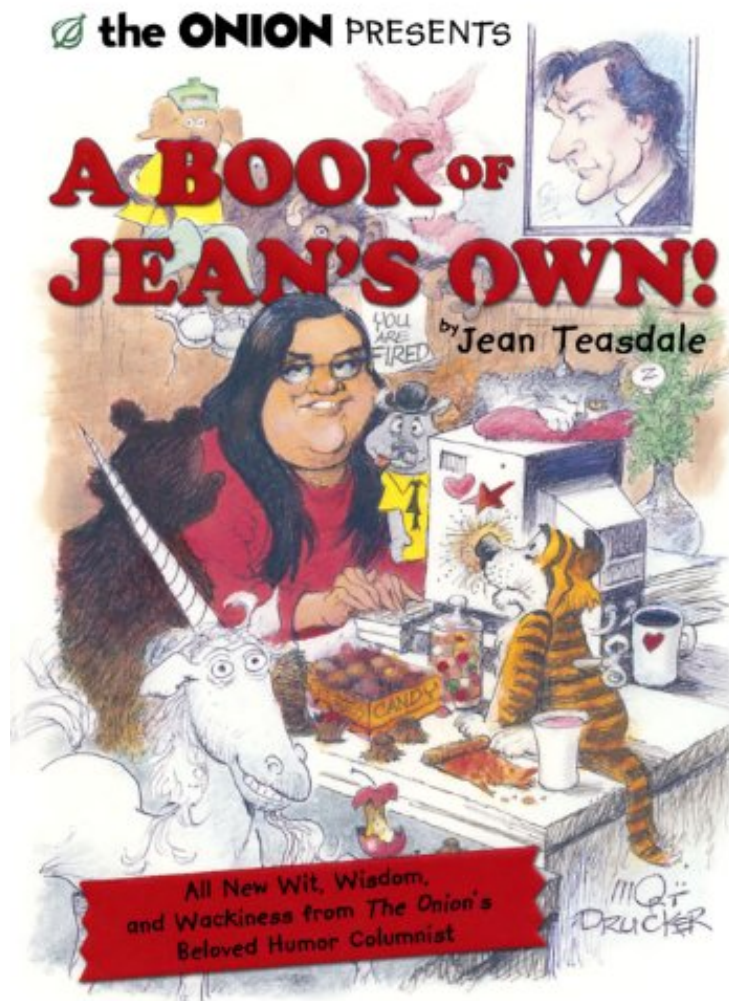


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Jean Teasdale : The Onion Presents A Book of Jean's Own!: All New Wit, Wisdom, and Wackiness from The Onion's Beloved Humor Columnist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Onion Presents A Book of Jean's Own!: All New Wit, Wisdom, and Wackiness from The Onion's Beloved Humor Columnist:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Finally, a glimpse behind the curtain!By Theodora777Anyone who

is familiar with Jean Teasdale's column knows (or should know) that Ms. Teasdale's "wackiness" is really a Bedazzled (and hilarious) cry for help from a deeply depressed woman who self-medicates with food, fantasizes about soap star "hunks" who fell off of the B-list at least a decade prior to the columns that they're featured in, and is baby crazy, but, as her column about baby-sitting proves, shouldn't be allowed anywhere near a baby. I'm surprised by the two-star reviews complaining that Jean comes across as crazy in the book -- her madness is bubbling just beneath the surface of most of her columns and froths to the top in the baby-sitting and baby-napping ones. Jean's always been stuck in a weird stage of arrested development, some of it pre-teen, some of it adolescent, and this book provides a ton of backstory that explains why the Sage of 1567 Blossom Meadows is who she is. It also, contrary to some of the reviews, does indeed have a narrative arc, which includes a rather surprising turn at the keyboard by Hubby Rick (who is, in his own way, long-suffering). A great beach book that is bound to leave you feeling better about your own life.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Such a disappointment for a Jean fan!By ReasonJean's column in the Onion is my absolute favorite of their recurring features, but this book completely lacks the charm of the column. It was a labor to finish reading this, in spite of the fact that many of the pages are given over to disconnected lists and doodles.The genius of Jean's column is that she tells you about actual events in her life, but the subtext of her own delusion and instability seeps through. In the book, though, there is almost no narrative, so it is simply Jean telling you over and over how much she love chocolate and Beanie Babies and ... that's about it. There are brief sections that contain actual stories, and those are the parts that come the closest to actually working. But the rest is just filler -- and in fact "Jean" actually writes about not having enough content to complete the book!Another aspect of the book which bothered me is the fact that it comes off so much more mean-spirited than the column. The column always returns to Jean's unbridled optimism, so there is some twisted warmth at the heart of the writing. In the book, frequently it just seems to harp about how fat Jean is, over and over. It doesn't come across as Jean making lemonade out of lemons, but rather her just being ignorant and deluded, period.I wish the Onion hadn't released this, and had instead simply reprinted her columns in a book form. A huge let-down.21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. A ball of despair wrapped up in a bright and yummy candy shellBy Holly QuinnThe Jean Teasdale character is at her best when the reader can see through her ridiculously bright exterior; what's always been great about her is that she's so transparent, and the sunny columns are, in fact, extremely dark. The book is no different, and is even more revealing. Yes, Jean is a joke, an impossibly unhip woman who embodies all that cool, smart, sophisticated people look down on, but if you've ever truly been a social outcast, you can relate to her on some level (even if you wouldn't be caught dead in a ballerina hippo top with glitter).Some chapters by themselves are all goofy and light. Some, like the "fun fiction" chapters, are pretty devastating. She tells the reader early on that you can jump around the books and not get lost, but don't -- there is a linear story going on beneath the surface that starts about a third of the way through. I confess, I actually got worried for dear Jean! You will see a side of Jean that doesn't show in the short columns as she struggles to write a whole book. We even get to "meet" Hubby Rick in his own words for the first time.The book won't convert anyone who thinks the Jean Teasdale column is lame, but if you're one who can't get enough of her bittersweet writings, it's a good quick read.

A few words from the author and eponymous columnist behind The Onion's column, "A Room of Jean's Own," Jean Teasdale: Hi Jeanketeers and Jeanketeers-to-be!! As The Onion's very own Humor and Human-Interest columnist, I've been entertaining readers for 15 years with kooky tales of life with my hubby and our two feline children. Now for the first time, li'l ol' me shines front-and-center in a book of my very own! A Book of Jean's Own! features all-original, never-before-published material, and if that wasn't impressive enough, marks the very first Onion book by a solo writer! Historical, huh? My book is sure to find an eager audience among The Onion's ten-million-strong readership. Wait, ten million people? I had no idea! Frankly, that scares me a little. We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto! (Oh shoot, I should have put that hilarious phrase in my book!) A Book of Jean's Own! also marks a departure from past Onion books in that it isn't crammed with headlines and articles in teeny-weeny print! Instead, I write about the stuff that really matters: shopping, chocolate, part-time jobs, and hot Hollywood hunks! Whether you read my book on the bus, the beach, or the toilet, you're guaranteed to find something to chuckle at and deeply relate to! Among the many nuggets of fun: * I tell you the Twenty Things That Are Better Than Sex! * For the first time ever, you learn my maiden name!* I spill the secrets of my scrumptious chocolate-loaded desserts, such as Ooey Goopy Choco-Cocoa-Mocha Cupcakes With Raspberry Filling And Coconut-Cream Cheese-Cola Frosting!* Acquire valuable, real-world tips on coping with a job you dislike, getting through those rough teenage years, and styling a Jean hairdo of your very own!* Get a giggle out of my doodles and overdose on the words of wisdom that are my Jean Proverbs!* You've heard of pity partiesget my tips for throwing your very own self-pity party!* Check out my own cure for the blues, the Plush Jamboree!* Witness my nervous breakdown while writing this book (well, writing is hard, after all!)* Also for the first time ever, Hubby Rick speaks! (Spoiler: It's not entirely in grunts!) * Lots of exclamation points! (And phrases in parentheses!) I'm sure every single one of those ten million readers will buy my book! And who knows? They just may find something in it that will help them lead happier and better lives!

From Publishers Weekly The first in what is presumably a series of releases from the Onion's fictional columnists gives Jean Teasdale (Maria Schneider), a Midwestern housewife with a soft spot for chocolate, cats, stuffed animals, and exclamation points, plenty of room to expand and expound on life, work and marriage. Readers familiar with Teasdale's trademark optimism and folksy wisdom ("When life hands you a yeast infection, make BREAD!!") will find more of the same here in this collection. Whether she's shopping for bargains on snacks and corn-shaped corn cob holders at Dollar General, ghostwriting her cat's diary ("It's 3 a.m. A few minutes ago, I just coughed up a hairball the size of a snow globe on the bedroom carpet"), or giving tips on throwing the ultimate pity party, Schneider is consistent down to the doodles that have graced many a pre-adolescent's notebooks. Schneider mostly keeps the parody above-board, keeping Teasdale sympathetic but not pathetic, and contributions from "Hubby Rick" like "Things I Have Burned" enable Schneider to expand the limited Teasdale universe. Still, a little goes a long way. Rabid fans will devour the wit, but those with a passing interest, or less, will likely be disappointed. (Oct.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. About the Author Jean Teasdale has been The Onion's resident humor and human-interest columnist since 1990. In addition to writing, Jean has held over 35 part-time jobs, and has been fired from over 30. She has been married to tire technician Richard "Rick" Teasdale for nearly 20 years. Jean resides in the Midwest, where she pursues many varied interests, including collecting figurines, making ghosts out of facial tissue, and testing out many "As Seen on TV" products.