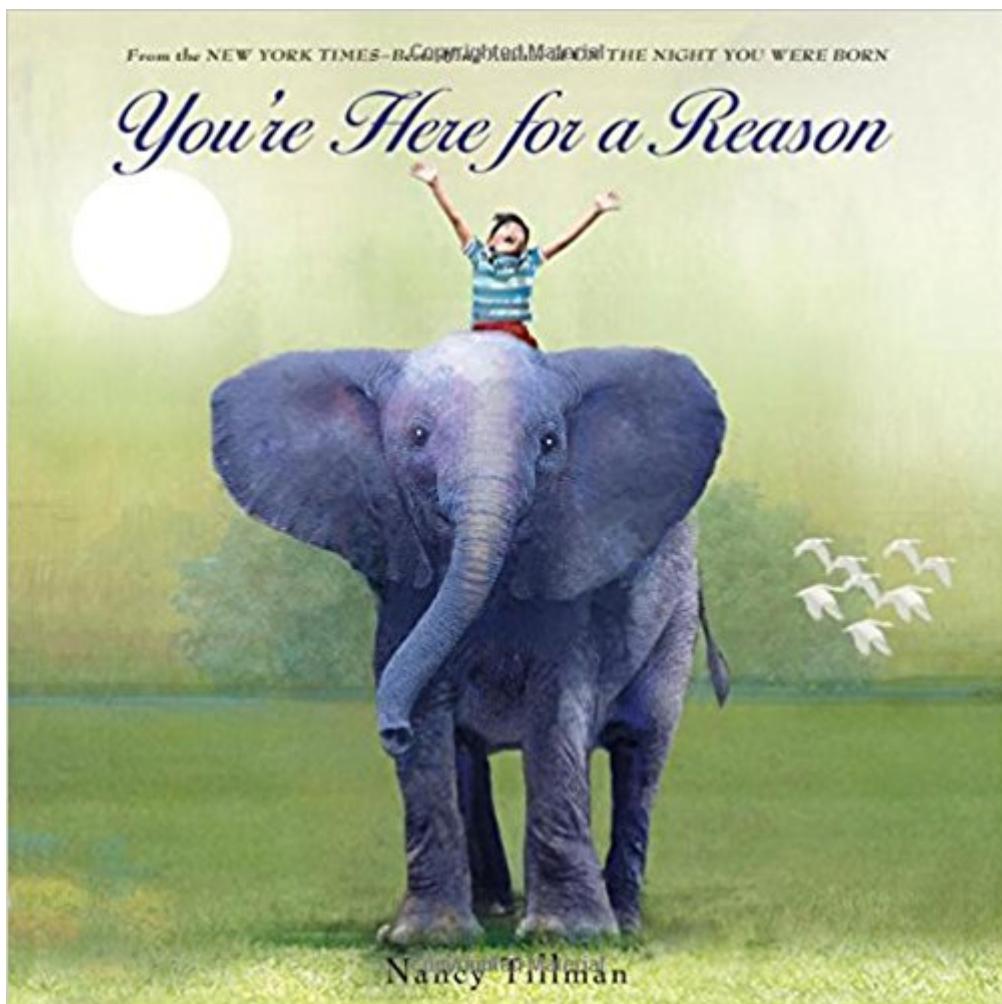


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# You're Here For A Reason



## Synopsis

You're here for a reason. If you think you're not I would just say that perhaps you forgot . . . a piece of the world that is precious and dear would surely be missing if you weren't here. Every person matters. Here, national-bestselling and beloved author Nancy Tillman shows readers how each of us fits into life's big picture, and how the world would be incomplete without you in it.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 203 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,068 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect #405 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2 Tillman's latest examines the struggle humans have with the idea of "purpose." She speaks as though addressing a child, repeating the refrain "you're here for a reason" and explaining that good things happen to others because of the child. Her answer to this life question may be unsatisfactory or too simplistic for some. Nevertheless, she fashions it into an encouraging sentiment that gives peace of mind. To evoke this sense, Tillman illustrates children mingling with animals in a vibrantly colored, dreamlike realm. As usual, her characteristic, almost photographic, digital and mixed-media paintings complement the soothing cadence of the text and beautiful rhyme. Goodwill spreads from page to page in the shape of a kite and a ball, showing how actions affect the world. Tillman frames her lovely poem with the idea of a puzzle, starting the verse that reads, "If not for your hands and your eyes and your feet,/the world, like a puzzle, would be incomplete" and ending with an image of a globe made up of puzzle pieces, depicting the paintings in the book.. It may not be obvious, but every person is a piece required to form the whole.

VERDICT Fans of Tillman's previous titles will want to get this one as well; another ideal bedtime story for children and guardians to share. —Rachel Forbes, Oakville Public Library, Ontario, Canada

"In these pages, readers get the sense of spying on a secret world—and [the] potent combination of unapologetic sentiment, fantasy, photorealism, and painterliness has an undeniable allure." —Publishers Weekly for *Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You* "A beautiful tribute to the uniqueness of every child." —Kirkus Reviews on *On the Night You Were Born* "This is one of those rare baby books that should make both skeptics and sentimentalists of all ages happy." —Publishers Weekly, for *On the Night You Were Born* "A beautiful and timeless book." —School Library Journal for *The Spirit of Christmas* --This text refers to the Board book edition.

This was given to my son today as a birthday gift. He is only one so it is a little advanced for him, but I like reading to my children and figure that even if they don't understand everything right now, the words will make their mark. This is the sort of book that I want to have an impact on them. The message is stronger than most realize. The kids are in bed right now and their dad is working tonight. I am alone in the house and a dark wave of depression has settled in to keep me company. It is something that I have dealt with most of my life. My birthday is tomorrow. I turn 35 and feel worthless. I am disappointed with where I am at and feel of no value to the world. I know I am of value to my children and my animals and I treasure them more than words can convey, but beyond that, I feel like wasted space. This is an emotion that has always plagued me, even when logically, I realize I have done some very good things. It is the depression and it wraps its deceptive arms around me in my times of sorrow to comfort me with my own despair. So while I am alone, I decided to clean up and put away my son's gifts. I picked up this book from the pile and decided to sit down and read it. I wasn't prepared to feel the words the way that I did. It feels silly to say that a book meant for children also feels meant for people with depression, but it does. There is little comfort for the constant sadness that stirs within me at times like this, yet somehow this book provided it. It is really very simple text with nothing that I haven't already heard before. Maybe it was the timing. Still, the reminder that even though everything seems stagnant right now, the good that I have done is likely still resonating out there, meant something to me. The things that I have done have mattered and are still mattering and will continue to matter. In some way, I must matter too. I really needed that tonight. "You're here for a reason. It's totally true. You're part of a world that is counting on you. So

don't be too worried if some days fall flat. Good things can happen, even from that." I will read this book to my children often and strive to fill them with a sense of love and value. As I read it to them, I will also be reading it to myself as a reminder. In addition to recommending it for kids, I would also recommend it as a gift for those with depression when you want to do something for them, but just don't know what. The simple act of gifting them this book might provide a sense of comfort that they won't accept as words or a hug. Well done, Nancy Tillman.

Nancy Tillman's latest illustrated children's book is another inspirational and appreciative look at the event of one's life. Nancy Tillman writes inspirational and draws lovely, colorful and magical illustrations to match it. I have given this book and others of hers for a baby shower gift. The book are to be appreciated and revered for it's purpose and easy reading. If you want inspiration on a bad day, you should pick up one of Nancy Tillman's children's books. Whether you're a child or an adult, you will enjoy the book's simplicity to enjoy life and the world in which we live in today.

I bought this book for my son, who suffers from depression. He is not one to wear his heart on his sleeve per se, but, he cried and thanked me from the bottom of his heart for this gift. He is 26 years old, and I was so happy that this book could reach through to him in a way that nothing else could. I highly recommend this book!!!

"Even the smallest of things that you do blossom and multiply far beyond you... You're here for a reason. It's totally true. You're part of a world that is counting on you. So don't be too worried if some days fall flat. Good things can happen, even from that... You're here for a reason. If you think you're not, I would just say that perhaps you forgot- a piece of the world that is precious and dear would surely be missing if you weren't here. If not for your smile and your laugh and your heart, this place we call home would be minus a part." - Nancy Tillman, "You're Here for a Reason." I really can't say it to either of my children any better than that, although I do say those things in my own way as often as I can. I bought a few of her books this week because I absolutely fell in love with the sheer beauty and eloquence of her prose in another of her books. Though I think this way of both of my children, this is a book I specifically want my son to internalize some day. Because he really loves animals, and she illustrates with them in each of her books I've seen thus far, I am hoping in time he will come to accept them. For my sweet angel daughter, she will be surrounded by others who will tell her these messages. But for my beautiful son, who has significant disabilities, the world may rarely tell him these things. We are often in such a rush to applaud certain things as greatness,

that it might be easy to overlook the smaller things, like today, when I took out the trash and forgot to line the can. And my sweet little son climbed in the closet, pulled out a trash bag, and quietly handed it to me. Because he is the one who I fear will so often be overlooked, he is the one I feel may most desperately need the kinds of messages in this book. It is another beautifully written book, with a powerful message of affirmation of worth, even in the smallest of actions. Even in something so simple as loosing a ball or a kite (paraphrased from the book), because those things may go on to be loved by someone else. This is a beautiful book that celebrates efforts that may not be considered great, but are still meaningful no matter how small. And I love that.

This wonderful book found its way into my recommendations, and I am SO GLAD it did! By the same author of "On the Night You Were Born", another keeper, "You're Here For A Reason" beautiful children's book tells your child that no matter what, even on those tough days, he/she is here for a reason. No matter how small or insignificant they may feel, there would be an unimaginable rift if they weren't here. The warmth and contentment I could feel from my 6 year old son as I read this to him was just perfect. This is exactly what I would've written if I could put beauty to these words as the author did. Thank you!

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