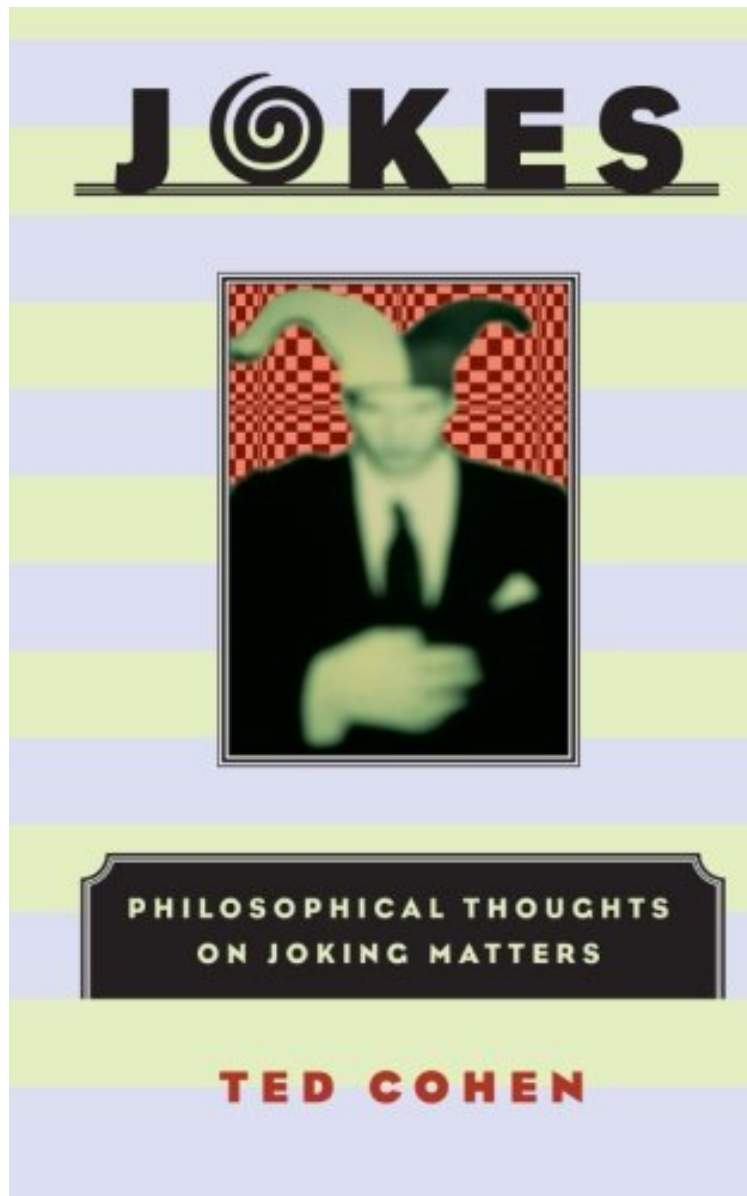


(Get free) Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters

## Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters

*Ted Cohen*

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#389101 in Books Ted Cohen 2001-05-01 2001-05-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .60 x 5.50l, .28 #File Name: 0226112314112 pages Jokes Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters | File size: 62.Mb

**Ted Cohen : Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Laughing LordBy Lauren PilcherDecent book on jokes. There are some interesting connections Ted Cohen makes with stories in the bible and to be honest, that section went on for just

a bit too long. I recommend reading the footnotes. That's where the personality of the author really comes through. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By KCR This is a wonderful book! 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Really Great Toilet Book By Peter L. Forte Ok, I'm not gonna lie, I read this book on the toilet everyday for about a few weeks because I didn't want to include it in my normal reading time. Basically, the author, a Jewish guy who loves Jewish jokes, tells different jokes, mostly paragraph and short story jokes, and then tries to dissect them apart so that we, the reader, can figure out what about them makes people laugh. I enjoyed reading this book but my problem is that it fails to really answer the question about what makes people laugh and why certain things are funny. Laughter and humor are very abstract concepts and I feel like there has to be other books that can answer these kinds of questions with better philosophical conviction. I wait tables as one of my jobs and I'm always looking for good clean jokes to tell to my tables and this book had a few really good ones and few not so good ones. To be honest with you I wouldn't really recommend spending full price on this book which is something that I would rarely say because I feel most authors deserve having their books sold for the list price. I just think that, in this case, if you can get a good used book deal then go for it. If not, and you're someone like me who really has to know everything and loves to break down the philosophy of different things, see what else is out there first.

Abe and his friend Sol are out for a walk together in a part of town they haven't been in before. Passing a Christian church, they notice a curious sign in front that says "\$1,000 to anyone who will convert." "I wonder what that's about," says Abe. "I think I'll go in and have a look. I'll be back in a minute; just wait for me." Sol sits on the sidewalk bench and waits patiently for nearly half an hour. Finally, Abe reappears. "Well," asks Sol, "what are they up to? Who are they trying to convert? Why do they care? Did you get the \$1,000?" Indignantly Abe replies, "Money. That's all you people care about." Ted Cohen thinks that's not a bad joke. But he also doesn't think it's an easy joke. For a listener or reader to laugh at Abe's conversion, a complicated set of conditions must be met. First, a listener has to recognize that Abe and Sol are Jewish names. Second, that listener has to be familiar with the widespread idea that Jews are more interested in money than anything else. And finally, the listener needs to know this information in advance of the joke, and without anyone telling him or her. Jokes, in short, are complicated transactions in which communities are forged, intimacy is offered, and otherwise offensive stereotypes and clichés lose their sting—at least sometimes. *Jokes* is a book of jokes and a book about them. Cohen loves a good laugh, but as a philosopher, he is also interested in how jokes work, why they work, and when they don't. The delight at the end of a joke is the result of a complex set of conditions and processes, and Cohen takes us through these conditions in a philosophical exploration of humor. He considers questions of audience, selection of joke topics, the ethnic character of jokes, and their morality, all with plenty of examples that will make you either chuckle or wince.

From Kirkus s Be fitting its subject, this study of jokes is neither deep nor systematic, but light, funny, and thought-provoking. As one suspicious of theories, Cohen (Philosophy/Univ. of Chicago) offers "no comprehensive theory of jokes," contenting himself instead with relatively disconnected remarks about how some jokes work and "what their existence may show about those of us who love them." This lack of philosophical ambition is frustrating at times, with some observations trite (e.g., that we joke about death to gain power over it) or insufficiently explored (the promising but stunted section on how one creates a joke). Yet the method fits the material, allowing the author to pepper the book with a diversity of jokes without flattening their humor as a steamroller theory might. Such a book is only as good as its jokes, and most of his are good. His taste runs to long and detailed (the longest runs three pages) but with punch lines worth the wait: see the one about the New York cab driver whose fare wants to be driven to Chicago. But short jokes are supplied too: "What's big and gray, and wrote gloomy poetry? T.S. Elephant." Most are cerebral, sometimes excessively so: "Wagner is the Puccini of music" is funny when you think about it, but "What's round and purple, and commutes to work? An Abelian grape" may elude all but mathematicians. Among Cohen's better points: all jokes are conditional, presupposing varying degrees of knowledge in the audience; successful jokes achieve intimacy between teller and hearer; and jokes can seem morally objectionable while also being funny. The most detailed treatment is given to Jewish jokes, which Cohen traces to biblical and talmudic roots and characterizes as outsiders' humor rife with "crazy logic." It's not Aristotle's lost book on comedy, but it does combine entertainment and ideas in one gossamer package. -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From the Inside Flap *Jokes* is a book of jokes as well as a book about them. Ted Cohen loves a good laugh, but as a philosopher, he is also interested in how jokes work, why they work, and when they don't. *Jokes*: more humorous than other philosophy books, more philosophical than other humor books.