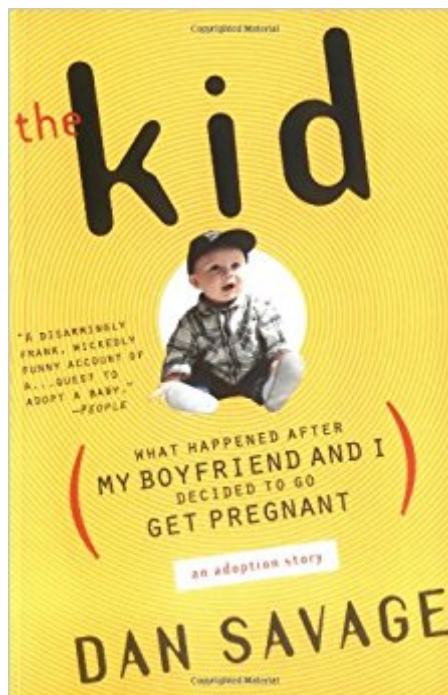




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# The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend And I Decided To Go Get Pregnant



## Synopsis

Dan Savage's nationally syndicated sex advice column, "Savage Love," enrages and excites more than four million people each week. In *The Kid*, Savage tells a no-holds-barred, high-energy story of an ordinary American couple who wants to have a baby. Except that in this case the couple happens to be Dan and his boyfriend. That fact, in the face of a society enormously uneasy with gay adoption, makes for an edgy, entertaining, and illuminating read. When Dan and his boyfriend are finally presented with an infant badly in need of parenting, they find themselves caught up in a drama that extends well beyond the confines of their immediate world. A story about confronting homophobia, falling in love, getting older, and getting a little bit smarter, *The Kid* is a book about the very human desire to have a family.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Best known for his syndicated sexual advice column, "Savage Love," Dan Savage shares his own story in *The Kid*, a hilarious account of his efforts--along with his partner--to adopt a child. (Whoops, make that his boyfriend; Savage can't stand the "genderless" P-word: "Straight people and press organs that want to acknowledge gay relationships while at the same time pushing the two-penises stuff as far out of their minds as possible love 'partner.' I hated it.") Savage doesn't give an inch on the sexuality issue; it's hard to imagine that a homophobic reader would even pick up *The Kid*, but if it happened, Savage's unapologetic presentation of his life would quickly scare that reader off. Which isn't to say that he paints a rosy picture of homosexual cohabitation: the very first scene finds Dan's boyfriend, Terry, locking himself in the bathroom after a fight over the music on the car stereo.

The misadventures continue through each step of the open-adoption process, in which Dan and Terry get to know their baby's birth mother, and the first few weeks of parenthood. The Kid is a wonderful, charming account of real "family values" that proves love knows no limits. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Known for his nationally syndicated sex advice columns (collected in *Savage Love*) and as a regular contributor to NPR's *This American Life*, Savage recounts what he and his boyfriend of two years went through to adopt a child. After investigating the possibility of becoming biological parents with lesbian friends, Savage and his partner, Terry, pursued an open adoption through an agency. They met Melissa, a homeless "gutter punk," whom they liked, although they worried that she drank and took drugs recreationally at the beginning of her pregnancy. In the end, though, everything worked out for everyone involved. Savage is best when detailing the emotional ups and downs that came with revealing that he was even considering gay parenting, including his anxiety about the possible disapproval of both gay and straight friends, about the ways his sex life would change and about buying the right "baby things." Employing the blunt tone of his columns, Savage humorously and honestly discusses his sexual practices (including bondage and fantasies involving actor Matt Damon), his ambivalence about being a parent and his rage at his homophobic grandmother. His forthrightness is brave and daring in the face of social opposition to gay parenting. However, though Savage's chatty, mercilessly satiric style is effective in his columns and may be intended here to balance the optimistic underpinnings of his journey into parenthood, in this sustained narrative it wears a bit thin. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have never written a review. For anything. Ever. I am an over tipper (like Dan) and therefore, I don't review. That said. I adopted my son 9 years ago. After going through the same realization that Open Adoption is THE ONLY way (for me, oy). We had "interruptions" and more. We were that infertile couple in the room. And if I had read this book, before. Before infertility.... I would've known to stop sooner. Before adoption... I would've trusted myself as I did later and NOT turned away from maybe scary situations. But more than anything. I would have known. Really understood the birth mother perspective in a healthier way. I love our birthmother. But I was scared of her. I was. If I had read this book before our gorgeous boy was born... I would've done a better job honoring her. Thank you Dan and Terry! I sent our birthmother your book with my heartfelt thoughts. How lucky am I? I was "mall walking with her. She noticed my ring. I told her it was my engagement ring.... My

husbands great grandmothers ring. I told her it would be her (our) sons. His birthright as the first born... To give to the woman he loved. I instantly corrected myself and said "to give to the person he loves". She stopped me. Her tiny body threw herself around me and said "I know you will love him whoever he is!" Sorry. This book. This book. My god this book.

...for those of us who are modern/Millennial/Generation X/urbanite/blue-state/possibly heterosexual/open-minded families. A lot of the books that come up in adoption searches are treacly Chicken Soup for the Adoptee's Soul type stuff, or very Christian-oriented (as are many adoption agencies). I set out to read this because I've been a fan of Dan Savage's column for over 10 years and we were thinking about adoption, so I was looking for something not-so-treacly-or-Christian. I was rewarded by his typical honesty and acerbity, and also humanistic respect-with-a-dash-of-realism for the other people involved in the process, from his in-laws, to his son's birth mother, to the agency's workers. And though this generally labelled and categorized under "Gay and Lesbian Adoption," I thought for the most part the experiences were more applicable than not to every couple looking at open adoption. There are some passages that talk about the unique aspects of adopting as a gay couple (they never struggled with fertility; they thought they would never have the ability to get married; the way they were treated by some family members) and about some political and moral issues around discrimination against gay people, which I could see turning off someone conservative. Thankfully, due to the work of Dan and many other activists, most of these issues have become part of the national dialogue between the time the book was written and now--so to anyone who is reading it specifically for a memoir on open adoption, those passages are more tangential and mundane, than radical. In short, I recommend this to anyone who is considering open adoption, and looking for something respectful but fun to read about it. I don't recommend it to anyone who is homophobic or disrespectful of queer families.

This was wonderful, hilarious, engaging, tear-jerking and an all-around fun read. Characters were well-rounded and complete, even the "gutter punk" kids with bit parts were absolutely complete characters. I did think that the first 5-6 chapters got a little bogged down in exposition (my internal editor was mentally removing the chapter "put this book down" as it was entirely irrelevant and didn't move the story forward in any way); once they got into the "pool" and we met Melissa I found it a much more engaging read. Also I wanted to know more about Bacchus and DJ during that first year...as the book came to a close I really felt I hadn't had enough. Also, while I personally love Savages writing, I find his in-person conversational/interviewing style more than a little brusque and

stand-offish, so it was weird to read the parts about others being stand-offish or removed when he really seems very much that way in interviews. Just an observation...

I am not a fan of Savage's style. Nevertheless, his story is very interesting and funny. I don't mind profanity at all, but I think there's a place for it, and I find it of bad taste that he relies on it too much for this type of book. I think he can't help himself to be proselitizing and preachy and that, too, decreases the quality of the story.

While this book isn't a recent release, I feel like it is an honest portrayal of their journey to adoption. A very useful and easy read - leaving me quite a lot to think about.

I first read this book in college, and it really opened me up to the idea of open adoption. Going through the adoption process myself, I wanted to revisit the story. It is still relevant and most importantly, relatable.

Book was in great condition and the story kept me so intrigued that I didn't feel like I was even reading it for a college class of mine. Definitely recommend this book to anyone looking for a lighthearted humor yet very touching book that you won't be able to put down.

Very touching and inspiring book from one of my favorite people.

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