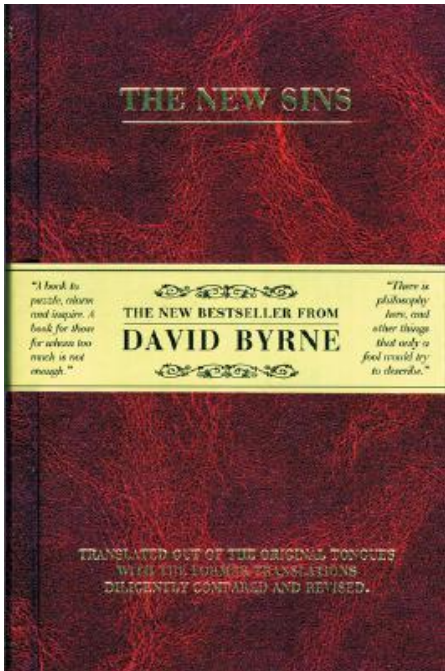




The New Sins

David Byrne

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The New Sins David Byrne

David Byrne has written a book that updates and alters the Bible's cardinal sins for a more contemporary audience. Byrne wanted the book to be the size and shape of a portable Bible, and thus *The New Sins* resembles the sort of book a strange person in a robe would try to give you in an airport. Bizarre and profound, the book includes 80 color photographs taken by the author.

The New Sins Details

Date : Published August 28th 2006 by McSweeney's (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9781932416589

Author : David Byrne

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, Art, Reference, Religion

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From Reader Review The New Sins for online ebook

scott noble says

come on... a book on religion by david byrne? are you kidding? anyone who has doubts about religion, or just has alternate beliefs should take 30 minutes to read this one...

Ray Ambrosini says

This tome belongs tucked away in hotels near the dead ends of the world. Where salesmen go to die, reaching for a prayer after indulging in too much drink and painful heartburn from the BBQ joint by the side. A look into the absurdity of looking for answers, occasionally dropping genuinely good advice wrapped in uncomfortably televangelist prose. Not words to love, live or die by but a powerful statement of an artist's view compressed into a velvety red book.

Christiane says

Odd, interesting to browse through. In English and Spanish; the pictures are different but I think the text is the same in both languages. Some of the language is lovely and overwrought: "The Heart is like the Sea, wherein dwells the Leviathan, and creeping things innumerable. The Heart is like the Egyptian temples---full of spiders, serpents and snakes. It is a treasure house of sin. A gilded palace in a lake of fire." This passage is opposite a picture of pink rabbit Peeps. Fun in small doses.

Ryan says

There was probably a time when I would have found this book entertaining, even enjoyable. Perhaps when I bought it in 2001 upon its publication by McSweeney's, when I was very into what they were up to. Or perhaps even sooner, while in college and a massive fan of the Washington, D.C. post-punk outfit Nation of Ulysses and their brand of leftist agitprop. Perhaps, but I doubt it. Even then I likely would have found this sort of self-referential (and self-reverential) exercise overwrought and tedious. But, one might argue, it's all about context. Perhaps knowing the original subversive intent of the book (it was placed in hotel rooms where unsuspecting guests would find it in place of the Bible), is supposed to make it and its subject matter more titillating. Perhaps, but it doesn't. David Byrne failed miserably to get me to care about abandoning the old sins in favor of the new ones, why we should abandon the old ones, or what it is about the new ones that even makes them sinful. Fortunately he didn't too spend much time making his case, so he didn't waste too much of mine.

John says

an art piece - provocative, thought, anxiety and laugh producing...for the underdeveloped reading may induce a sense of self-righteousness and help feed negative stereotypes about your parents.

Damian says

At times hilarious, at times disagreeable, at times mischievous, but always challenging and interesting. A resetting of biblical imperatives for modern times, a sideswipe to all that we hold as true (that's a good, thing, incidentally). And it's helped my Spanish!

Read it in an airport, and hope that religious types come and talk to you, that's what i say.

Best line - we don't want the truth, we want a better fiction.

Andrew Bourne says

Oh, Mr. Byrne! Aren't we clever? But how much mayonnaise can we really put on a single sandwich? Mayonnaise is indeed delicious, but too much of even the most robust stuff can become saccharine. And pairing off with Dave Eggers; my tooth explodes!

Emer Vaughn says

It's funny and "innocently" unnerving, like most McSweeney's stuff; I'm glad I came across a copy of this.

Did you know honesty is a sin? I like this: "Our loved ones demand honesty, but what they really want is better fiction."

Katey says

I'll enjoy committing the new sins almost as much as the old ones.

Nathan says

Like a David Lynch movie in book form. Seriously. It makes no sense, but it's super-crazy-awesome.

NC

Justin says

A dissapointing 'reinterpretation' of the goods and evils of the world. I wanted so much to dig it--especially since it's written by one of the greatest musical minds of our time.

DRM says

My lovely girlfriend gave this to me for Christmas last year as I'm a big Talking Heads fan. The content is pretty interesting reinterpretations of traditionally accepted values and favors the acceptance and entropy instead of the imposing of order and relentless self improvement. But what really did it for me is how the book itself is designed just like a Gideon's Bible that could be found anywhere. I'm tempted to leave it at a bus stop to spread Byrne's "alterna gospel" but I like the layout, photos (also taken by Byrne), and the passages too much to actually go through with it!

Luke says

David Byrne updates and alters the Bible's cardinal sins. Bizarre and profound, the book looks like a portable Bible (beautiful) and points at what he sees as wrong with the way we think & behave in our world.

Dawn says

Very odd little book, but it's by David Byrne, so why WOULDN'T it be odd? I liked the photos better than the text.

Daniel Hoffman says

David Byrne has such a feel for aesthetics! This book captures the handout-bible feel exactly, and the use of both Spanish and English makes the text feel even more impersonal and wide reaching. The book is so over-the-top and droning to the point that even the most invested reader or Byrne fan will put it down out of exhaustion. Maybe that's what Bryne is actually trying to say: stop relying on self-help books (and blind religion) to answer your problems. As important, if not more so, is the context of the book's release. Copies of the book were placed in hotel rooms in lieu of desk-door bibles. It seems Byrne is asking how much of our "belief" is associated with context and how much is internalized? Taking a step back however, I felt the heart of the book was not a social experiment or a pulpy satire, but rather a piece to remind us not to take ourselves so seriously. After all, the book was placed in desk doors, only to be found by the few who stumbled into it. Maybe the ones who have life figured out aren't looking for answers in doors of hotel desks!
