



## Jennifer "Jenny" Lynn Colvin

July 1, 1978 - May 12, 2022

Jennifer "Jenny" Lynn Colvin, 43, of Greenville, South Carolina passed away unexpectedly on May 12th, 2022. Jenny was born in San Jose, California on July 1st, 1978 and raised in Hillsboro, Oregon. Jenny attended George Fox University in Newberg, OR where she received her degree in piano performance and also met the love of her life, Nathaniel Colvin. Jenny graduated from George Fox University in May 2000 and she and Nathaniel married on June 24th, 2000. Jenny and Nathaniel moved to Indiana where she got a master's degree in library science at IUPUI while working at the music library at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. After graduating in 2006, Jenny took a job as music librarian at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. At Furman University, Jenny was deeply connected across campus, collaborating with many students and colleagues on a variety of initiatives. She was ultimately promoted to the Associate Director for Outreach and Access Services Librarian at full Professor rank. She taught reading and storytelling classes, two things she greatly enjoyed. She was a

certified strengths

coach and academic advisor as well.

Jenny believed strongly in women's rights and was a strong ally of the LGBTQIA+ community.

She helped Furman build a more inclusive campus, and just finished serving as chair of the

Furman University Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee on education and training. At

a national level, she chaired the American Library Association's "Over the Rainbow Booklist"

committee which promoted the improved quality and accessibility of LGBTQIA+ literature for

adults. At the state level she was involved in both SC Library Association and Partnership

Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) initiatives.

Jenny enjoyed traveling and had been all over the world, but also enjoyed adventures closer to

home to learn more about the people and places where she lived. Whether traveling or not,

she was able to enjoy her other passions, which were food and, most significantly, reading.

Jenny enjoyed trying all kinds of food and learning about the cultures it came from. She also

enjoyed trying new bakeries and new recipes from cookbooks and had her own baking blog

called [jennybakes.com](http://jennybakes.com) up until last year. Jenny loved books and the stories she could explore

through them. She contributed 3,876 book reviews to the popular reading website Goodreads

and had generated a loyal community there based on her thoughtful reviews and openness to

others' opinions. In 2014 Jenny started a podcast called Reading Envy where she and a co-host would talk about some of their favorite books they had just read. The tagline for the podcast was, "I'll have what you're reading" with the idea of giving others informative reviews of books they may want to read. Her podcast went on to have 246 episodes and a sizable listener base.

Jenny leaves behind her husband Nathaniel of 21 years and four-year-old son Chance, as well as her mother Judy Guy, and sisters Julianna Guy and Abigail Chavoya.

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ I met Jenny in this Facebook reading group for DFW's Infinite Jest. After finishing the book, we ended up continuing with many other books. We spent so much time together that I felt like I knew them. In fact, many members actually met up in person. Jenny is the fastest reader I know. She would go through more books in a week than most people in a year. Not only that, she was a mother, a librarian, a podcast host and so many other things. She was loved and she will be remembered.

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**Alan** - February 09, 2025 at 10:57 PM

ST

“ I "knew" Jenny as a friend through Goodreads & just heard the sad news of her unexpected passing. Sending her family & loved ones support & love, especially as I see that you have recently gone through some significant days (wedding anniversary & Jenny's birthday) that must be extra hard. Jenny spread so much enthusiasm & love for books; we had many overlapping book likes & I always enjoyed my online conversations with her. Her beautiful legacy ripples outward....

*I noticed that her favorite quotes page includes, "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." (Jorge Luis Borges) I am hoping that Jenny has found that Borgesian library Paradise filled with love, dogs, books & music. Keeping you in my thoughts as you face the hard days.*

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**Stacia** - July 22, 2022 at 11:16 PM

EW

“ I had the privilege of working with Jenny at DePauw in the music instructional technology center. Jenny felt like my people, which was really important at that time of my life. We shared many similar interests, and I loved being around her. Before I was her coworker she was my music librarian. I was interested in ethnomusicology and she gave me the best books to read and had helpful conversations about going down that path of study. When I am looking at a new book to read, I always check on goodreads to see if Jenny had rated/reviewed it. So glad I got to call her a friend. My heart goes out to her family and those who knew her best. What a beautiful person. Thanks to everyone else who has shared a memory here.

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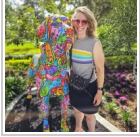
Emily Wilhite - June 29, 2022 at 10:46 PM



“ [https://www.thehowzemortuary.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518"; target="\\_blank">Memorial Trees</a> was purchased for the family of Jennifer "Jenny" Lynn Colvin.](https://www.thehowzemortuary.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518)

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June 29, 2022 at 10:21 PM



“ Jenny and I met on Goodreads about 10 years ago. We kept seeing each other's profiles and similarities in reading style, and we naturally fit together, a running dialogue started, and a fast friendship. I had the honor of meeting her in person when she came to my area for a library conference in 2016. We spent an entire afternoon in Red Emma's bookstore in Baltimore, talking books, life, and baking.

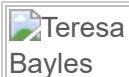
*The bond started online and was nurtured through years of readalongs, recommendations, and hours of podcast episodes, and several heart-to-hearts.*

*I feel so lucky to have these years of recordings of her voice, her laugh, and her wisdom to listen back to via the podcast. To remember and to honor her work, her heart, and her passion.*

*My heart goes out to her family and loved ones. She touched so many of us. I miss you so much, Jenny.*

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**Lauren Weinhold** - June 18, 2022 at 08:57 PM



“ In 2008 at my first ever MLA, this smiling and friendly librarian made me feel like I belonged. I hadn't seen Jenny in years but will always remember her support and kindness and how easy it was to be her friend. I am so saddened by her passing. Best to her husband and son.

*Jenny, rest in peace. You won't be forgotten.*

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**Teresa Bayles** - June 10, 2022 at 10:54 AM

DK

“ Dr. Kenn lit a candle in memory of Jennifer "Jenny" Lynn Colvin



Dr. Kenn - June 10, 2022 at 02:02 AM

 Heather Rubicam

“ I met Jenny at George Fox, many years ago. We also were a part of a community of Fox friends who got together regularly to play games. She is a sweet memory from that part of my life. I am shocked & deeply saddened by her loss. Blessings to her family.

Heather Rubicam - June 09, 2022 at 09:06 PM



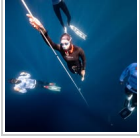
“ I was a guest on Jenny's podcast and wrote with her on and off on Goodreads discussing books that we had both read. Jenny will be sorely missed in the online bookish community. I admired her devotion to reading widely and voraciously. On the Litsy reading app there has been a project called #RememberingJenny where fellow readers have picked a book Jenny recommended and read it in her honour. I was glad to participate in the project and read *Our Wives Under the Sea* by Julia Armfield in her honour. 💜

Casey Stepaniuk - June 09, 2022 at 03:25 PM

CC

“ Jenny was a constant bright presence in my life since she came to Furman as the new music librarian in 2004. Over the years we became colleagues and internet friends, and I could always count on her unflagging support and good humor. I am so very sorry for your loss. She was one of a kind.

Carolyn Carrier - June 09, 2022 at 10:22 AM



“ I met Jenny through Goodreads and then the #bookstagram community on Instagram. When she invited me to be a guest on her podcast our friendship became real, even though we never met each other in person, we talked a lot in messages, weekly for years. She was a wonderful, inspirational person and it breaks my heart to see someone as good as her go too soon. The world misses her and I hope she knew how loved she was, near and far.

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**Sara Burnett** - May 31, 2022 at 03:40 PM

CM

“ I met Jenny through my friendship with Nathaniel. We had several outings together and what I will always hold in my memory is how easily she laughed and how often she smiled. She was someone you would want to be around because she always made you feel good. And her opinions on food were always to be taken as she knew what she was talking about! She will be missed.

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**Chris Myers** - May 26, 2022 at 03:04 PM

NA

“ I first 'met' Jenny through her Reading Envy podcast and I was immediately struck by her warmth and graciousness. I also was a guest on it several times over the years and it was a joy to meet with her via Zoom. She created a wonderful community of readers through her podcast and in her Goodreads Group, and we all miss her dearly.

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**Nadine** - May 20, 2022 at 10:33 PM

MM

“ I went to grade school, jr high and high school with jenny. She helped at our high school club Youth Alive. I remember going to her house on a play date in 5 th grade we played outside for hours pretending we were orphans like annie. I am so sorry for everyones loss. It makes us realize we aren't promised tomorrow. Blessings from Alaska

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**michele jeffery murphy** - May 20, 2022 at 04:52 PM


 Abbey Thompson

“ I met Jenny at a regional Music Library Association meeting in the fall of 2008. I had just started library school at UNC Chapel Hill and she was an early career librarian down at Furman. We clicked instantly, in part because we were the same age, west coast transplants living in the Carolinas, but mostly because of our similarities - avid readers, daring bakers... We kept in touch off and on these past 14 years, but every time we spoke it was like no time had passed whatsoever. That's the mark of a true friendship, when even time is no obstacle to the connection of your hearts. I thought of her often and had been meaning to reach out, it had been too long since our last talk ... but I left it too late.

*I was gutted with sadness to hear of her passing. In many ways I still can't believe that she's gone. She was truly one of the smartest, kindest women I've ever had the privilege to know and call my friend. The world is less bright now, without her calm and steadfast light.*

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**Abbey Thompson** - May 20, 2022 at 10:54 AM

 Abbey Thompson

*\*edit\* I misspoke above : We met in the fall of 2006, not 2008.*

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**Abbey Thompson** - May 26, 2022 at 03:10 AM

EA

“ I never met Jenny. I only knew her through her podcast Reading Envy. I was a guest in more than one occasion. She always was kind and welcoming. My thoughts are with her family.



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**Elizabeth Alanis** - May 19, 2022 at 12:12 AM

BA

“ I was a guest on Jenny's Reading Envy podcast several times. Each was a delight, thanks to her brilliance, her love of reading, her optimism. I followed her voracious book reviews and always learned. She was a terrific inspiration and a terrible loss.

*-Bryan Alexander*

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**Bryan Alexander** - May 18, 2022 at 05:01 PM