Record Nr. UNINA9910787776703321 Autore Westacott Emrys Titolo The virtues of our vices [[electronic resource]]: a modest defense of gossip, rudeness, and other bad habits // Emrys Westacott Princeton,: Princeton University Press, c2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 9786613246196 1-283-24619-8 1-4008-3950-5 Edizione [Course Book] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (304 p.) Disciplina 179/.8 Soggetti Vices Conduct of life Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia "A Princeton University Press e-book."--Cover. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. The Rights and Wrongs of Rudeness -- 2. The Ethics of Gossiping -- 3. On Snobbery: Is It Sinful to Feel Superior? -- 4. "That's not funny-that's sick!" -- 5. Why Should I Respect Your Stupid Opinion? -- Acknowledgments -- Notes -- Index Sommario/riassunto Are there times when it's right to be rude? Can we distinguish between good and bad gossip? Am I a snob if I think that NPR listeners are likely to be better informed than devotees of Fox News? Does sick humor do anyone any good? Can I think your beliefs are absurd but still respect you? In The Virtues of Our Vices, philosopher Emrys Westacott takes a fresh look at important everyday ethical questions--and comes up with surprising answers. He makes a compelling argument that some of our most common vices--rudeness, gossip, snobbery, tasteless humor, and disrespect for others' beliefs--often have hidden virtues or serve unappreciated but valuable purposes. For instance, there are times when rudeness may be necessary to help someone with a problem or to convey an important message. Gossip can foster intimacy between

friends and curb abuses of power. And dubious humor can alleviate

existential anxieties. Engaging, funny, and philosophically sophisticated, The Virtues of Our Vices challenges us to rethink

conventional wisdom when it comes to everyday moral behavior.	