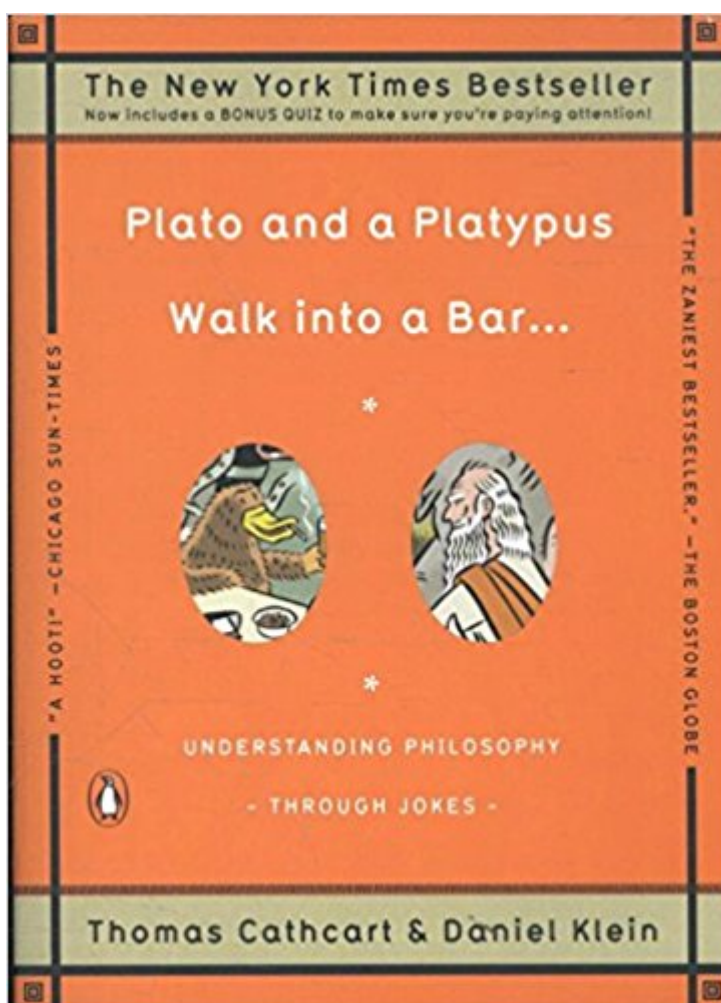


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Plato And A Platypus Walk Into A Bar . . . : Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes



Synopsis

This New York Times bestseller is the hilarious philosophy course everyone wishes they'd had in school. Outrageously funny, *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar...* has been a breakout bestseller ever since authors—and born vaudevillians—Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein did their schtick on NPR's Weekend Edition. Lively, original, and powerfully informative, *Plato and a Platypus Walk Into a Bar...* is a not-so-reverent crash course through the great philosophical thinkers and traditions, from Existentialism (What do Hegel and Bette Midler have in common?) to Logic (Sherlock Holmes never deduced anything). Philosophy 101 for those who like to take the heavy stuff lightly, this is a joy to read—and finally, it all makes sense! And now, you can read Daniel Klein's further musings on life and philosophy in *Travels with Epicurus* and *Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life, They Change it*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“The zaniest bestseller of the year.”
“The Boston Globe laughed, I learned, I loved it.”
—Roy Blount, Jr.

Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein pursued the usual careers after majoring in philosophy at Harvard. Tom has worked with street gangs in Chicago, doctors at Blue Cross Blue Shield, and has dropped out of various divinity schools. Daniel has written several novels and nonfiction books as well as jokes for comedians like Flip Wilson and Lily Tomlin. Daniel Klein lives in Massachusetts, and Thomas Cathcart lives in New York City.

I was loaned this book from a friend who thought "it was me". I took several philosophy and mythology course while in the university and have a dark sense of humor. I almost died laughing! You can only read a few pages at a time if you want to fully digest the true philosophical meaning and not just the humor. However, the humor alone is worth it. A "must read" for anyone with a little bit of education and world knowledge. I ended up buying three more copies to give to friends. They also loved it. Highly recommended!!!!

If you want to learn philosophical ideas in a "non boring" way This is "the Book" you are looking for. Great book. it describes deep ideas in a feather weight way. Really it is amazing. You can read it as a story book once you finish reading a section and you will suddenly realize that what you had read is a complex philosophical idea "just like that". Great I highly recommend for both who are newbies for the field of philosophy- who can get a good grip on what they will learn and even for experienced who can be amazed from the writing style and connections

This book offers a way to get a feeling of the bones of the study of philosophy, with the principles and schools of thought illustrated by jokes, as opposed to long, pedantic passages. This is certainly a unique book. Philosophy is such a serious subject, it seems disrespect to treat it with humor. Consequently, this work feels like a humorous class project (give 'em definite points for the title, particularly) as opposed to a serious effort to teach philosophy. There are amusing lol moments, but it falls a little short of both the philosophy experience and the attempt at humor. . . . Like a Spork.

As a technical person, I have tried later in my life to go back and pick up a bit of the humanities -- to try to answer some of those questions we all have about life and living. I started to read and listen to some light reviews of philosophy and see if I could begin to grasp some of the basic questions and perhaps some of the answers. I am almost certain that one cannot do it by self study, but I have listened and read enough to know some of the basic ideas. And on top of that, I love the "man goes in a bar" jokes. Any book which combines two of the things I really enjoy as this book does has to move to the top of my list. When I saw this book I had to have it. I sat down and read it in about an hour and I loved it. I laughed and laughed and I recommend it to anyone looking to dip a toe into philosophy. Serious students will likely scoff at it, but for the rest of us, the ideas are here for the taking. Buy this book.

An amusing and informative introduction to the major fields of philosophy. It's worth it for the jokes alone.

Although I felt like a fool sitting here all by myself laughing myself to tears over jokes some of which are older than I am (and that's pretty old), I enjoyed every minute of it. And I think there was a glimmer of understanding regarding philosophy as an added treat. I wish I knew somebody who has the same mind-bend as I so I could recommend this book. Loved it!!

Strange at first - but enjoyable later!

great book

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