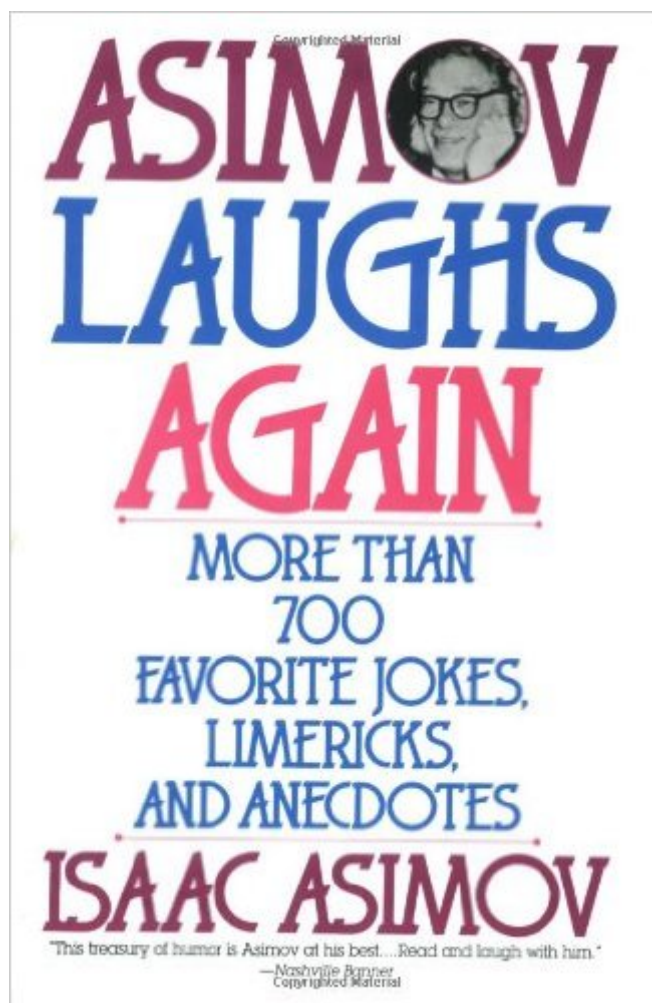


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Asimov Laughs Again: More Than 700 Jokes, Limericks, And Anecdotes



Synopsis

Here are more than 700 of Isaac Asimov's favorite jokes, cleverest limericks and funniest stories.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Not counting his volumes of limericks, this is Isaac Asimov's second jokebook, following Isaac Asimov's Treasury of Humor. Like that first book, however, this is much more than simply a collection of jokes. Asimov discusses, in his usual prolific style, the nature of jokes and joketelling, what makes some things funny and others fall flat, and why he prefers some jokes to others. Although he intentionally steers away from topical humor, some of the jokes are still outdated simply because of the evolution of language and culture, but the book is still a great read and a full of laughs. It's a lot of fun.

This book is more helpful than some of my fellow reviews suggest, as it reflects greatly on who Asimov the man actually was. He was an unrepentant sexist, as many men of his generation were. He was arrogant, as many successful men are. He was self centred, as most of us are. However, through this book you can see the pain of the failure of his first marriage and his love for his second wife and daughter. You can see many of the people he liked. Sure some of it is unfunny, some of it is just plain crude and some of it is rambling. I liked it and return to it every couple of years. One reason I did like it was it showed how autobiographical much of Asimov's other writings were. If you

cross check some of the Foundation series, you can see a reflection in Issac's own life at the time of writing. This makes this volume a worthy addition for any Issac-ophile.

I bought this book on a whim for an Asimov fan. For all I knew he had every Asimov book he wanted; however, I took a chance. All things considered, I bought Asimov's favorite book, and the last book he knew was printed, this one. I admit I read through this book to see what it was about. I shared some jokes with my daughter and she laughed (whoa). My friend was impressed that I had listened to him when he talked about his interest in Asimov and he had neither book. Yea. So, if you're an Asimov fan, or if you could use a laugh, go ahead, live a little.

Despite what the title suggest, this book is not a collection of jokes as "treasury" was. In this book the anecdotes are the main course. For those who know Asimov's bio in detail, some of these stories are already known; but a different take is always interesting. Those who dislike the way the old doctor talks about himself, probably should avoid this book.

I can't call it meretricious, but I doubt that the book would have been published had someone else written it. As promised early on, contents were random and as promised on the cover, they are an assortment including limericks that got old pretty fast and anecdotes humorous neither in fact nor intent. One of the latter was inadvertently amusing because a teacher indicated as male in one paragraph was female in another. Too many were unflattering stories about his first wife, her family and others. For that reason, the book might have been called, "Azimov Laughs Last." A few jokes and humorous anecdotes are repeats from his "Treasury of Humor." Many new ones are very funny -- maybe because of contrast with those that weren't. As he opines there and in his Treasury, humor comes from the unexpected. For that reason, I don't regret buying the book, but it is far from his best.

This book was a source of many laughs for me. How Asimov tells you the jokes from his point of view is truly something. And the stories of his experiences are a good enough reason for any Asimov fan to buy this book. I encourage fans to check this book out, because it's brilliant!!

The prudes and puritans on the left would forbid most of these jokes to be told these days. What a pity. This is great for a long wait at the airport or the doctor's office. Also read, "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman." Very enjoyable. Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! (Adventures of a Curious

Character)

I've become quite a fan of Asimov's shorter works, so it was interesting to see him work in an even shorter form - the anecdote. A good deal of what's presented could very well benefit from being read aloud by someone who speaks well; some of them stood by themselves as entertaining bits and pieces. I came away with two feelings from this book: 1) that Asimov thought quite highly of himself in many regards (which isn't necessarily a bad thing; Harlan Ellison, one of my other favorites, thinks of HIMself in even higher regard) and, 2) the beauty of a joke isn't necessarily in the eye of the beholder, but of the teller.

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