



Wicked Pleasures: Meditations on the Seven 'Deadly' Sins

By Robert C. Solomon

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The seven deadly sins have provided gossip, amusement, and the plots of morality plays for nearly fifteen hundred years. In *Wicked Pleasures*, well-known philosopher, business ethicist, and admitted sinner Robert C. Solomon brings together a varied group of contributors for a new look at an old catalogue of sins. Solomon introduces the sins as a group, noting their popularity and pervasiveness. From the formation of the canon by Pope Gregory the Great, the seven have survived the sermonizing of the Reformation, the Inquisition, the Enlightenment, the brief French reign of supreme reason, the apotheoses of capitalism, communism, secular humanism and postmodernism, the writings of numerous rabbis and evangelical moralists, two series in the *New York Times*, and several bad movies. Taking their cue from this remarkable history, the contributors, allowed one sin apiece, provide a non-sermonizing and relatively light-hearted romp through the domain of the deadly seven.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Gluttony, pride, sloth, greed, anger, lust, and envy have been the source of theological discussion since Pope Gregory I (590-604) institutionalized them as the seven "deadly" sins. They have also been the grist for countless poems, plays, and novels, both religious and secular. Solomon (philosophy and business, Univ. of Texas; *A Passion for Wisdom*, LJ 4/1/97) has compiled seven essays, each dedicated to one of the sins and each written by a generalist or a theologian writing as a generalist. Solomon set no boundaries on the assignment, and the result is a highly entertaining, non-proselytizing, non-academic collection. Thomas Pynchon writes about sloth and the modern-day couch potato; the late William H. Gass expounds on lust as a hidden, deep-down virtue; and other less famous essayists are just as funny, irreverent, and cocky in their observations. Recommended for all libraries. AGlenn Masuchika, Chaminade Univ. Lib., Honolulu
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Review

Wicked Pleasures returned my notions of vice/versa. I am enjoying some of the seven deadly sins more but questioning what I once thought of as my virtues. Thanks, Robert Solomon, I needed that. (Sam Keen, author of *The Passionate Life*, *Fire in the Belly* and *Hymns to an Unknown god*)

Wicked Pleasures provides some worldly and wise reflections on the seven 'deadly' sins by some of our best writers. These essays should enlighten and maybe delight anyone who has ever fallen prey to the seven deadly ones?which means, all of us. (Douglas Kellner, UCLA; author of *Media Culture and Media Spectacle* and *the Crisis of Democracy*)

Solomon has compiled seven essays each dedicated to one of the sins. . . . Solomon set no boundaries on the assignment, and the result is a highly entertaining, non-proselytizing, non-academic collection . . . funny, irreverent, and cocky. (*Library Journal*)

Wicked Pleasures is a collection of well-informed, sometimes irreverent essays that reflect upon the so-called seven deadly sins?lust, anger, envy, gluttony, greed, pride, sloth?and in that process explain the hold they have had on the moral imagination of Western Christendom for a millennium. Well-written. Well-edited. A pleasure to read. (Bernd Magnus, University of California, Riverside)

About the Author

Robert C. Solomon is Quincy Lee Centennial Professor of Philosophy and Business and distinguished teaching professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Well known for his writings on the passions, the emotions, ethics, and excellence, Solomon is the author of numerous books, most recently *A Passion for Wisdom* (with Kathleen Higgins), Oxford 1997.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ronda Caesar:

This book untitled *Wicked Pleasures: Meditations on the Seven 'Deadly' Sins* to be one of several books

which best seller in this year, that's because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it through online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this book from your list.

Kim McLoughlin:

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