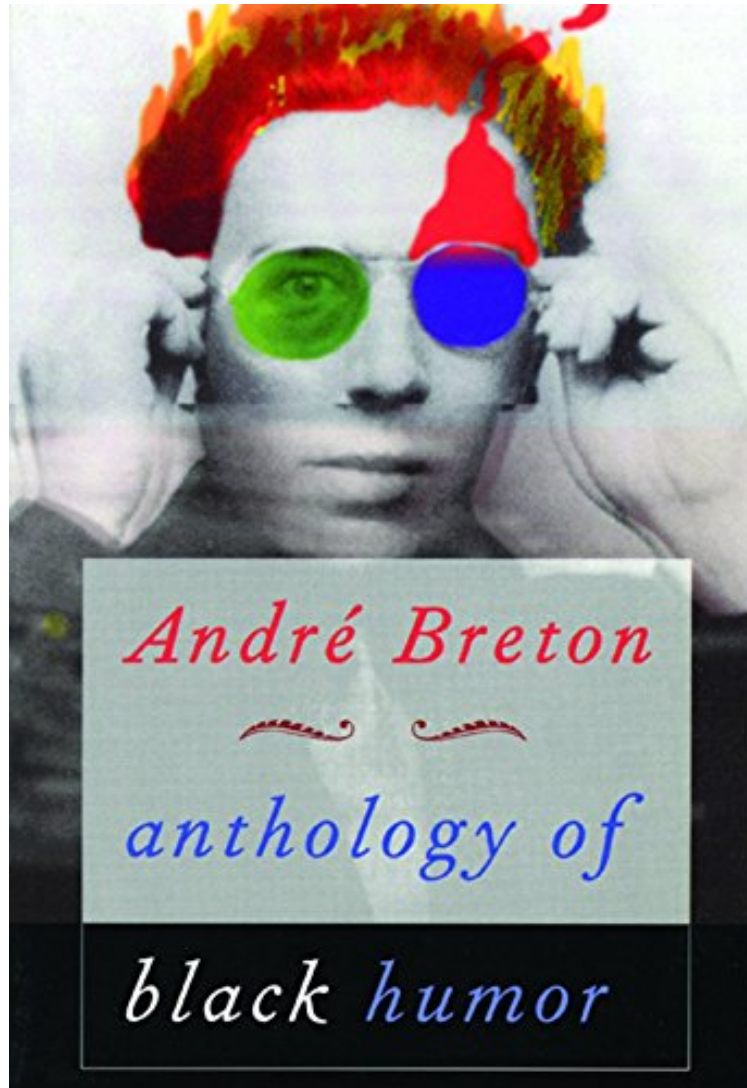


(Download) Anthology of Black Humor

Anthology of Black Humor

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From Brand: City Lights Publishers : Anthology of Black Humor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anthology of Black Humor:

6 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Uneven, but generally not very funnyBy A CustomerAndre Breton had selected the forty core texts for this anthology by 1936, but its publication was delayed by World War II until 1945. Virtually all of the authors were unfamiliar to me, and some are excruciatingly funny, but most are surrealists bogged down in Freudian concepts of the id, ego and superego. Neither Breton nor the translator, Mark Polizzotti, ever bothers to define Black Humor, but if they did, their definition would be Freudian and out-of-line with more modern views. Most of the pieces selected are, unfortunately, childish, unintelligible and boring. Life's short and there are a lot

of great books to read. This is not one of them. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. incredible. By J from NY. Breton's eulogy of surrealist revolt is basically incarnated in this book, which is a collection of insane and eccentric (particularly Lacenaire, murderer and poet) figures who, through absurd humor and surrealistic flights of the fantastic, cast serious (sometimes dangerous) doubts on the validity of the Reality Principle. The best in this collection is perhaps Benjamin Peret, the most uncompromising surrealist of them all. His work is completely recalcitrant to mundane reality, forcing it to become magical and, of course, surreal. Admittedly, some of these writers are difficult to penetrate, but the effort is certainly worth it. Jarry especially. 1 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Goos hit. By A Customer. This book was good because it contained lots of sarcastic, twisted ideas which arose mainly in the nineteenth century. don't read it for fun, read it because you have absolutely nothing better to do. Ta-ta!

This is the first publication in English of the anthology that contains Breton's definitive statement on l'humour noir, one of the seminal concepts of Surrealism, and his provocative assessments of the writers he most admired. While some of the authors featured in *The Anthology of Black Humor* are already well known to American readers—Swift, Kafka, Rimbaud, Poe, Lewis Carroll, and Baudelaire among them (and even then, Breton's selections are often surprising)—many others are sure to come as a revelation. The entries range from the acerbic aphorisms of Swift, Lichtenberg, and Duchamp to the theatrical slapstick of Christian Dietrich Grabbe, from the wry missives of Rimbaud and Jacques Vache to the manic paranoia of Dali, from the ferocious iconoclasm of Alfred Jarry and Arthur Craven to the offhand hilarity of Apollinaire at his most spontaneous. For each of the forty-five authors included, Breton has provided an enlightening biographical and critical preface, situating both the writer and the work in the context of black humor—a partly macabre, partly ironic, and often absurd turn of spirit that Breton defined as "a superior revolt of the mind."

Language Notes
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