



# The Tightwad Gazette: Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle

Amy Dacyczyn

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## **The Tightwad Gazette: Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle** Amy Dacyczyn

Having discovered that frugality is good for the bank account and the environment, Amy Dacyczyn started a newsletter for skinflints in 1989. Within a year, 50,000 cheapskates had subscribed to The Tightwad Gazette. Now Amy has collected all her wisdom into a book, and it's as good a deal as you'll find in these inflationary times. Line drawings.

## **The Tightwad Gazette: Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle Details**

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Author : Amy Dacyczyn

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## **From Reader Review The Tightwad Gazette: Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle for online ebook**

### **Sarah Jedd says**

Character research and an amazing vintage romp.

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### **Hardcover Hearts says**

This book is extreme. If we do go into a depression, I will be using this as my bible. The woman turned saving into a sport and I was amazed at how anal she was in her quest to save pennies. Some good ideas and then there are a lot of out there ones too.

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### **Kristin says**

I've read this book--and the rest of the series--before, but it had been many years, so I pulled them off the shelf to read again. Even though some of the suggestions are outdated, this book never fails to spark new ideas and give me plenty to think about.

If you try to take each piece of advice at its face, you are going to be disappointed. Some suggestions are no longer relevant due to changes in technology, and some were never relevant to those without large families, those living in smaller spaces, and those who live in urban areas. But to view the book in this way is missing its overarching point.

Thrift is not about doing the specific things recommended decades ago--although some of these are timeless and hold up well--it's about seeing things in a different way. It's about rethinking all the little things you do throughout your day, and trying to figure out a way to do it more efficiently and/or at slower cost. It's about figuring out what your values are, where you can scrimp, and where you want to spend. It's about thinking outside the box when it comes to holidays, parties, gift-giving, cooking, shopping, working, investing, and just living.

There is something here for everyone, and because the books are a compilation of articles and letters from the newsletter of the same name, it's easy to skip the articles of little practical value if you so choose. However, if you are serious about being a better steward of your financial resources, I urge you to at least skim through all the articles. Often articles about a topic not particularly relevant to my situation sparked an idea about something similar which is relevant.

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### **Chris says**

Informative.

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### **Amanda says**

This book is filled with so much useful information, but it is funny to read prices of items, such as food, and bemoan the fact that prices have risen in the 25 years since this books was put together. I highly recommend it to anyone trying to thrive while living within their means, rather than living the American dream of debt.

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### **R. C. says**

I read this many years ago, when I was a young mom with just one baby, and I had incorporated many of the tips and tricks into my routine. Re-reading was not as valuable as I hoped. I'd say a third of the tips are no longer relevant because of changes caused by Craigslist, eBay and the like. What was useful I was mostly already doing. I did jot down a few recipes, casserole ratios and the like.

I'd warn also that maybe twenty percent of the still modernly relevant ideas are not doable outside the middle class. Someone living under the poverty line without a car from paycheck to paycheck can't buy lots of meat when it's on sale or drive out to the burbs to go yardsaling.

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### **Rhonda says**

The main take-away message from this book is the importance of the change in mindset that is most important when choosing to live a happy, debt-free life. Every successful journey first begins in the mind.

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### **Michele Lee says**

Out dated, and at points extreme. But I got my idea for my free potato planter and my awesome homemade iced mocha powder from here, so...totally worth the read.

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### **Katie/Doing Dewey says**

The Tightwad Gazette started out as an actual gazette – a series of newsletters written by author Amy Dacyzyn. The book is basically just a compilation of these news letters with dividers indicating the different seasons. Some of the advice is seasonal, such as creative ways to do meaningful but cheap Christmas presents. Other advice is much broader, touching on the ethics of being a tightwad and the creativity required to solve problems cheaply. The rest of the advice is somewhere in-between, discussing topics that will only be useful to people in certain situations. This includes everything from advice about raising kids cheaply to having a good yard sale to finding creative uses for old milk jugs.

Unfortunately, I don't have kids, I'm not holding a yard sale, and I don't buy a lot of milk. So for those and many other reasons, large sections of the book were often not applicable to me. Some of them might be eventually (for instance, I'll definitely buy more milk when my boyfriend is around starting in December) but I'm not entirely convinced that I'll remember such advice existed. And given the nearly complete lack of organization, I'm certain I couldn't find it unless I knew to look for it and could use the comprehensive

index.

Although a lot of the book wasn't applicable to me now, I still scribbled down nearly a full page of topics and page numbers I think I should reference later. If you have children, even more of the author's clever suggestions could be useful for you. Personally, I enjoyed the author's writing style fairly well. She has a clear, straightforward manner of writing that makes her advice easy to understand. Occasionally she'll also be really funny, although not often enough to make me excited about reading straight through the book. Usually I would still give the book a slightly better rating and put it in the category of "reference book no one else would be silly enough to read through", but it also wasn't well-organized enough that I could see using it as a reference book. Instead, it may be something I come back to in the future if I remember it having advice relevant to my future situation.

*This review first posted on Doing Dewey.*

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### **Fiulz says**

Very good tips. I loved the recipes.

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### **Jean MacLeod says**

I love this book.

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### **Olivia says**

An excellent resource for lifestyle inspiration on living below your means. I did learn a few specific tips I will be implementing, but they real value here in in her creativity and philosophy fueled by the belief that "saving money is the means to an end... not the end itself"

I detracted a star only because the information is noticeably dated and therefore unusable in places, and while this is not the book's fault, context does matter.

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### **Rachel says**

This book is so entertaining, plus it gave me some ideas for how to be even more frugal -- and what I should do with bits of trash I can't recycle. I want to read the "Complete" one now.

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### **Laura says**

While the majority of the tips and tricks in this book are out of date and the remainder I'd already seen on Pinterest, the spirit of the book was still helpful. Amy D. did a good job of encouraging readers to think creatively, not waste anything, and find ways to save resources in every area of life.

## **Oriana Irene says**

Obviously a bit dated, but still incredibly useful and inspirational. A must read. It's quick and fun, and has sequels!

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