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# American Savage: Insights, Sights, And Fights On Faith, Sex, Love, And Politics



## Synopsis

On the heels of his Emmy-winning It Gets Better campaign, columnist and provocateur Dan Savage weighs in on such diverse issues as healthcare, gun control, and marriage equality with characteristic straight talk and humor. Dan Savage has always had a loyal audience, thanks to his syndicated sex-advice column Savage Love but since the incredible global success of his It Gets Better project - his book of the same name was a New York Times best seller - his profile has skyrocketed. In addition, he's written for The New York Times, Rolling Stone, The Onion, GQ, The Guardian, Salon.com, and countless other widely read publications. Savage is recognized as someone whose opinions about our culture, politics, and society should not only be listened to but taken seriously. Now, in American Savage, he writes on topics ranging from marriage, parenting, and the gay agenda to the Catholic Church, sex education, and the obesity epidemic.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 41 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 28, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00D1YS522

Best Sellers Rank: #248 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT #297 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Gay & Lesbian #389 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction

## Customer Reviews

I am a lover of fiction. Oh, sure, I read a lot of non-fiction -- news, blogs, internet columns -- but when I think of reading for pleasure, it is always fiction. So I bought Dan Savage's book out of impulse. I like his columns, SLOG, his podcasts, his work on behalf of gay kids and my gay friends -- so why not give him a little paid thank you for all of the free stuff I've gotten from him over the years? So the book arrived on my Kindle app and I thought I'd read one essay -- like maybe one a day? Who knew I'd gobble it down like -- well -- my favorite novels? Savage is an amazing writer -- precise in his thought process, graceful in his expression, amusing, humane, and frequently (as Mike Huckabee says) "rude, vile, and angry." The victims of his needle wit, of course, absolutely

deserve it, having attacked vilely and viciously his life, his family, his friends, and those in this world who just want to be allowed to love as their beings demand. Dan's work is sometimes angry, but more often he shows humor, love and a keen understanding of human nature. So I recommend this book to those who appreciate good writing as well as to those who enjoy insight into other people's lives (including their sex lives!), or who just appreciate seeing the bigots of this world skewered as they well deserve with a measured wit and deadly logic.

I'm a fan. Let's just put that out there. Never miss a podcast, and I admire the guy greatly. But, the book didn't offer anything to a regular Savage consumer that we don't get every time we tune in. This is a greatest hits album meant to cash in on the high profile of the recent years. As I was reading it, I was thinking that it would be great for those who have experienced Savage at a distance. Those of us who have been viewing close up for a while aren't going to find anything new here. Honestly, I long for something that matches the personal brilliance of the early books, "The Kid" and "The Commitment." When Dan is talking about his life and making it personal, the authenticity is inspiring. He does self-deprecation so well (thank you, Catholic upbringing). You see shades of that in this book when he talks about his mother's death and in other chapters with glimpses into his family life and relationship. But, that great stuff gets drowned in the political discourse in this book. And while I am always in Dan's corner when he talks politics, I guess I look for something more when he's writing a book. That's what makes this just a "good" for me and not something that I'll be raving about to others. The brand of "Dan Savage" is driving the bus right now, and hey, who can blame him? I miss the authentic writer, though. It's what the core is made of, and I bet it will return later when the heat dies down.

I'm a Dan Savage geek. I was prepared to like Dan's new book. I had no idea that I would love it, highlight it, bookmark it, rave about it. I had no idea that Dan could write so eloquently, and from the heart. Dan's personal stories are moving, especially when he writes about his mother's death, his husband, or his son. Each time he speaks from his heart with a story from his own life, it is to illustrate or lead us to an important point. American Savage is a book about sex, love, and marriage in our contemporary culture and how politics, religion, and sexuality get mixed together -- and badly mixed up. I recommend it to everyone, straight or gay, who cares about how confused our culture is about sexuality and religion and politics. Please read this book and share it with people in your life who agree with you -- and those who don't.

I have encountered Dan Savage twice on Bill Maher's HBO show--a great wit with a take-no-prisoners approach to bursting the bubbles of hysterical right wing-nuts! This collection of essays--likely some of his columns--is a very forthright and honest exploration of all kinds of things, not just sexual. My favorite, maybe, is the chapter on the accusation that Pres. Obama is a socialist, and then Dan gets into showing us how following the gospel instructions on feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and caring for the poor and aged...that's real socialism, as is Medicare, gov't subsidized...anything, etc. Get it!

(Says the straight 40 something woman)If you're a fan of Savage Love, this book is a no-brainer. It encompasses Dan's wit and logic (and colorful turn of phrase) in a manner that makes you feel like you're sitting in a bar with him discussing life. It's not just about "Teh Gay", it's also about sex education and strengthening the family (yes, every family, even "opposite sex" ones). There's a heartbreaking chapter on the death of his mother, and his proudest moments as a parent, and his strong love of his spouse. And frankly, there is a very emotional chapter on his struggle with leaving his Catholicism behind.....as an ex-Catholic, I can understand the ambiguity.Thank you Dan, you've created a topical tome on life in America in the 21st Century. You've been on the front lines of the culture wars for a few years now, and should e proud of your accomplishments and voice.Buy the book if you enjoy reading about the culture wars. Don't buy it if you are a Biblical literalist. I guarantee you will NOT like it.

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