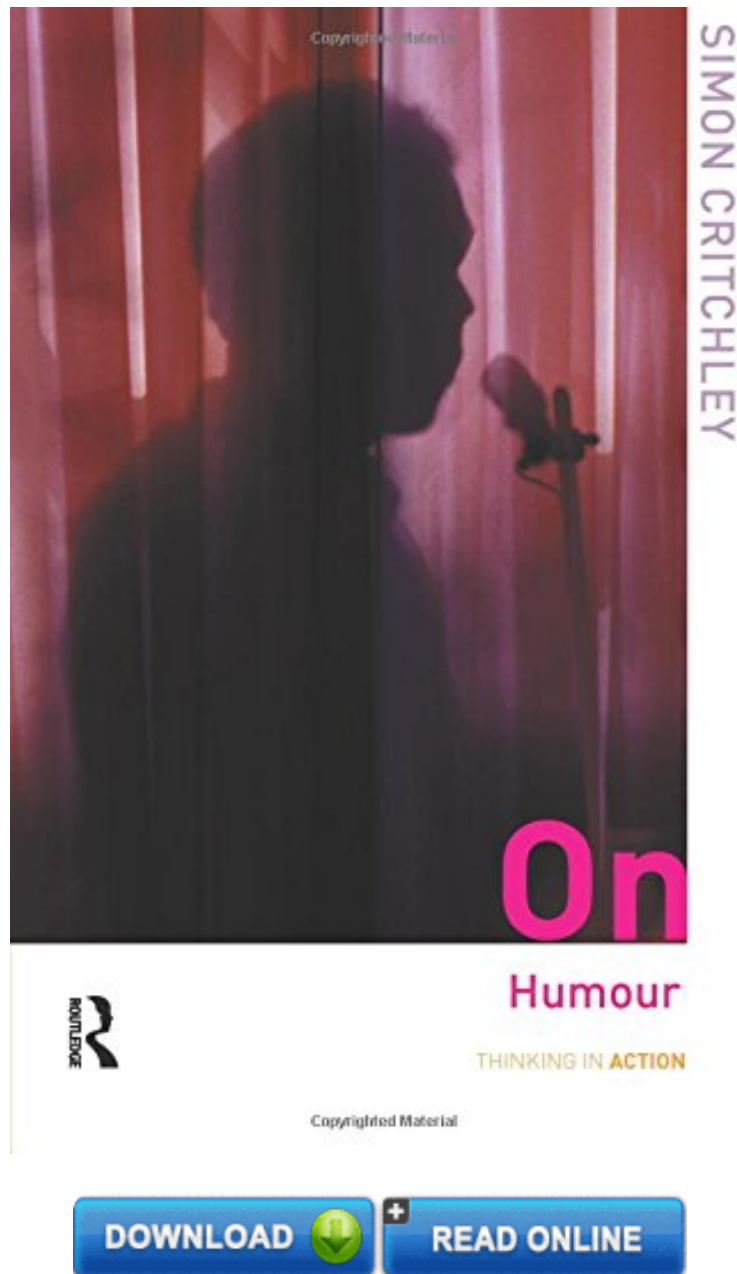


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On Humour (Thinking in Action)

Simon Critchley

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#683564 in Books SIMON CRITCHLEY 2002-06-02 2002-05-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.79 x .33 x 5.071, .34 #File Name: 0415251214144 pages On Humour | File size: 52.Mb

Simon Critchley : On Humour (Thinking in Action) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Humour (Thinking in Action):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great place to start By Belz Great place to start. I've used this as a textbook for my Comedy Theory course for many years, and I recommend it to anyone trying to understand why people laugh. (Please take with a grain of salt the one-star review from Christopher Gontar. If you google his name, he's left a one-star review for literally every comedy theory book. Not sure why!) 5 of 6 people found the following

review helpful. ExcellentBy David VanderHammThis book is about as good as it gets for anyone wanting to think in depth (not necessarily "seriously") about humour. It is commendable both for its overview of the relevant theories as well as for Critchley's original ideas. It is short enough to read in an evening, but sufficiently substantial as well. Critchley writes as well as any contemporary philosopher I've read, which helps immensely when tackling a subject like this.21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Great readingBy Juha LehtonenCritchley observes humour from many perspectives: What is the role of crossing conventional cultural boundaries in comedy? How are the most simple-minded and -- may I say -- barbaric jests used as tools of societal isolation, racism and sexism? In what manner are religious ideas similar to or different from comical conceptions? Most importantly Critchley observes the relationship between our cultural existence and our profound and inescapable, but constantly disturbing animality.Critchley's writing is extremely enjoyable. His theorizing could be occasionally hard to grasp if not familiar with his philosophical background, but the book never turns dull. Actually, in addition to being able to keep up the reader's enthusiasm, Critchley's writing is also remarkably amusing. Not only being explained perceiving theory of comedy, the reader is also able to test the theory himself while reading by observing his own chuckles, bursts of laughter and dark grins as Critchley tells -- depending on the context -- more or less witty jests. And always the jokes help to illustrate his more academical ends.Personally I found the work fresh and inspiring, and also in aesthetic sense nimble. Enjoyable book, from cover to cover.

Does humour make us human, or do the cats and dogs laugh along with us? *On Humour* is a fascinating, beautifully written and funny book on what humour can tell us about being human. Simon Critchley skilfully probes some of the most perennial but least understood aspects of humour, such as our tendency to laugh at animals and our bodies, why we mock death with comedy and why we think it's funny when people act like machines. He also looks at the darker side of humour, as rife in sexism and racism and argues that it is important for reminding us of people we would rather not be.

About the AuthorSimon Critchley is Professor of Philosophy and Director for the Centre of Theoretical Studies at the University of Essex. He is the author of *Ethics-Politics-Subjectivity* (1999) and *Very Little/Almost Nothing* (Routledge, 1997). His most recent book is *Continental Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (2001).