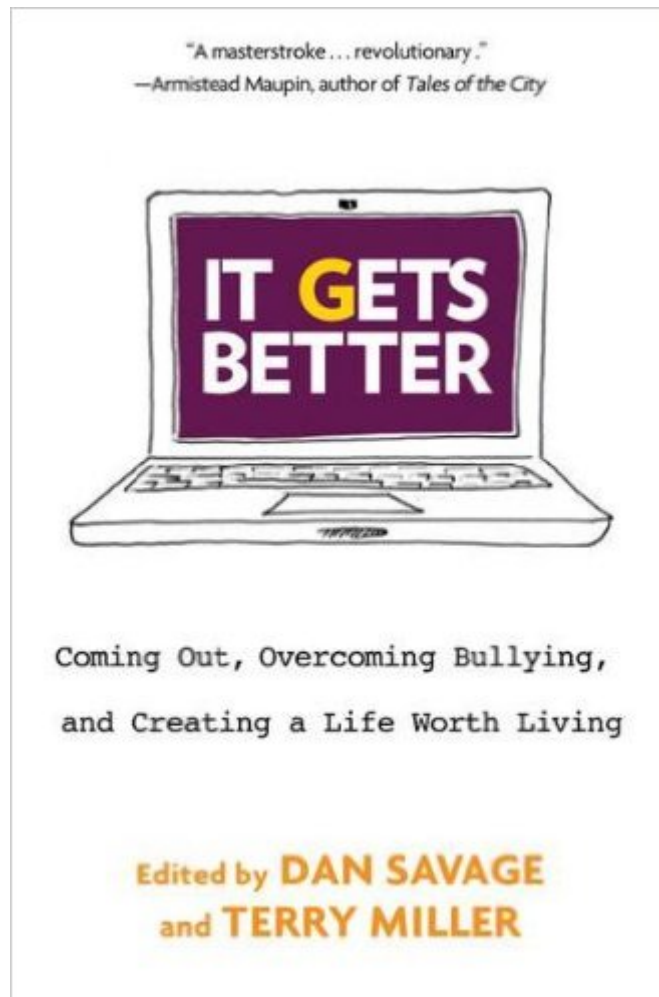


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# It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, And Creating A Life Worth Living



## Synopsis

Every story can change a life. Watch a video Growing up isn't easy. Many young people face daily tormenting and bullying, making them feel like they have nowhere to turn. This is especially true for LGBT kids and teens who often hide their sexuality for fear of bullying. Without other openly gay adults and mentors in their lives, they can't imagine what their future may hold. In many instances, gay and lesbian adolescents are taunted - even tortured - simply for being themselves. After a number of tragic suicides by LGBT students who were bullied in school, syndicated columnist and author Dan Savage uploaded a video to YouTube with his partner Terry Miller to inspire hope for LGBT youth facing harassment. Speaking openly about the bullying they suffered as teenagers, and how they both went on to lead rewarding adult lives, their video launched the It Gets Better Project YouTube channel and initiated a worldwide phenomenon. With over 6,000 videos posted and over 20 million views in the first three months alone, the world has embraced the opportunity to provide personal, honest and heartfelt support for LGBT youth everywhere. It Gets Better is a collection of expanded essays and new material from celebrities, everyday people and teens who have posted videos of encouragement, as well as new contributors who have yet to post videos to the site. While many of these teens couldn't see a positive future for themselves, we can. We can show LGBT youth the levels of happiness, potential and positivity their lives will reach if they can just get through their teen years. By sharing these stories, It Gets Better reminds teenagers in the LGBT community that they are not alone - and it WILL get better.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

On September 22, 2010, in response to publicized incidents of bullying and suicides, author Dan Savage and his husband, Terry Miller, uploaded a video to YouTube on "It Get's Better," a plea to teens and youth to stay alive. They hoped to get 100 other videos in this collection. Within 24 hours, someone uploaded a second video. In 3 days, there were several hundred videos. At the end of the week, there were 1,000. In week 4, the White House called with a request to add a video from President Obama. There are now more than 10,000 videos in the It Get's Better collection. About 1% of these were selected and transcribed and combined with expanded and original essays to present these messages in written form. The themes of the essays are why gay, bi, questioning, outsider, bullied, or any other youth should not kill themselves or be self destructive, since their lives will and do get better. The book includes resources and suggestions, and should be read by teachers, librarians, youth workers, parents, and of course, youth. The book features contributions by President Obama, David Sedaris, Kate Clinton, Murray Hill, Bishop Gene Robinson, Ellen Degeneres, Tim Gunn, UK PM David Cameron, Suze Orman, Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, Chaz Bono, Bruce Ortiz, Perez Hilton, Alex Orue and many more. There is something for nearly everyone: Jennifer Finney Boylan, a transgender woman who teaches at Colby, writes about a post-college incident where she drove to the literal edge of North America to end her life from a cliff (but didn't); Gregory MaGuire, the author of "Wicked" writes an essay; while Kevin Yee, an actor in the musical, "Wicked," also writes one. It is one of the funniest essays in the book.

The secret weapon in this collection of essays is this: gorgeous moments of aching truth that pierce the sometimes distracting hype associated with the "It Gets Better" project and deliver an emotional wallop. It's an earnest, uneven, truly inspirational collection, with enough of those heart-in-your-throat moments to keep you reading. Interestingly, the most famous names in the book have the least impact. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Al Franken, Suze Orman and even Ellen Degeneres are all here, but their pieces feel about as passionate as thumbing through their cue cards. Maybe fame leads to caution. You'll have to settle for celebrity twice-removed to tap a wellspring of real emotion. Randy Roberts Potts is the grandson of the late, ultra-homophobic televangelist Oral Roberts, and Randy shares a family secret more salacious than his own homosexuality: his uncle, Ronald David Roberts, was also gay, and he was so despondent after coming out to his famous father that he killed himself with a gunshot to his heart. Randy's own story is filled with religious and social trials, but there is victory. "I had to fight hard for it, but it finally happened," he writes, "the freedom to just be myself." And then he can't resist this: "My grandfather was famous for telling people, 'Something good is going to happen to you!' And, it's strange to

admit it, but he was right."I still have the voice of lesbian Gabrielle Rivera ringing in my ears. Gabrielle appears on page 45 and not a moment too soon, bursting with truth and anger and passion. "It kind of doesn't get better," she proclaims. "...but what happens is this: You get stronger. You learn how to love yourself. You learn that other people are just crazy and caught up in their own crap.

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It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough: Coming of Age, Coming Out, and Coming Home How to Be Here: A Guide to Creating a Life Worth Living Sleep Smarter: The Ultimate Guide To Sleep Better, Feel Better By Having Healthy Sleeping Habits (sleep smarter, sleep better, healthy sleep habits, sleep ... healthy sleep, sleep apnea, feel better) Coming Out, Coming Home: Helping Families Adjust to a Gay or Lesbian Child Hands Free Life: Nine Habits for Overcoming Distraction, Living Better, and Loving More Out of Bounds: Coming Out of Sexual Abuse, Addiction, and My Life of Lies in the NFL Closet Life Worth Living: How Someone You Love Can Still Enjoy Life in a Nursing Home - The Eden Alternative in Action Documents, Presentations, and Workbooks: Using Microsoft Office to Create Content That Gets Noticed- Creating Powerful Content with Microsoft Office Never Submit: Will the Extermination of Christians Get Worse Before It Gets Better? Scrapbooking Preserving Your Memories For Life: 96 Fun, Practical, And Easy To Do Tips To Help You Plan And Design A Scrapbook That Will Really Stand Out And Be Worth Remembering The 3:16 JumpStart Diet: The Ultimate Eating Guide for Thyroid Patients to Eliminate Symptoms, Lose Weight, Regain Energy and Make Life Worth Living Again A Life Worth Living: Albert Camus and the Quest for Meaning A Life Worth Living Too Perfect: When Being in Control Gets Out of Control Living Off The Grid And Loving It: 40 Creative Ways To Living A Stress Free And Self-Sustaining Lifestyle (Simple Living, Off Grid Living, Off The Grid Homes, DIY Survival Guide, Prepping & Survival) Overcoming Problem Gambling - A guide for problem and compulsive gamblers (Overcoming Common Problems) Caffeine Addiction Gone - A Beginners Guide to Overcoming Caffeine Addiction (Caffeine Addiction Guide, Caffeine Addiction, Overcoming Caffeine Addiction) The Caffeine Cure: A Definitive Guide to Finally Overcoming Your Caffeine Addiction (Addictions, Addiction Recovery, Overcoming Addictions Book 1) The South Beach Diet Supercharged Faster Weight Loss and Better Health for Life [2008 Hardcover] Arthur Agatston MD (Author) Joseph Signorile PhD (Author)The South Beach Diet Supercharged Faster Weight Loss and Better Health for Life [2008 Hardcover]

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