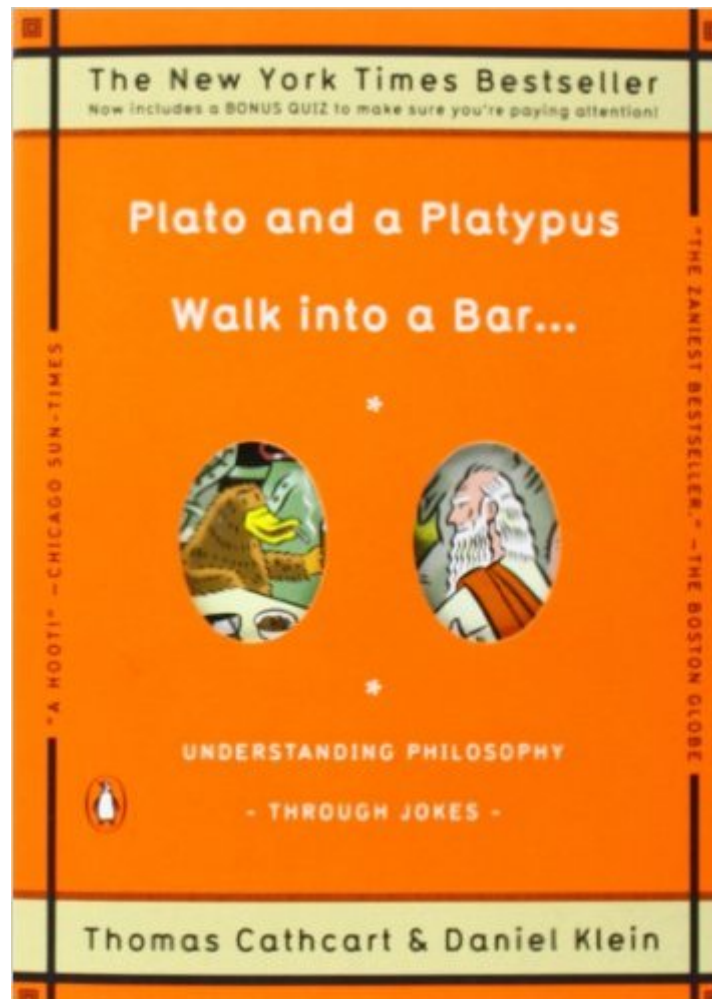


The book was found

# 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

Paperback: 215 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (June 24, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143113879

ISBN-13: 978-0143113874

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (357 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,814 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Jokes & Riddles](#) #26 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > History & Surveys](#) #136 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Essays](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is such a profound and hilarious treasure of a little book that I have ordered several as gifts for family and friends. Because I am long removed from the formal study of philosophy in college, I am grateful to be so smoothly and delightfully reintroduced to philosophical concepts. I intended to read only a brief section (one concept) at a time--each takes no more than fifteen minutes-- but couldn't keep away for long, and finished the book in a day. Now I've lent my copy to a friend, but I can hardly wait to get it back and read it again. In an early 20th century Webster's, philosophy is defined as "Literally, the love of, inducing the search after, wisdom; in actual usage, the knowledge of phenomena as explained by, and resolved into, causes and reasons, powers and laws." Plato and

the Platypus describes the findings of the great philosophers throughout history who have conducted the search after wisdom and taught their explanations of phenomena. And then it illustrates the causes and reasons, the powers and laws, with jokes--good jokes, relevant jokes, jokes that made me laugh aloud even as they stimulated my own search. I don't think I have ever before had such a joyful read. Peggy Smith author, Mark My Words: Instruction and Practice in Proofreading

The Roman satirist Juvenal famously quipped "Difficile est saturam non scibere" -- it's difficult not to write satire. It was difficult nearly two millennia ago, and Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein prove it still is today. Satire provides a profound examination of an idea. Aristotle wrote "Humor is the only test of gravity, for a subject which will not bear raillery is suspicious, and a jest which will not bear serious examination is false wit." It's been said he identified a very compelling reason for using humor: it's a test of ideas. Humor is a challenge to the very core of an idea -- its gravity, its seriousness. If an idea can't withstand humor it will crumble under intellectual scrutiny. In a section on Aristotle contrasting between "essential" and "accidental" properties, Cathcart and Klein offer this illustrative joke:

No doubt about it, this is a fun little book to read. That said, if you hoped for a painless way to get an even superficial understanding of the basics of philosophy, you'll probably have to keep looking. Unfortunately, that was my hope. I didn't expect to finish the book with a Phd, or even a bachelor's degree worth of philosophical knowledge or understanding, but I did hope to get a loose mental framework upon which I could hang future philosophical learnings. That didn't happen, but I did get one or two really good jokes and 40 or 50 mediocre jokes. In the end, it just felt like Cathcart and Klein knew that to sell more copies they might be better off emphasizing the jokes more heavily and the philosophy less so. That's actually too bad, because their idea about jokes conveying a sense of philosophy really does seem true, and the humor really has the power to cement the philosophical ideas in your head where they might not otherwise stick so well. Overall, this isn't a bad book, but it seems like a missed opportunity to do something more special.

First of all, the book is very readable, and the idea of the book almost precious. The jokes are usually funny. I am not sorry I read it. However, it ultimately fails. The tiny book does not do justice to the philosophical concepts it covers, and anyone with more than a little knowledge in the discipline will know how limited the explanations are. In addition, as funny as they are, some of the jokes are

REALLY a stretch, made to fit sometimes as a negative example. If a reader wants a fun read, fine. If the reader really wants to know about philosophy, I would suggest going elsewhere.

The authors Cathcart and Klien have attempted to write a primer on philosophy with jokes as an illustration in understanding certain concepts, rules, etc. Well, they both fail and succeed. First, as a previous reviewer notes, the philosophy is shallow. I am assuming he means there is not even enough here to satisfy the requirements as a basic primer, of which I would whole heartily agree. Yes, they introduce basic ideas, but there is so little presented, not to mention sometimes they commit basic errors themselves. Further, the authors have certain pet-peeves to say the least and sometimes, but by no means too often, present a less than honest view (I don't mean here they are lying, for that assumes they completely understand the issues themselves, but that their bias does not see when an opposing side commits the same errors they deride about or that they have not really understood the debate). Now the jokes are the genius of the book. Yes, they are funny and yes, they are correlated to the rules of philosophy they are trying to communicate. Here, they did a splendid job! I was laughing like I was about to die. Five stars for the jokes and their placement with the material, 2 stars on the philosophy. 3 and half \*\*\*.

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

Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar . . . : Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes Jokes: Knock Knock Jokes For Kids: Laugh Out Loud Fun Jokes For Kids (Jokes, Funny Jokes, Jokes for kids, Best Jokes, Funny book, jokes free, jokes for free) ... knock knock jokes, riddles. quiz Book 1) Jokes: Best Jokes For Kids: Laugh out loud fun jokes (Jokes, Funny Jokes, Jokes for kids, Best Jokes, Funny Book, Jokes free, Jokes for free, for kids, riddles, quiz ... for kids, best jokes, laugh out loud) JOKES : Best Jokes 2016 Bundle (Jokes, Jokes Free, Jokes for Kids, Jokes for Kids Free, Best Jokes, Yo Mama Jokes, Yo Mama Jokes Free for Kindle) Yo Momma Jokes (151+ Funny Yo Momma Jokes - Yo Mama Jokes): Yo Mama Jokes, Your Mama Jokes, Funny Jokes, Hilarious Jokes (Funny Yo Mama Jokes) Jokes : Best Jokes and Riddles 2016 (Jokes, Funny Jokes, Best jokes, Funny Books, jokes free, Jokes for Kids and Adults) JOKES : Collection of Best Jokes and Funny Short Stories (Jokes, Best Jokes, Funny Jokes, Funny Short Stories, Funny Books, Collection of Jokes, Jokes For Adults) JOKES: Jokes For Kids To Get Them Giggling! (Clean Jokes, Jokes For Young Kids, Funny Jokes, Kids Jokes, Joke Books, Best Jokes, Funny Books) Jokes for Kids: 400+ Funny Jokes for Kids: Funny and Hilarious Jokes for Kids - Funny Jokes - Kids Jokes - Jokes and Illustrations Yo Mama Joke Book (Funny Yo Mama Jokes): Funny Jokes - Yo Mama Jokes - Yo Momma Jokes - Jokes - Jokes Book (Funny and Hilarious Joke Books) Jokes : Best

Jokes 2016 (Jokes, Funny Jokes, Funny Books, Best jokes, Jokes for Kids and Adults) Jokes: Best Jokes 2016: Funny Jokes: (Joke Books, Jokes For Kids, Clean Jokes, Cool Jokes) Jokes : Best Jokes 2016: (Funny books, Joke books, Funny jokes, Best jokes 2016, Best jokes 2015) (Best Jokes 2016 Bundle) Joke: Jokes, Jokes & More Jokes (Funny book with over 600 dirty sex jokes, puns and putdowns) Hilarious Adult Humor & Comedy with Uncensored & Explicit Short and Long Jokes! Luigi: Ultimate Jokes & Memes for Kids! Over 150+ Hilarious Clean Luigi Jokes! (Nintendo Memes, Nintendo Jokes, Super Mario Jokes, Super Mario Memes, Super Mario Bros, Luigi Memes, Luigi Jokes) Jokes for Kids: Farm Animal Jokes!: Funny Jokes for Kids - Kids Jokes - Childrens Jokes - Funny Joke Books Jokes For Kids - Joke Books : Funny Books : Kids Books : Books for kids age 9 12 : Best Jokes 2016 (kids books, jokes for kids, books for kids 9-12, ... funny jokes, funny jokes for kids) (Volume 1) Jokes : Best JOKES 2016 Ultimate Collection - 417 Funny Jokes LOL (Best Jokes and Riddles) Joke Book (Joke Books, Funny Books, Kids Joke Books) Funny Jokes for Teens & Adults: All kind of jokes, Yo Mama Jokes, Adult Humor & Comedy with the best short and long Jokes Jokes For Kids: Kids Jokes: 300 Funny Jokes For Kids (Jokes and Riddles for Children Book 1)

[Dmca](#)