

Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America is a non-fiction book by Dan Savage, first published in by Dutton.

In his new book, *Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America*, Savage takes on these politically righteous "scolds" with the scalpel of logic, and then cuts them a new one on such topics as the legalization of marijuana, swinging, gambling, gun control and more. Unfortunately, this promise is considered problematic by some Americans. The very pursuits that make some Americans happy some very happy indeed are considered downright sinful by social conservatives. While some Americans might choose to lead a less than virtuous existence, at least in William J. Bennett seems to produce a book a month. Fine, they have a right to their opinions, and they have a right to express themselves. Not content to persuade their fellow Americans to be virtuous--which, again, is their right--they want to amend constitutions and pass laws. Who can argue with good? By successfully framing the debate as virtue versus sin, and not the laws versus your freedoms, the virtuecrats have succeeded in silencing their political foes and the sinners who enjoy the happy pursuits virtuecrats seek to ban. So while tens of millions of Americans have listened or have been forced to listen to the Borks, Bennetts, Buchanans, Pat Robertsons, Dr. Despite this research, nothing remotely positive is ever written or broadcast by American news media about the recreational use of marijuana. But no one at a daily paper or a mainstream news program will risk saying anything truthful and consequently positive about recreational marijuana use for fear that William J. Laura will swoop down and accuse them of sending the "wrong message" to kids. Since when is the truth the wrong message? That "pursuit of happiness" stuff? The pursuit of happiness is so rank and unpleasant a concept for Bork that he sticks it between quotes as if he were holding it with a pair of tongs. Buchanan simply deletes the pursuit of happiness from the Declaration of Independence: If our founding fathers were as thoughtful and wise as original intenters and social conservatives are always telling us, we can only assume that our founding fathers selected "pursuit of happiness" over "property" for a good reason. Pleasure is material; happiness is spiritual. Pleasure is self-involved; happiness is outer- and other-involved. Laura, but all Americans should be free to define happiness for themselves, and some of us find happiness in pursuits that Dr. Laura wants to see banned. Laura is hardly the most extreme of the virtuecrats. Keyes is an African American conservative who ran for president in and , and is the host of a talk show launched on MSNBC in early Gosh darn that liberal media elite! By invoking the Creator, Keyes argues, the authors of the Declaration of Independence meant to negate every other word they wrote. Our founding fathers had ample chance to distance themselves from or completely disavow the pursuit of happiness when they gathered in Philadelphia in to draft the United States Constitution. In fact, they seemed pretty pleased with themselves, gathering in Philadelphia, as they wrote, "in order to form a more perfect union. Nevertheless, it seems to me that if "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" were such a big, fat, fucking mistake, then our wise founding fathers would have realized it in the eleven years that passed between the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the first meeting of the Constitutional Congress. If they felt "the pursuit of Happiness" was a mistake, they surely would have done something to correct it when they gathered to make our union just a little more perfect. Our founding fathers failed, of course. It was their "original intent" to allow slavery to flourish and to deny women the right to vote. Talk about your imperfect unions. I, for one, am sick of being told that I live in an immoral wasteland. Robert Bork is a best-selling author, former federal judge, and failed Supreme Court nominee who looks at the United States and sees Gomorrah, the biblical city-state destroyed by God along with Sodom, a neighboring bedroom community. Bennett is the Jesse Jackson of the right, the omnipresent former education secretary and federal drug "czar," who, like Jackson on the left, is the ass his party feels obliged to kiss. Bennett was somewhat less prominent when Newt Gingrich divorced his second wife and married a congressional aide. In books, magazines, speeches, and on television, Bork and other right-wing "scolds," as Andrew Sullivan has dubbed them, argue that the United States of America is in a state of moral collapse--Bennett says as much in the title of his latest book, *The Broken Hearth: Reversing the Moral Collapse of the American Family*. The United

States is "a moral sewer and a cultural wasteland that is not worth living in and not worth fighting for," according to Buchanan. Buchanan seems anxious to be president of this moral sewer, however. The threats, however, come not from without but from within. Abortion, drugs, and single moms. The moral-rotters, according to conservatives, are aided and abetted at every step by the liberal media elite. As we learned on September 11, , our moral rot can have deadly consequences with supernatural causes. Jerry Falwell, it was the presence of feminists, ACLU members, homos, and federal judges that prompted God to "lift the curtain" of protection from the United States, "and allow the enemies of America to give us probably what we deserve [on September 11]. Writing in *The New Republic* after the attacks, Andrew Sullivan pointed out that the reaction of the American people to the attacks on our country by Islamo-fascists proved that the scolds--the Borks, Buchanans, Bennetts, Falwells, Robertsons, et alia--had been wrong about America all along: None of this was ever true. The response of the American people to the events of September 11 surely disproved these scolds once and for all. Curiously, after spending three hundred pages making the United States sound like Calcutta, Buchanan wraps up his book with a one-sentence paragraph about what a beautiful country this is. Speakers at the Republican National Convention do the same thing: Oh, and God bless America. America speeds towards hell in a handbasket, year in, year out, through both Democratic and Republican administrations; things get progressively worse, never better; and yet the United States remains the greatest country on earth, year in, year out. How is this possible? How can we be the stinking moral sewer and the shining city on the hill at the same time? This explanation might cut it if the rest of the world were Syria, Sudan, and Serbia. By the way, someone needs to alert Pat Buchanan that Canada is not in Europe. Between and , out-of-wedlock births soared in Canada from 4 percent to 31 percent, in the U. Watching the Republican National Convention is like going to the doctor every four years and being told your body is riddled with some horrible, disfiguring, fast-spreading, terminal cancer. If only a few more Americans would have Just Said No, liberals and conservatives agree, we could reverse our moral collapse and avoid the ignominious prospect of being a slightly less glorious nation than Canada, the sick man of Europe. For anyone interested in genuine political arguments, the second opinion offered by liberals is deeply frustrating: Terrified of being the pro-pot party or the pro-adultery party or the pro-sodomy party, the Democrats opt for virtue-lite politics and send junior varsity scolds like Sen. Joe Lieberman out to lecture Hollywood. Or any less virtuous than you, Bill Bennett? But everyone should have the same right to happiness. Bill Bennett thinks so, and so do Bork and Buchanan. These men, so far as we know, derive happiness from things that have been labeled virtues, and hence they are praised for their pursuit of happiness. In fact, it may make some of them miserable. There may be conservative pundits out there who desire to smoke dope or sleep around, but deny themselves these pleasures, and their public calls for virtue are simply an externalization of their own inner struggle to be good. Swaggart had deeply conflicted feelings about pornography and prostitution, and he called for the more restrictive laws against both in hopes that the state might help keep him right with God. Whether virtue comes easy or the virtuecrat has to do battle with his desires, the virtuous all conspire to force their virtues on us sinners, which is not something sinners do. The existence of the virtuous is not regarded by sinners as a personal threat, nor do sinners attempt to stamp out virtue wherever we find it. It creates a demand for the very things the censors want to stamp out. Even if it were possible to scuttle the First Amendment--so much for original intent! The Soviet Union, a police state with unlimited powers and spies in every workplace and apartment building, attempted to ban rock and roll music. Not that I would put it past John Ashcroft. Social conservatives will sometimes argue that rap music or violent movies or drugs need to be banned to protect the weak and vulnerable from taking up a life of sinful indulgence. Rap versus show tunes; monogamy versus variety; pot versus Bud Light--different things make different people happy. Why, then, do so many conservatives have such a hard time wrapping their heads around it? Like a room full of Victorian spinsters with the vapors, virtuecrats would have us believe that the mere knowledge that sinners are out there having fun keeps them up nights; indeed, knowing that someone, somewhere, might be pursuing happiness in ways they disapprove of is a profound psychological torment to them. Not only will it save the sinners from themselves, but it will also make it easier for the virtuous to get their nine hours every night. Need it be said? The next light breeze should blow the thing away. Freedom is space, weightlessness, room to maneuver, to go

your own way. We should agree to disagree about certain things like, say, drug use or premarital sex, and, when necessary, establish reasonable rules to prevent people from slamming into each other--such as laws against assault, rape, and murder, laws that set an age of consent for sexual activity, laws against drinking and driving. Beyond these simple rules, however, the freedom to pursue happiness must be regarded just as Thomas Jefferson described it--an inalienable right, God-given--or all our rhetoric about freedom is meaningless. Do some people get harmed in the pursuit of happiness? Yes, yes, and yes. But much of the harm done by drugs, prostitution, and adultery should be laid at the feet of the virtuous. There would be no money, and therefore no gangs or violence, in the drug trade if drugs were legalized and their sale taxed and regulated. When was the last time beer distributors killed each other? If prostitution were legalized, an American prostitute with a violent client or an abusive pimp could turn to the police for protection, just as prostitutes do in the Netherlands. If every couple were encouraged to have a realistic, rational conversation about the near-inevitability of infidelity in long-term relationships, fewer homes would be destroyed by adultery. Our bodies and minds and souls are our own, and we should be free to use, abuse and dispose of them as we see fit. Yet adulterers are universally condemned by the virtuecrats, without any regard for their particular circumstances. Similarly, all users of illegal drugs are condemned. Yet a man who smokes a small amount of pot every day in his own home is doing himself and society less harm than a man who drinks himself drunk every night in public. Indeed, it has long been my belief that the "bad" are frequently more virtuous in their private pursuit of vice than the good are in the public pursuit of compulsory virtue.

Chapter 2 : Skippingtowardsgomorrah (blog.quintoapp.com) - Welcome to blog.quintoapp.com

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.

Chapter 3 : Talk:Skipping Towards Gomorrah - Wikipedia

In Skipping Towards Gomorrah, Savage extends that principle beyond the bedroom and into the traditional "seven deadly sins." It's a celebration of indulgence, of people doing whatever the hell they want as long as it doesn't hurt anybody.

Chapter 4 : Skipping Towards Gomorrah by Dan Savage

About Skipping Towards Gomorrah. 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.

Chapter 5 : blog.quintoapp.com server and hosting history

"Skipping Towards Gomorrah" is a wickedly funny experiment. Part travelogue, part polemic, and part philosophy, Dan's a perfect partner in sin. 4 of 6 people found this review helpful.

Chapter 6 : blog.quintoapp.com whois history records

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Chapter 7 : Skipping Toward Gomorrah by Savage, Dan

Un site pour rencontrer des femmes. Plan cul d'un soir ou relation suivie, venez decouvrir les annonces gratuites de ces

femmes pulpeuses et coquines en manque de calins et de sexe.

Chapter 8 : Editions of Skipping Towards Gomorrah by Dan Savage

Skipping purports to be a look at the seven deadly sins in modern America, a positivist, pro-sin answer to Robert Bork's dour Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern.

Chapter 9 : Nouveau Site Rencontres Gratuit- Site de plan cul

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.