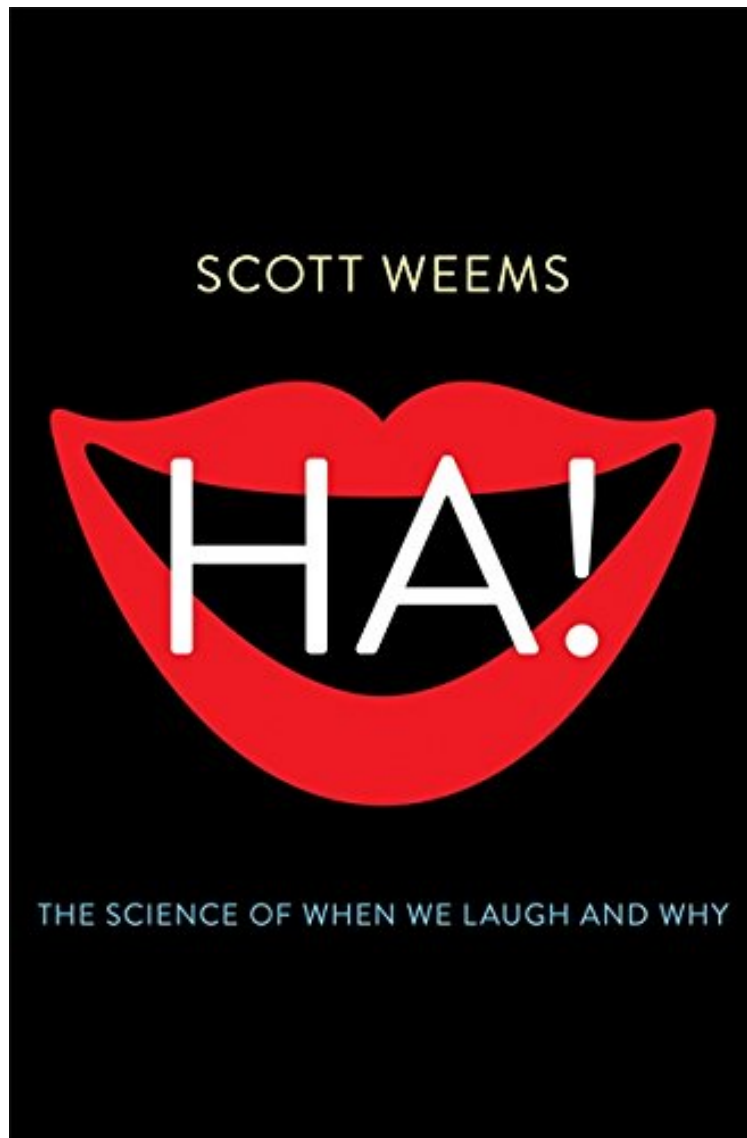


[Mobile pdf] Ha!: The Science of When We Laugh and Why

Ha!: The Science of When We Laugh and Why

Scott Weems

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Scott Weems : Ha!: The Science of When We Laugh and Why before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ha!: The Science of When We Laugh and Why:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book is so full of great research and information that I will be using it ...By Mary Kay MorrisonThis book is so full of great research and information that I will be using it to teach the AATH (Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor) 3 hour graduate humor studies class called The Humor Academy! Thank you Scott for your creatively written book that will be a wonderful resource for all interested in the

science of humor and laughter. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. quite interesting
By J. Montgomery
I like the theory as explained in this book. Lots of interesting detours, and even funny on occasion! Check it out.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Tom S.
Enjoyable and enlightening.

An entertaining tour of the science of humor and laughter

From Booklist
Here's an interesting idea: humor (and what the author calls its "most common symptom," laughter) is a consequence of having a brain that relies on conflict. Weems, a neuroscientist, explores what goes on inside our cranium when something makes us laugh; he also explores the essence of humor itself (Why can we tell when something's funny, but a computer cannot?), why we laugh longer and harder at some things than we do at others, and how a healthy sense of humor can help us have a healthy body. If, as the author suggests, humor results from conflict in the brain, then certain things follow from that: we laugh loudest at stereotypes because we know on some level that they're wrong, even if we find them amusing; we cackle when we're surprised because our perceptions have been suddenly altered. Considering its subject, the book is a bit dry, but then it's not a humor book; it's a serious book about the neuroscience of humor. --David Pitt "[A] fascinating new book.... Weems makes the argument that jokes have deep sources in our human needs and psychologies. Human life is complex, not simple, although we have simple needs (food, sex, safety, sleep, friendship, etc.). Humor is a response to inevitable conflict. The humor isn't in the joke; it is in the attitudes of those telling and hearing the joke. The same joke will be funny sometimes to some people and entirely fail to rouse a response to different people at different times."—Alva Noë, NPR's 13.7 blog
"Weems's central idea is that humor and laughter are by-products of the complex workings of the brain, rather than a separate function seated in some funniness control center. Drawing on both current neuroscience research and amusing anecdote, the author steers clear of reductionism and builds his case that humor is more diffuse and complex than other emotions and perceptions."—The Scientist
"In Ha!, cognitive neuroscientist Scott Weems analyzes how the punchline of a great joke, like a mini 'eureka!' moment, takes us by surprise and reframes our thinking. Humor, Weems argues, draws on our appetite for solving problems and helps us establish some order in a disordered world.... [I]lluminate[s] the inner workings of humor with a verve that befits the subject."—Psychology Today
"Mirth, points out cognitive neuroscientist Scott Weems, is still something of a conundrum—but one well worth cracking. His journey through the jovial looks in turn at what it is, what it is for and why we should cultivate it."—Nature
"Neuroscientist Scott Weems applies the scientific method to the human funny bone to find out what makes us laugh. He discovers that laughter is one way the brain deals with the discomfort of a particularly inappropriate joke, or the surprise of an unexpected punchline."—Discover
"[A] stimulating overview of what researchers have learned about why we laugh."—Kirkus
s
"Weems renders extensive research accessible for a wide audience.... Humor is a difficult, subjective topic of study, and while Weems doesn't present major conclusions, the information is interesting and the commentary insightful."—Publishers Weekly
"Weems, a neuroscientist, explores what goes on inside our cranium when something makes us laugh; he also explores the essence of humor itself (Why can we tell when something's funny, but a computer cannot?), why we laugh longer and harder at some things than we do at others, and how a healthy sense of humor can help us have a healthy body."—Booklist Online
"Move over, Henri Bergson, Weems explains the science of laughter way more charmingly. Our neurons are still cracking up."—Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein, authors of *Plato and a Platypus Walk Into a Bar*
"Scott Weems' Ha! is an excellent, non-technical and engaging introduction to the field of humor studies and a much needed book.... Clear, entertaining, and full of personal anecdotes that enliven the discussion."—Salvatore Attardo, Dean of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts, Texas AM University, and editor-in-chief of *Humor*
"Scott Weems' book Ha! is a superb explanation of humor that is simultaneously entertaining and informative. I enjoyed every page, and at the end came away with new insight into what really makes things funny."—James A. Reggia, Professor of Computer Science, University of Maryland