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How to Write Funny

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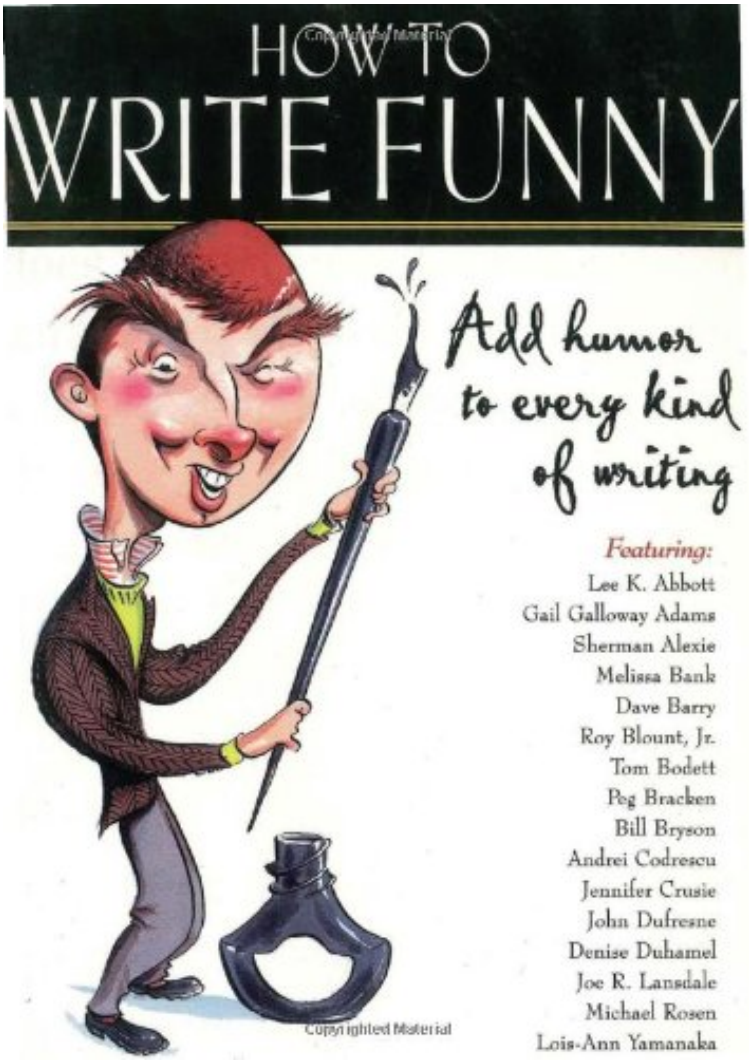

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From Brand: Writer's Digest Books : How to Write Funny before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Write Funny:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I recommend this book for writers who wish they were funny.By ARHuelsenbeckOne of my goals for 2016 was to put humor into my writing. (Still working on that.) I asked my critique group if anyone knew a book on writing humor, and my friend Betty offered to lend me her copy of How to Write Funny, edited by John B. Kachuba.Sticky notes and tabs stuck out of Bettys book, passages on many pages were either underlined or highlighted, and the margins held scribbled notes. I began reading with a notebook and pen close by. After Id read two pages, I already had a page of notes. I knew then I needed my own copy.Today, my book is heavily annotated, adorned with different colored stickies, and whole sections are starred for further review and

reference.How to Write Funny is a collection of twelve essays by different authors, some of whom Im familiar with, and others Id never heard of. Also included are fifteen interviews and a roundtable panel. Jennifer Crusie also contributed a comedy workshop, complete with exercises Im planning to try.To give you an idea of the scope of the book, here are some random quotes I underlined in my copy: The comic point of view is essentially that of the stranger or alien. (David Bouchier) people laugh at two things: surprise and misfortune. (J. Kevin Wolfe) Exaggerating the literal truth, if its done well, shows us the emotional truth of a situation. (Connie Willis) Humor observes, analyzes and comments on the human condition. (Esther M. Friesner) the day I walked the entire length of the English Department at Ohio State University with my skirt caught in my panty hose, wearing no underwear. And nobody I passed said a word. (Jennifer Crusie) column humor comes in only five forms: 1. The anecdote 2. The one-line joke 3. Overstatement 4. Understatement 5. Ironic truth (Mel Helitzer) At its best, humor evokes humane laughter at the universality of worldly frailities. (Patricia Case) You can probably skewer a politician or personal injury lawyer with abandon, but you should be gentle when mocking the common man. (Dinty Moore) imagine whats in the cupboard of a serial killer. (Lee K. Abbott) Jokes are poetrya joke is always succinct. (Sherman Alexie) real humor has to come from the same place your passion, your fear and your obsessions come from: your parents. (Tom Bodett) people laugh when they have the shock of recognizing the familiar under an unexpected light. (Andrei Codrescu) For me, humor can fail if its mean, if [it] is vengeful or sexist or defensive. (Denise Duhamel)The authors of the segments mentioned some of the same humorists over and over: S.J. Perelman, James Thurber, P.G. Wodehouse, Calvin Trillin, and Erma Bombeck. I bought some books by each of these authors, and I found them dated and unfunnyeven Bombeck, who delighted me in the 1970s and 80s. How to Write Funny came out in 2001. I guess 16 years is old in comedy years.Nevertheless, I recommend this book for writers who wish they were funny.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful compendium of advice from top-notch humor writersBy Denim DivaA wonderful compendium of advice from top-notch humor writers. If you like to write funny, this book is a must-have.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Julia LednickyA few good tips tricks here there.

Writing humor is subjective and challenging - thankfully, there are many ways to create it. How to Write Funny provides advice, insights and humor from more than twenty writers with a gift for making readers laugh.In a diverse collection of articles and interviews, both classic and new, this esteemed group of writers, including Dave Barry, Bill Bryson and Jennifer Crusie, provides different viewpoints on how humor works on the page, whether in short stories, memoirs, novels or articles. You'll learn the principles and basic forms of comedy, when to break the rules of reason, the importance of being yourself, why you should stop trying to hard to be funny, and how to write for specific genres and audiences.You'll also sit in on a special roundtable discussion featuring P.J. O'Rourke, Mark Leyner, Maggie Estep and James Finn Garner, as well as a one-of-a-kind "how-to" workshop conducted by funny lady and best-selling author Jennifer Crusie.You've got a sense of humor. You've got the will to write. Combining the two, and getting it right, will bring a smile to your face and a chuckle to your readers.

.com "Analyzing humor is like dissecting a frog," says E. B. White. "Few people are interested and the frog dies of it." White might have reconsidered, had he had access to How to Write Funny. In the book, 28 humorists discuss the business of writing funny. David Bouchier likens humor to sex; James Finn Garner says it's "mainly channeled aggression"; and Sherman Alexie claims that "jokes are poetry." The authors here--they include Melissa Banks, Dave Barry, Roy Blount Jr., and Bill Bryson--are less likely to teach humor than to help you find your inner humorist. A very satisfying book, touching on writers that take chances, poke fun at themselves, and draw our attention to the absurdities that we all take for granted. By the way, editor John B. Kachuba wants you to read his book whether you need it or not. As he says, "I could use the money." --Jane SteinbergAbout the AuthorJohn B. Kachuba is an editor, writer and journalist whose work has appeared in literary journals, as well as Poets and Writers and the Civil War Journal. He holds and MA in Creative Writing from Antioch University and teaches creative writing at the University of Cincinnati.