



# Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America

*By Dan Savage*

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In **Skipping Towards Gomorrah**, Dan Savage eviscerates the right-wing conservatives as he commits each of the Seven Deadly Sins himself (or tries to) and finds those everyday Americans who take particular delight in their sinful pursuits. Among them:

- Greed: Gamblers reveal secrets behind outrageous fortune.
- Lust: "We're swingers!"-you won't believe who's doing it.
- Anger: Texans shoot off some rounds and then listen to Dan fire off on his own about guns, gun control, and the Second Amendment.

Combine a unique history of the Seven Deadly Sins, a new interpretation of the biblical stories of Sodom and Gomorrah, and enough Bill Bennett, Robert Bork, Pat Buchanan, Dr. Laura, and Bill O'Reilly bashing to more than make up for their incessant carping, and you've got the most provocative book of the fall.

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**Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America** By Dan Savage **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Someone has to speak up for the sinners, and syndicated sex columnist Savage thinks he's the man to do it. Irritated by proselytizing from "virtuecrats" conservative pundits like Bill O'Reilly and Dr. Laura, Savage argues that whatever consenting adults want to do in the privacy of their own homes is their own business. Smoke pot? Fine. Host an S&M fetish party? Sure. Savage organizes his book into seven chapters, each devoted to one of the deadly sins: greed, lust, sloth, gluttony, envy, pride and anger. Some of these, of course, are more interesting than others. Who wouldn't rather read about lust than sloth? But Savage dutifully does a nice bit of "undercover reporting" for each sin, checking out a swinger's party for "Lust," visiting Las Vegas for "Greed," attending a fat acceptance convention for "Gluttony." He reports that, unsurprisingly, most Americans who indulge their vices are in fact nice, normal people who believe in God, care for their children and pay their mortgage. Therefore, Savage says, the government and the virtuecrats should leave them alone. So far so good. But Savage tends to underestimate the problems raised by overindulgence in the seven deadly sins. "Yes, fat kills people, but we all gotta go sometime," he writes blissfully from the fat acceptance convention, where 600-pound women complain that dieting suggestions are "sizeist." And he doesn't fully recognize the seriousness of gambling addictions: the intense rush he felt after losing \$3,000 at blackjack was "worth it." On the whole, however, Savage hits the mark and gives advocates of personal and sexual liberty the hippest, sassiest voice they've had in a long time.

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From Library Journal

Probably the most read sex columnist in the United States, Savage (The Kid) is also widely regarded as one of the great humorists of our time. Anyone who reads his nationally syndicated "Savage Love" column weekly well knows his power to burst the bubble of the pompous. Even his title is a pop at Robert Bork's jeremiad, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*. Here he takes readers on a tour of the country, focusing on the seven deadly sins and their manifestation in our time. From a weight-loss ashram to his arch critique of pot smokers, he uses humor to make a point. These are not merely Keillor-esque essays full of whimsy overload; instead, they pack a political punch that will be repugnant to some. His real strength is in blending pungent social commentary with the personal narrative. At least one of these pieces will undoubtedly land in an anthology for future students of the essay. The explicit nature of this book will make it a difficult purchase for many libraries in the age of Ashcroft, but the justifying argument should be made that any library owning Bork's book needs this one as an antidote.

*David Azzolina, Univ. of Pennsylvania Libs., Philadelphia*

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Review

"A passionate examination of American sin."

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**James Flynn:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Sure, you

can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

**Wendy Poston:**

This Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't be worry Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even phone. This Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America having excellent arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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