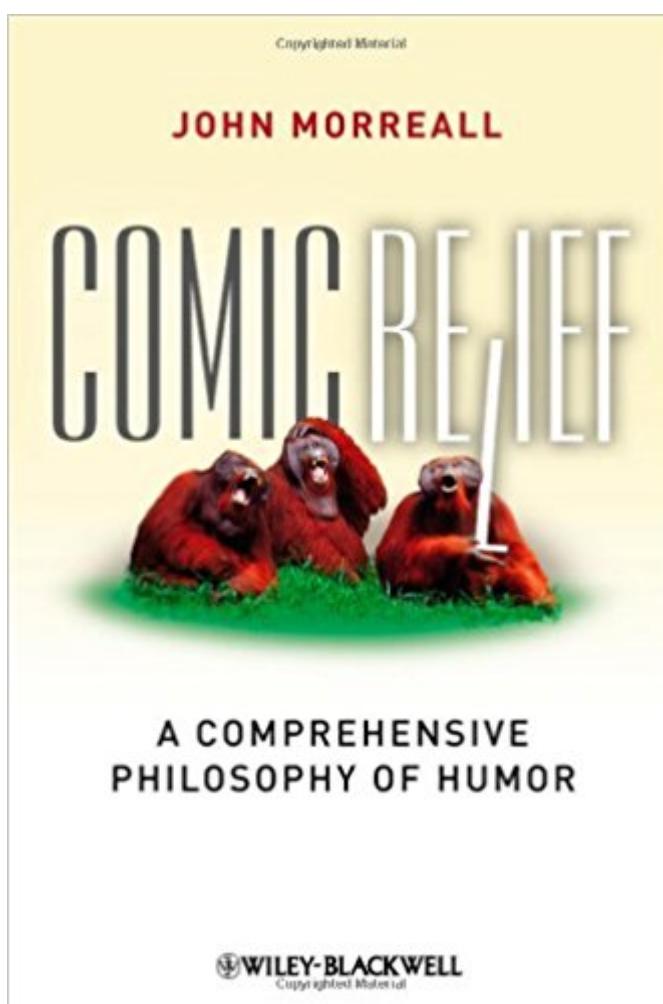


The book was found

# Comic Relief: A Comprehensive Philosophy Of Humor (New Directions In Aesthetics, No. 9)



## Synopsis

Comic Relief: A Comprehensive Philosophy of Humor develops an inclusive theory that integrates psychological, aesthetic, and ethical issues relating to humor. Offers an enlightening and accessible foray into the serious business of humor. Reveals how standard theories of humor fail to explain its true nature and actually support traditional prejudices against humor as being antisocial, irrational, and foolish. Argues that humor's benefits overlap significantly with those of philosophy. Includes a foreword by Robert Mankoff, Cartoon Editor of *The New Yorker*.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 202 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell; 1st edition (September 28, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1405196122

ISBN-13: 978-1405196123

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.9 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #384,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Humor #48 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Theories of Humor #123 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Aesthetics

## Customer Reviews

"As an intelligent treatment of what humor is and what it means, this work raises significant questions and proposes plausible answers." (CHOICE, September 2010)

"Of all of the humor scholars I know, John Morreall is the best at making original, fascinating, and useful observations. We should all be grateful that in *Comic Relief* he has once more demonstrated--in his witty and accessible style--that the play ethic is as important as the work ethic." —Don L. F. Nilsen, International Society for Humor Studies "Comic Relief is an engaging, wide-ranging discussion of how humor is defined within the disciplines of philosophy and history, as well as a brilliant and comprehensive overview of how it is used today. This book is a superb addition to the body of genuinely important works on humor." —Regina Barreca, University of Connecticut

This was a required book for a class, The Psychology of Humor, that I took as a humanities requirement. But, it is not like a textbook, at all. It is a very interesting view of how we use humor and laughter. He also tells the history of humor, and I learned a lot of interesting things about humor that I didn't expect to learn. It is much better than the textbook that was also required for the class.

reading it

would order again

A friend recommended this book so I thought I'd check it out--I'm really interested in humor and jokes but it's hard to find a satisfactory, richly developed theory of laughter. Plenty of people have tried, and the first chapters, which exhaustively list various thinkers' attempts to theorize laughter throughout history and also point out their flaws and shortcomings, are very useful and illuminating. But John Morreall doesn't offer a theory to outdo them. It seems like he's mainly restating the obvious parts of other thinkers' work (he says in the intro that he's a public speaker and consultant who gives talks to corporate meetings about humor--and the way he writes and thinks seems better suited to that kind of work than producing the "comprehensive philosophy" that the title promises). Maybe I wasn't reading close enough into his ideas, but I really lost interest when he spent several pages trying to explain why a rape joke isn't offensive.

book was bought for a student and is used daily in class

I've often wondered what makes us laugh. This book will give me some insights into what makes us tick and why we laugh at some things and frown at others.

This book of Professor Morreall's is a great read. His theory and basic pattern in humor--The playful enjoyment of a cognitive shift is expressed in laughter--is more realistic than conventional superiority, incongruity and relief theories. In this great book, Professor Morreall explored many of the benefits of humor. In Chapter 3, we saw how its emotional disengagement promotes rationality and mental flexibility. The contrast of comedy with tragedy in Chapter 4 showed how comedy fosters a more rational, critical, and creative attitude that serves us better in the modern world. It makes us sensitive to the complexity of life; it enhances our ability to deal with novelty and disorder, and it

challenges elitism, militarism, and sexism. In Chapter 6, he examined some intellectual and moral virtues promoted by humor: open-mindedness, divergent thinking, critical thinking, self-transcendence, honesty with oneself, patience, tolerance, graciousness, humility, perseverance, and courage. Then in Chapter 7, he compared humor to philosophy in promoting a curious, imaginative, critical attitude in which we see our lives in perspective. Enjoy reading!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Comic Relief: A Comprehensive Philosophy of Humor (New Directions in Aesthetics, No. 9) Comic Relief: A Comprehensive Philosophy of Humor (New Directions in Aesthetics) Blank Comic Book : Large Print 8.5 by 11 Over 100 Pages - 6 Panel Jagged Comic Template - Drawing Your Own Comic Book Journal Notebook (Blank Comic ... kids (Blank Comic Book For Kids) (Volume 5) Blank Comic Book For Kids : Large Print 8.5"x11" 110Pages - 7 Panel Jagged Comic Template - Drawing Your Own Comic Book Journal Notebook (Blank Comic Book) Vol.7: Blank Comic Book (Volume 7) Comic Book: Blank Comic Strips: Make Your Own Comics With This Comic Book Drawing Paper - Multi Panels (Blank Comic Books) Blank Comic Book For Kids : Create Your Own Comics With This Comic Book Journal Notebook: Over 100 Pages Large Big 8.5" x 11" Cartoon / Comic Book With Lots of Templates (Blank Comic Books) (Volume 7) Blank Comic Book Make Your Own Comic Book: Create Your Own Comic Strips from Start to Finish (Large Print 8.5"x 11" 120 Pages) (Comic Sketch Book) (Volume 1) My Own Comic Book: Create Your Own Comic Strips from Start to Finish (Large Print 8.5"x 11" 120 Pages) (Blank Comic Books) (Volume 1) 100+ Blank Comic Book Templates: The Blank Comic Book Panelbook with Over One Hundred Different Cartoon Layouts to Create Your Own Comics and Graphic Novels! (Comic Blank Book) Blank Comic Notebook : Create Your Own Comics With This Comic Book Drawing Journal: Big Size 8.5" x 11" Large, Over 100 Pages To Create Cartoons / Comics (Blank Comic Books) (Volume 8) Manifesto for Philosophy: Followed by Two Essays: "the (Re)Turn of Philosophy Itself" and "Definition of Philosophy" (SUNY Series, Intersections, Philosophy and Critical Theory) The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader: Philosophy and Painting (Northwestern University Studies in Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy) Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: An Introduction (Elements of Philosophy) Joking Asides: The Theory, Analysis, and Aesthetics of Humor Performing Marginality: Humor, Gender, and Cultural Critique (Humor in Life and Letters Series) Exalted Terrestrial Directions 2 The West (Compass of Terrestrial Directions) (vol. 2) The Rough Guides' Malta & Gozo Directions 2 (Rough Guide Directions) The Rough Guides' Antigua Directions 1 (Rough Guide Directions) Aesthetics: A Reader in Philosophy of the Arts Contemporary Debates in Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)