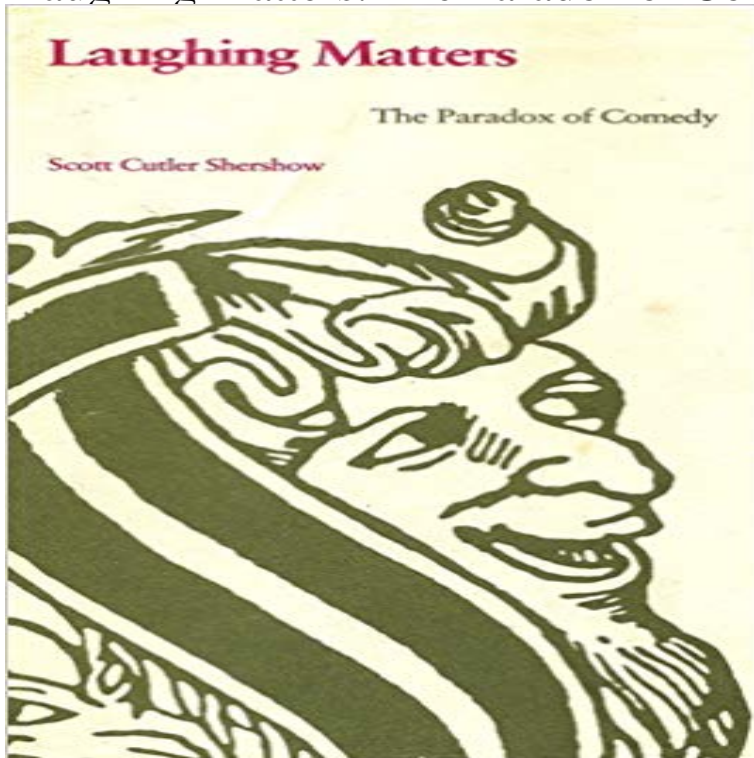


Laughing Matters: The Paradox of Comedy



This book explores the paradoxes of theatrical comedy which emerge both in comic theater and in efforts to discern its meaning. Scott Cutler Shershow views comedy not only as the classical mirror of nature, but also as a tradition of performance whose familiar conventions reflect our own opposing visions of human life: criticism or acceptance of the world, cynicism or optimism, derision or forgiveness. The very act of evaluating comedy also reveals its paradoxical nature, as critics become caught up in what Shershow calls comedys constantly shifting perspective. In examining the basic building blocks of comic nature?plot and character?Shershow discovers a pattern of critical contradiction that ironically defines the paradox of comedy itself. He then looks at classical comic plays by Plautus, Machiavelli, and Middleton, focusing on the ironic tensions with the themes of money and lust. Then, seeking a still deeper truth within the nature of performance itself, Shershow analyzes such plays as Euripides Helen, Becketts Endgame, Mayakovskys Mystery Bouffe, and Shaws Man and Superman. Here he finds a transcendence of irony, as optimism and reconciliation emerge as genuine alternatives to ironic pretense.

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Laughing matters: the paradox of comedy - Scott Cutler - This book explores the paradoxes of theatrical comedy which emerge both in comic theater and in efforts to discern its meaning. Scott Cutler Shershow views **none** Laughing matters: the paradox of comedy. Front Cover. Scott Cutler Shershow. University of Massachusetts Press, 1986 - Literary Criticism - 151 pages. **Samuel Beckett: Laughing Matters, Comic Timing - Google Books Result** Malorys striking moments of comedy have not been addressed in these debates because Laughing Matters: The Paradox of Comedy.

