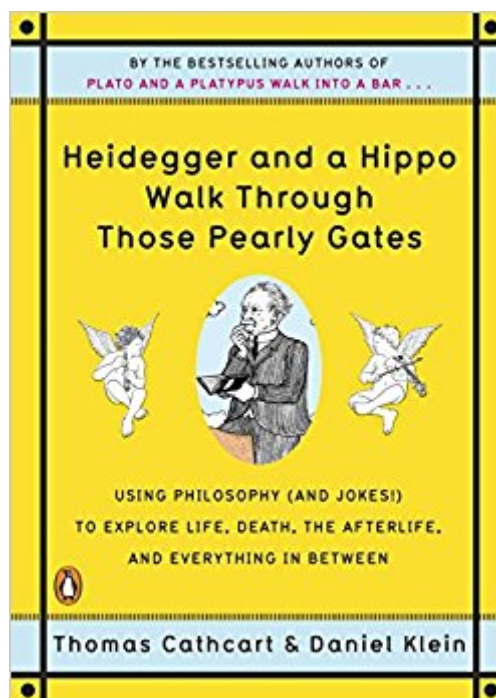


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# Heidegger And A Hippo Walk Through Those Pearly Gates: Using Philosophy (and Jokes!) To Explore Life, Death, The Afterlife, And Everything In Between



## Synopsis

Q. Why are there almost as many jokes about death as there are about sex? A. Because they both scare the pants off us. Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein first made a name for themselves with the outrageously funny New York Times bestseller *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar....* Now they turn their attention to the Big "D" and share the timeless wisdom of the great philosophers, theologians, psychotherapists, and wiseguys. From angels to zombies and everything in between, Cathcart and Klein offer a fearless and irreverent history of how we approach death, why we embrace life, and whether there really is a hereafter. As hilarious as it is enlightening, *Heidegger and a Hippo Walk Through Those Pearly Gates* is a must-read for anyone and everyone who ever expects to die. 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

Did you know that Heidegger's notion of living in the shadow of death has its most profound articulation in a country and western song by Tim McGraw? Or what *Law and Order* has in common with theologian Paul Tillich's view of eternity? Such are the nuggets of wisdom found in this smart and lighthearted consideration of the philosophical dimensions of death. Cathcart and Klein (coauthors of *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar*) take readers on a whirlwind tour of anthropological, philosophical and theological theories of why and how we avoid accepting our own mortality. The authors demonstrate how humor allows us to express our fears about death while defusing anxiety. Succinct accounts of Kierkegaard's notion of embracing angst, Schopenhauer's

notion of undying will and Descartes on mind-body dualism are thus all peppered by comic asides (Leibnitz maintained that Mind and Matter don't actually get into each others knickers). This little book is an entertaining and surprisingly informative survey of the Big D and its centrality in human life. (Oct). Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"This little book is an entertaining and surprisingly informative survey of the 'Big D' and its centrality in human life." -- Publishers Weekly --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book deals with one of Central questions facing religion: death. It goes through all the major notions the people have about what happens to you when you die and through the use of jokes it illustrates the points made by major philosophers and theologians. Even though it dealt with the very serious topic I laughed through the whole thing. Whatever your belief system may be you'll find this challenging to read, highly irreverent (which I love), and generally informative.

This book is fabulous - witty, clever, concise, profound, deep and an enormous amount of fun. I keep buying copy after copy after copy and giving them away to family and friends. Can't say enough good things.

Cutesy clever jokes organized into philosophical categories. I was hoping to pick up a few jokes to help me illustrate complex Philo concepts. No such luck with this series of books. They were too corny and too highly steeped in specific context to lend a hand at illustrating difficult concepts. Disappointing, but perhaps my expectations were too high. Glad I got a cheap, used copy. On the other hand, this book was entertaining. I felt a sweet trickle of delight running through the twists and turns of topic. I liked it, even if I didn't get practical tools to use in open conversation. Since there are not many comedians focusing on ancient philosophy for source material, I made do with this read and it's novelties. The main reason I subtracted one star was for depth. Otherwise a light, fun read.

I found this to be an absolutely delightful book. This is not heavy reading, but it does indeed take you through a light hearted journey in the issues and thoughts and practices surrounding death. Some of the jokes may seem to be in poor taste by some, but what the hell? Death, being such an eternal, definite phenomena, I am sure that Death can take a bit of a joke about - ? - himself? Itself? None of us really know what will become of us after death, and there is such a lot of heavy

literature, and heavy ceremony surrounding death, that it is high time that some one came out with something as light as this book. Well done guys. Keep 'em coming.

This being the third book by Cathcart and Klein (I also recommend their previous two: *Plato and a Platypus* / *Aristotle and an Aardvark Boxed Set* (Box Set)), it is focused on the issue of death, suicide, heaven, hell and all that. It's full of memorable jokes and quotes such as, "Probably the toughest time in anyone's life is when you have to murder a loved one because they're the devil." Don't be fooled by some of the other reviewers, this book is very funny; it's full of hilarious jokes, which do indeed help elucidate some of the major themes in philosophical literature. It also includes some humorous cartoons. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it.

Very funny, smart, and inspiring read, assuming you like philosophy and tongue-in-cheek jokes about it!

I'm afraid this book was a bit over my intellectual head. I found (and continue to find) their previous tome a fascinating read about schools of philosophy and the accompanying illustrative jokes -- I am now revisiting that book (*Plato and a Platypus...*) for the third time. I guess I was expecting the same with this book but it lacked the jokes and the subject matter for some reason was not so stimulating.

I laughed, I got a little freaked out about death and what it means, and I was challenged. Really good book that makes philosophy digestible.

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