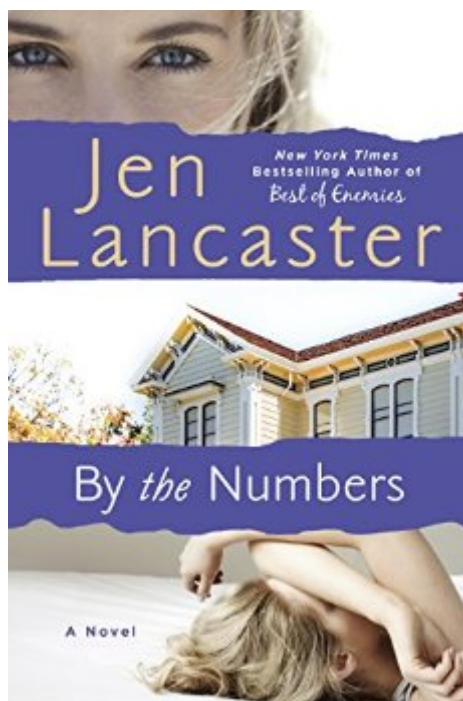


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# By The Numbers



## Synopsis

Actuary Penny Sinclair has a head for business, and she always makes rational decisions. Knowing that 60% of spouses cheat and 50% of marriages end in divorce, she wasn't too surprised when her husband had an affair. (That he did so with a woman their daughter's age? Well, that part did sting a bit.) She just made sure she got everything in the divorce, including their lovely old Victorian house. And as soon as her younger daughter has her hipster-fabulous wedding in the backyard, she's trading it in for a condo in downtown Chicago... Well within the average market time in her area, Penny gets an offer on the house. But then life happens. Her children, her parents and her ex come flying back to the nest, all in need of Penny's emotional and financial support. Spread thin, Penny becomes the poster child for the sandwich generation, when all she really wanted to do was make managing director, buy a white couch, and maybe go on a Match.com date...From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love Jen but it was not very good. Main character talked about math all the time which was unrealistic Adult daughters acted like 12 year olds. At times it was hard to follow who was speaking.

I love Jen's books about her family life and Fletch. Maybe some day her fiction will be as good as those but that's not happening any time soon. Sorry Jen. I wanted to like it but it is just meh ^© ^©

I received a review copy I'm a big fan of Jen Lancaster, both her fiction and non-fiction books, and always look forward to reading her offerings. *By the Numbers* brings us Penny, an actuary who is all about living life well by the numbers. She's just slightly on the dull side, and I mean that in the best way possible. I really appreciated the flashbacks we get to see a slightly different side of her, before her marriage fell apart and she was a little more carefree. The way her daughters treat her made my insides turn, and I was hoping the entire way that Penny would finally find the backbone she so desperately needed. Plenty of heart-warming moments, scenes that caused an eyebrow raise, and some nice humor thrown in at appropriate moments. Smooth reading the whole way through.

I loved this book! If it wasn't for prior commitments, I would've finished it in one day. I love Jen Lancaster's memoirs, and her fiction books have all been awesome. I truly enjoyed how Penny grew and came full circle with her family. I could hear myself saying so many of the things she did.....especially the part about buying everyone a bell, and then questioning her own hearing. Thoroughly enjoyed this book and would love a sequel to see how the family progresses.....

I enjoyed this book, but it's not my favorite of Jen's. The plot was a bit all over the place and the narration switched back and forth a lot, making it hard to follow at times. Some of the plot elements were a little too over the top even for me (which is saying a lot). But I liked the main character of Penny and I loved how she ended up in the end. If you are a fan of Jen's other books, I'm sure you will enjoy this one too, but it's not my fave.

So the story is cute and the main character is very likeable, but I'm reading, reading, reading them BAM! story is over! It was like a lot of intro, a little middle and no end. I kept checking my Kindle to make sure I hadn't somehow deleted the rest of the book. I liked it enough that I'm pretty disappointed it ended so suddenly.

Being a Jen Lancaster fan I was excited for her newest fiction book. Unfortunately this was not her best work. Missing was the witty humor she is known for, although she did still include great 80's

references for those of us who were growing up during that time. I felt like Penny, the main character, was too much of a wet blanket for way too much of a book. I'd rather have seen her take action much, much earlier than the last 30-45 pages of the book. Hopefully this was a one time blip and her next fictional book will be more true to form.

Better than her previous fiction (no time travelling crap), but there is still work to do. Namely, the ending. Loose ends are tied up quickly at the end of the last chapter and "that's a wrap". Also, its all pretty predictable that I could see the ending coming a mile away. Seeing as I read *Girl on a Train* right before this, the discrepancies were much more noticeable

The main character is completely hard to respect as she allows others to completely stomp on her in ridiculous ways. I usually love Jen Lancaster's book, but this one I finished just to finish it. It improved at the end, but definitely not worth the time spent reading to get to the end. I hope her next book returns to her old style of writing.

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