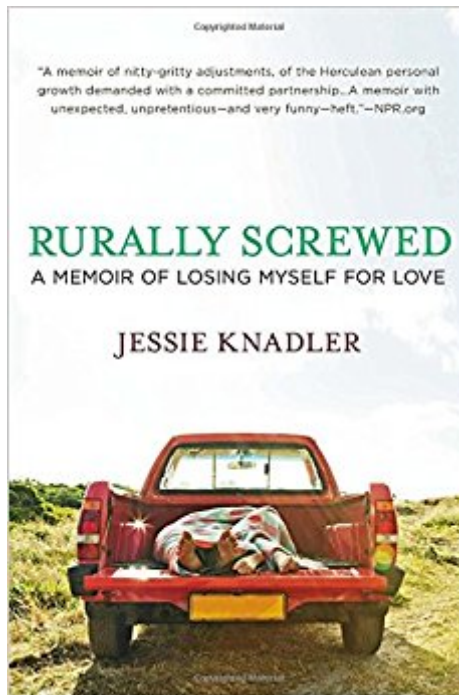




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# Rurally Screwed: A Memoir Of Losing Myself For Love



## Synopsis

A magazine editor in New York, Jessie Knadler had a habit of always looking over her shoulder for better options. She wasn't quite sure moving to Montana and marrying a cowboy was a better option—but, head over heels in love, she did it anyway. At a loss in her new rural environment, she hoped that activities like chicken farming and fence building might provide her with a more profound, virtuous sense of self (and make her husband Jake love her even more). It all led her to some strange situations and surprising realizations. Written with huge personality and searing wit, *Rurally Screwed* is an immensely entertaining and moving memoir about the things we do for love and the lengths we'll go to find our true identity.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Berkley (April 2, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0425253473

ISBN-13: 978-0425253472

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 104 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #733,982 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Travel > United States > Kentucky > Lexington #1117 in Books > Travel > United States > West > Mountain #3083 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Marriage & Adult Relationships

## Customer Reviews

"A tale at once hilarious and touching."—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*  
A memoir of nitty-gritty adjustments, of the Herculean personal growth demanded with a committed partnership  
A memoir with unexpected, unpretentious and very funny heft; the story of a young woman who drives herself so hard for a couple of decades that she neglects to notice who she is. Then, after an interlude spent raising chickens, canning, sewing her own clothes, attempting Bible study and overthinking almost everything about rural life, the young woman gets real.  
—*NPR.org*  
"Rurally Screwed is really about trying to define ourselves, and how that experience can make us feel authentic and synthetic all at once. Knadler articulates her journey in a manner so self-deprecating and hilarious that it doesn't take long to realize she isn't ridiculing rural Virginia, she's analyzing her own place in it...She is braver than most writers

would be about exposing the vulnerable underbelly of her new marriage, and about how close she came to throwing in the clogs. The story is at times very raw, and embarrassingly personal in a way that will feel familiar to many readers. Knadler risks a lot, even the wrath of people she could still potentially meet in the aisles of the Lexington Walmart. Though she probably felt as if she was gambling it all with *Rurally Screwed*, the result is a story so genuine and touching that she won it all back—and then some.

—The Roanoke Times "Jessie Knadler's story about leaving the glossy office buildings and late nights of Manhattan to take a chance on love and create a new life in rural Lexington, Virginia, sounds like something out of a movie. But as *Rurally Screwed* shows, the most unexpected life events and happiest endings—not to mention the hottest cowboys—don't just appear on the silver screen. Jessie takes a lively, self-deprecating yet thoughtful approach to her particular fish-out-of-water tale. I laughed, winced and nodded my head in agreement more times than I can count. But most important, she shows that risks have their rewards, that it is possible to leave the worst of one's old life behind without abandoning the best of oneself."

—Anna Holmes, founder of Jezebel "Jessie Knadler's memoir, *Rurally Screwed* is more than a fast-paced ride through the rodeo scene of relationships from Manhattan to Montana, but an examination of American life, the things we take for granted and the things we ought to cherish. Reading about Knadler's search for inner peace helped this reader find some too."

—Siobhan Fallon, author of *You Know When the Men Are Gone* "Hilarious, romantic and real. Jessie Knadler's writing made me feel every single emotion of her journey from the big city to the deep country—only I didn't have to kill a single chicken or ride an actual horse. Although I may have fallen in love with her husband a little bit..."

—Lara Naaman, writer/producer, *Good Morning America* "At once brutally honest and over-the-top hilarious, *Rurally Screwed* is the most engaging and relatable book about marriage I've ever read. And I've read most of them. Knadler takes readers on a journey from her stalled life as a New York City single girl to the wilds of Virginia, where she settles down with a cowboy, eighty-some chickens and a cellar stocked with moonshine. Along the way, she learns there's nothing romantic about chopping firewood and nothing easy about being married—but that after the sweat dries, the rewards of both are pretty awesome. Anyone who is married, has ever been married or is considering one day getting married has to read this book."

—Paula Szuchman, coauthor of *It's Not You, It's the Dishes* "This book is really a love story. It's about falling for an unexpected person, learning to love a new place, and when life gets tough, figuring out what the heart really wants. I started out laughing and ended with a lump in my throat. And because the tale is told with such humor and searing

honesty, you'll grow so attached to Jessie and Jake, you'll be tempted to move off the grid with them.

• Amy Spencer, author of *Bright Side Up* "I found myself laughing out loud. I also found myself feeling empathetic, understanding the heart-wrenching separation and frustrations that come with coupledness. This book was an inspiring and fun read. It's a book that all women can relate to, even if they aren't leaving behind the big city for Green Acres. Jessie, as a character in the book and in real life, is a strong, witty, courageous and hilarious woman.

• *Breathe* "Most romantic comedies end at the declaration of love and never explore the happily ever after. *Rurally Screwed* entertains by continuing well past the 'I do' and, best of all, this is a real-life romance, a memoir with a hilarious narrator. *Rurally Screwed* is also a hero's journey as Jessie navigates her relationship with various identities: a child from Montana, a woman from New York, a wife in rural Virginia. Her searing wit and unflinching honesty is a pleasure to read. Fans of Ree Drummond's *The Pioneer Woman* will love *Rurally Screwed*, as will anyone who has fallen madly in love with his or her opposite.

• *Book Club Classics* "[A] classic pastoral narrative. What makes it compelling is the manner in which [Jessie] struggles with her identity, as defined almost entirely by external markers. Her journey takes her from a place where the only identity she knows is the one on the outside to a place where she learns to inhabit a more genuine self from the inside. Perhaps it's simply a story of growing up, but in a world in which the Internet has only amplified the ferocity of the fashion cycles, the urgency of lifestyle choices, one can't help feeling for her as she finds it so very difficult to define herself in a world she can't quite recognize.

• *Bookslut* "Quirky, laugh-out-loud funny, poignant, passionate...A great love story that carries on past 'I Do' and 'Happily Ever After.'"

• *San Francisco Book Review*

Jessie Knadler is a writer whose articles and stories have appeared in publications ranging from the *Wall Street Journal* to *Glamour*. She is the coauthor of the preserving cookbook *Tart and Sweet*. Her blog has been featured in *Newsweek* and *French Elle*. She lives with her husband, her daughter, and a bunch of chickens in Virginia.

I wanted to love this, smart writer falls in love with an adorable cowboy, moves to country but I just couldn't find ONE likable quality in Jessie other than her good taste in men. Why there is no sentiment shown to pets, farm animals or her own child is bewildering and I find her incompetence in most basic homesteading chores really annoying. Her betrayal of the town of Lexington, VMI and

Washington and Lee is condescending and ignorant. If you want a great read along the same lines,,buy "A Dirty Life". The main character of that book is as fiery as Jessie is insipid. A complete waste of money!

This is an autobiographical romance story where the girl gets what's coming to her, more or less, in the end. So what happens when an unhappy girl from Montana moves to the big city? After 12 years climbing the ladder to her dream profession as a fashionista magazine editor she and starts a freelance job interviewing cowboys in - you guessed it - Montana. So she leaves her aging friends and her pedophile New York architect boyfriend (I can't make this sort of stuff up) to appear at the rodeo in her sparkly sequined sneakers where she woos and wins the cowboy of her dreams. What starts as a one night stand to get the taste of Lolita Boy out of her mouth turns into a marriage. So is Prince Charming a frog? I'll give you a hint. He is real a cowboy, but he's from Virginia, having taken a job in Montana chasing his cowboy dreams. Despite their individual, collective, cultural and karmic warts they deserve one another. Now, seriously, why did I give 3 stars instead of 1? This book does have solid writing which moves the story along; although it isn't a page turner it keeps the reader interested. The protagonist is shallow and self serving but she's not despicable and in the end she does learn something about both human nature and herself. Somewhere about the time that Jake goes on his first Army deployment she allows him to start looking like a person rather than a prop. And around the time she gets pregnant her own character changes; she seems to grow up a little and recognize her place in her world. I liked the ending and I do hope she continues to grow and prosper.

I'm laid up this week recuperating from a painful knee surgery. The first time I picked up Jessie K's book I was in too much pain to read, but the next day I started reading and just finished it (less than two days). To tell the truth I only ordered the book because I heard about it from this email group that saves Anatolian Shepherd dogs or GSD- giant shepherd dogs that can be a mixture of Anatolians/Akbash/Great Peranese; anyway all kinds of big shepherd dogs. The story of Jake bringing home Soluh (not sure if that's right or not) was in one of those emails and it touched my heart so much that I wanted to run right out and start a campaign to bring one of those dogs home to my house. Of course, I haven't done that, I already have a purebred Anatolian Shepherd, Solomon, that I bought off a goat ranch in Arkansas, he is my first dog ever that I have lived with that was not adopted from a shelter. I suspect it's my own version of middle aged crazy, purebred huge instead of plastic surgery or a Harley. Anyway, when I first started reading the book I

somehow though Soluh(?) would show up in the pages to come but then I realized what I had read in that email was from Jessie's blog not her book. I was glad anyway. I really like to read and I read a lot. This book spoke to me in many ways. First of all Jessie's use of words and the flow of her sentences are easy to read and the style in which she writes just makes me (and many others -read it, it's very readable?...it is very easy to get lost in the book, she's a good storyteller. I received a great bit of wisdom from Jake on the subject of selecting a dog: get one that notices you more than the landscape. Amen to that. Secondly, Jessie has done what many women, myself included dream of. Running off from a not to great life from a relationship with a man that owns more hair products than I do (I've done that one) to live in a beautiful place in the trees with a cowboy. I've always thought that is what I have wanted to do and it was inspiring to hear the story of someone that actually did it without one country bone in her body..(at the time). The big old love between Jake and Jessie is loud and clear throughout the book and that makes both characters very loveable and likeable to me. I was raised on a little place growing up and sometimes Dad would kill a chicken or two and it was tough business - I was appalled and impressed by the way you explained the process - hey I eat meat and love good fresh chicken. It's just no sense in sugarcoating it. Write more next time about Miranda - I would have went out to that fire and probably made a scene which would not have been good, because I probably would have run her off the property (appalachian saying) but Jessie handled it best by not making a scene. Next time, either make a scene or make us like her which will be hard to do given her looks. I like the fact she likes horses though but all else about her just makes me mad. Thanks for listening, I think Rurally Screwed is fine book and will tell my friends and circulate the book through our group. Best Regards, Joyce

Rurally Screwed: My Life Off the Grid with the Cowboy I Love

I'm almost finished this book and wondering if it's really worth the time to read it until the end. If you liked Eat, Pray, Love, you might like it. (I didn't like Eat, Pray, Love for the same reasons I'm not crazy about this book.) It's just another totally self-absorbed person telling her story about how she got out of her element. In this she makes caricatures of some of the people in her new community--for example the ladies in her Bible study group. She is mocking them. Not nice, a little bit of a snarky superior tone that won't endear her to her new neighbors. And her characterizing her living as "off the grid" is a little far-fetched. She lives in Lexington, Virginia, a very civil town with two colleges, the arts, and electricity.

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Rurally Screwed: A Memoir of Losing Myself for Love I Can Draw It Myself, By Me, Myself (Classic

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