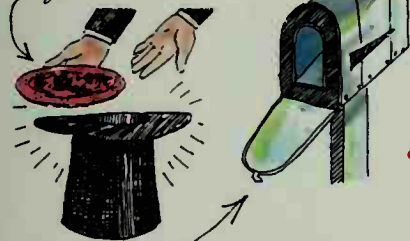


The Tightwad Gazette

**MONEY-BACK
GUARANTEE!
DETAILS INSIDE**

Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle

Leftover Wizardry



Mailbox Revenge



The 3-year Sneaker Plan

The Cheapskate Postal Scale



Ways to Reuse Things



Mailing Packages Cheaply

VITAL, COST-CUTTING INFORMATION ON:

- How to slash your food bills in half
- 10 painless ways to save \$100 this year
- Saving money on health insurance
- Lifestyles of the frugal and obscure
- Ingenious recycling ideas
- Yard sale and thrift shop strategies
- How to be frugal without feeling deprived
- Cooking good meals for pennies a serving
- How to save hundreds on your utility bills
- Cheap holiday and gift notions
- Best tightwad tips from around the country

AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER AMAZING TIPS, TRICKS, STRATEGIES, RECIPES, AND CRAFTS THAT CAN SQUEEZE BIG SAVINGS OUT OF EVEN THE TIGHTEST BUDGET

Finding Bargains



Holiday Savings



Time-Saving Ideas



Thrift and the Environment



Beyond Tightwaddery

Slashing Your Grocery Bill

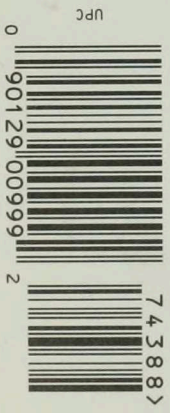


Amy Dacyczyn



a.k.a. The Frugal Zealot

ISBN 0-679-74388-X

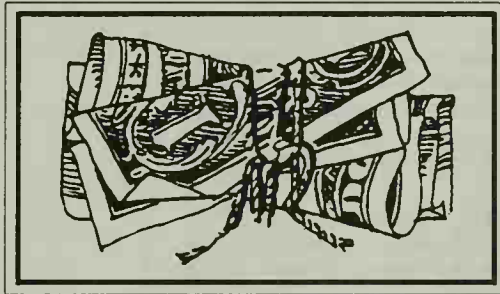


UPC

The Tightwad Gazette

The Tightwad Gazette

Promoting Thrift as a Viable Alternative Lifestyle



**Written and Illustrated by Amy Dacyczyn
a.k.a. The Frugal Zealot**



Villard Books • New York • 1993

Copyright © 1992 by Amy Dacyczyn

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Published in the United States by Villard Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto.

The contents of this work originally appeared in various issues of the author's newsletter, *The Tightwad Gazette*.

VILLARD BOOKS is a registered trademark of Random House, Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Dacyczyn, Amy.

The Tightwad Gazette: promoting thrift as a viable alternative lifestyle / by Amy Dacyczyn.— 1st ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-679-74403-7 (alk. paper)

1. Saving and thrift—United States. I. Title.

HG7931.D23 1992

332.024—dc20

92-22876

Manufactured in the United States of America on acid-free paper

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

First Edition

Preface

I never wanted to write a book. Every book I have ever read on the subject of thrift or money management was as dry as . . . well . . . vacuum cleaner bag dust. As each author wrote about his or her areas of expertise, large areas were left unaddressed. And because learning is an ongoing process, any book would have to be too final and incomplete.

Within the format of a newsletter I have found that I could make my subject matter interesting and fun by balancing types of information and diversifying the manner by which I demonstrated ideas. I solicit reader participation, which provides an enormous pool of expertise to draw upon. So even if my knowledge isn't well rounded, the newsletter can be, and because I constantly learn from my readers the newsletter is a growth process for me as well.

Before accepting this offer from Villard I turned down publishers for more than a year. My primary reason for beginning a newsletter was my belief that a home business would give me more time with my children. My husband and I have six, nine years old and

under. I simply did not have the time or ambition to generate new material for a book. Doing so would shortchange my family and undermine my newsletter. However, what I had written to that point was very incomplete.

A *Tightwad Gazette* book became a possibility when Villard proposed that a compilation of articles could work. This book is a collection of the majority of the material covered in the first two years of my newsletter.

Organizing it presented problems. From the onset we saw that no one method would encompass all the material. Articles did not fit into neat obvious chapters. Some articles could fit into several categories, while others fit into none. Lumping similar material together would make the entire book dry as . . . well . . . you know. On the other hand, I knew that people who had bought all the back issues of the newsletter often read through the entire stack in a single sitting.

With this understanding we decided to assemble the book with the loosest possible structure. Because *The Tightwad Gazette* is written month to month, we or-



ganized material based on times of the year, even though only about 40% of the material is seasonal. You can therefore assume that 60% of the material included under each season may be relevant to any time of year.

This *Tightwad Gazette* compilation is not, and was never intended to be, a complete handbook on thrift. After two years of writing the newsletter I have barely scratched the surface, and I have

more ideas for things to write about today than when I began. As it is only a beginning for me, likewise it is a beginning for you to rethink your lifestyle.

I have written from the viewpoint of "Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach him to fish and he'll eat for life." This book does not contain all the answers. Hopefully, it does contain the necessary tools for you to discover answers for yourself.

Contents

Preface v

They Call Me "The Frugal Zealot" 3

Fall 9

Winter 75

Spring 159

Summer 217

Index 299
