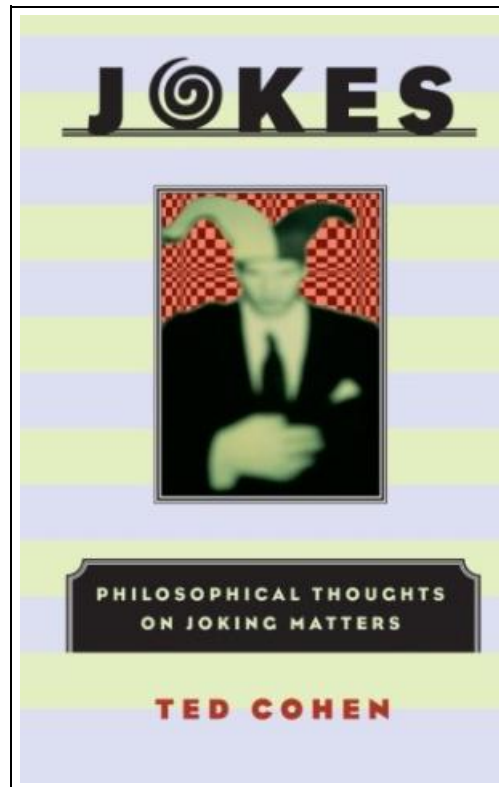


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University Of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 112 pages. Abe and his friend Sol are out for a walk together in a part of town they havent been in before. Passing a Christian church, they notice a curious sign in front that says 1, 000 to anyone who will convert. I wonder what thats about, says Abe. I think Ill go in and have a look. Ill be back in a minute; just wait for me. Sol sits on the sidewalk bench and waits patiently for nearly half an hour. Finally, Abe reappears. Well, asks Sol, what are they up to Who are they trying to convert Why do they care Did you get the 1, 000Indignantly Abe replies, Money. Thats all you people care about. Ted Cohen thinks thats not a bad joke. But he also doesnt think its an easy joke. For a listener or reader to laugh at Abes conversion, a complicated set of conditions must be met. First, a listener has to recognize that Abe and Sol are Jewish names. Second, that listener has to be familiar with the widespread idea that Jews are more interested in money than anything else. And finally, the listener needs to know this information in advance of the joke, and without anyone telling him or her. Jokes, in short, are complicated transactions in which communities are forged, intimacy is offered, and otherwise offensive stereotypes and cliches lose their stingat least sometimes. Jokes is a book of jokes and a book about them. Cohen loves a good laugh, but as a philosopher, he is also interested in how jokes work, why they work, and when they dont. The delight at the end of a joke is the result of a complex set of conditions and processes, and Cohen takes...



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