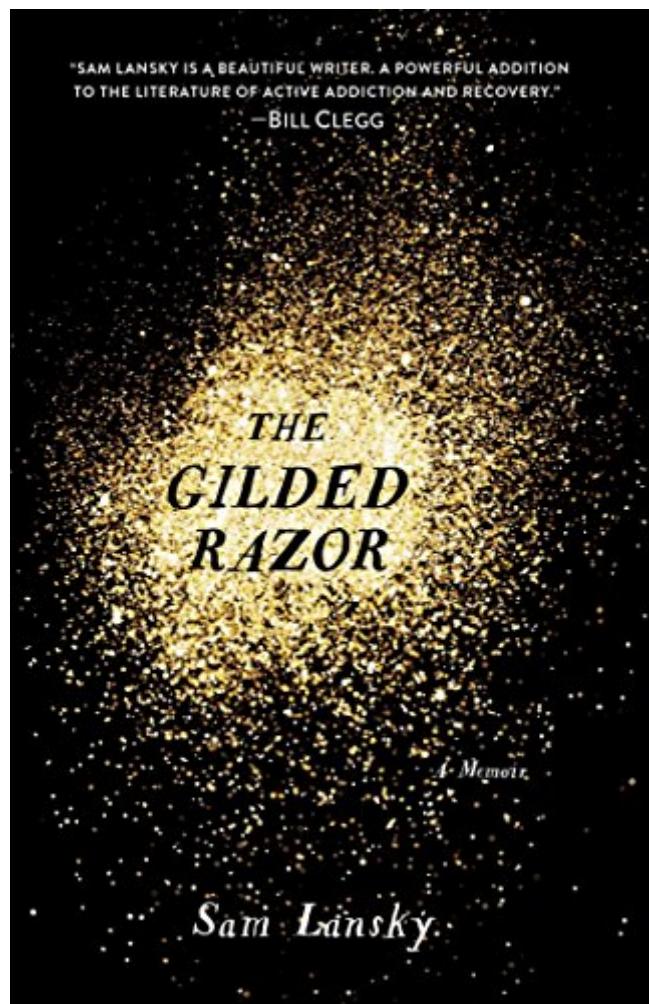


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# The Gilded Razor: A Memoir



## **Synopsis**

Sharply funny and compulsively readable, *The Gilded Razor* is a powerful addition to the literature of active addiction and recovery • (New York Times bestselling author Bill Clegg) from debut author Sam Lansky. *The Gilded Razor* is the true story of a double life that New York Times bestselling author George Hodgman called a virtuosic. • By the age of seventeen, Sam Lansky was an all-star student with Ivy League aspirations in his final year at an elite New York City prep school. But a nasty addiction to prescription pills spiraled rapidly out of control, compounded by a string of reckless affairs with older men, leaving his bright future in jeopardy. After a terrifying overdose, he tried to straighten out. Yet as he journeyed from the glittering streets of Manhattan, to a wilderness boot camp in Utah, to a psych ward in New Orleans, he only found more opportunities to create chaos until finally, he began to face himself. In the vein of Elizabeth Wurtzel and Augusten Burroughs, Lansky scrapes away at his own life as a young addict and exposes profoundly universal anxieties. Told with remarkable sensitivity, biting humor, and unrelenting self-awareness, *The Gilded Razor* is a coming-of-age story of searing honesty and lyricism and a one of the best portraits about the implacable power of addiction • (Susan Cheever, bestselling author of *Drinking in America*).

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Having buried a son, brother and niece to the disease of addiction I can read this with hope that others can survive and perhaps thrive as the author has. Horrid to read and equally important to brave the storm, what do we readers learn? This is the nightmare for too many parents today. A warning call that this IS happening all too often. The helplessness in the face of disease...abundant availability of prescription drugs from doctors and a treatment system splintered....I deeply appreciate the courage of the author to be frank and open. I urge parents to read especially if you foolishly think "not my child".

Sam Lansky has such a powerful voice. I've always struggled a bit with memoirs, but I could not put this book down. The way he intertwines past memories with present reflections is refreshing and relatable. I can't say that I've ever had a pill-induced rendezvous with a random old guy in a hotel sauna or experienced the same emotional trauma Sam Lansky has, but the way he portrays those experiences somehow feels relatable. Not in action but in the sense that we've all had experiences that we've looked back on and thought, "Why did I do that? Probably because I wanted this but didn't know what or how to get it at the time." His ability to reflect so deeply and honestly makes me feel like I'm right there with him.

Wow. Brutally honest. Difficult to get through, but at the same time, I couldn't stop thinking about it. Every time I put it down, my mind swirled with concern, shock, dismay, fascination about this victimized, but obviously brilliant, kid. In the book, he works his way through a disturbingly dysfunctional chapter in his life that nearly killed him. Perhaps the most "honest" book I have ever read. Graphic, disturbing, engrossing, captivating...a great, all consuming read.

So you know when you're starting a new book and you have to debate whether you want to read the prologue because it's not even technically part of the book so why even bother? I decided to take a chance when I read *The Gilded Razor* and dedicated 5 extra minutes to read the two-page preface. I was almost immediately rewarded with tears. Anyone who has struggled with addiction or is close to someone who has will relate painfully often to Sam's writing. Anyone who has not will find beautiful writing and sometimes hilarious/sometimes shattering insight. Be prepared for an emotional

rollercoaster: I felt sick, I felt overjoyed, I felt disappointed, and I felt sleep deprived because I could not put the book down once I started reading.

Wow. I read this book in a weekend and couldn't put it down. I love Lansky's voice - funny, beautiful, and willing to go deep into the scary things in life with full acceptance. I also was really impressed with the structure of the book - where you think the story would naturally end is only halfway - and it goes much deeper and darker than you'd think. Bravo to its honesty. A former best friend of mine suffered from addiction and also came of age in the world of Manhattan private schools. Lansky's story comforted me in the loss of my friend and in a way helped me understand where my friend might have been coming from.

The book is written over most people's heads. But if you can hang with the author, it contains vital information and in insightful look, regarding the difficult pain and victimization felt by those who are dependent on, addicted to, or knows someone who is, attempting to live with or break free of a potentially life threatening situation. This is not a happy book with instructions for recovery or how to support addicts. But it is helpful to hear the author's struggles from the inside looking out. I would recommend this for insight, but don't expect to feel lighthearted after reading it.

Sam- Thank you for the courage to put your story in print, as one person in recovery to another, I say BRAVO! I applaud you! A friend recommended your book to me and we both talked about how we could not put it down! I highly recommend your book to anyone in or out of recovery!

I loved this book! The author tells his story in great detail allowing the reader to empathize with him through all the obstacles he went through. I was really rooting for him to stay sober and repair relationships with his family. I could feel the pain and despair that his parents felt as his life spun further out of control. The end wasn't an "end"... It was the beginning of a young author's life.

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