenbark](#)
- [Sarah Silverman](#)

VI. Anxiety and Depression Resources at PPLD

- [Databases](#)
- [Recommended Websites](#)
- [Local Agencies](#)
- [PPLD Catalog](#)

Quote from book:

“I can finally see that all the terrible parts of my life, the embarrassing parts, the incidents I wanted to pretend never happened, and the things that make me ‘weird’ and ‘different,’ were actually the most important parts of my life. They were the parts that made me ME...Because you are defined not by life’s imperfect moments, but by your reaction to them. Because there is joy in embracing – rather than running screaming from – the utter absurdity of life. And because it’s illegal to leave an unattended donkey in your car, even if you do live in Texas.” (p. 307-308)

VII. Taxidermy

- [The Authentic Animal: Inside the Odd and Obsessive World of Taxidermy by Dave Madden](#)
- [Kingdom Under Glass: A Tale of Obsession, Adventure, and One Man’s Quest to Preserve the World’s Greatest Animals by Jay Kirk](#)

- [Still Life: Adventures in Taxidermy by Melissa Milgrom](#)
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<http://ppld.org/reading-maps/all>
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