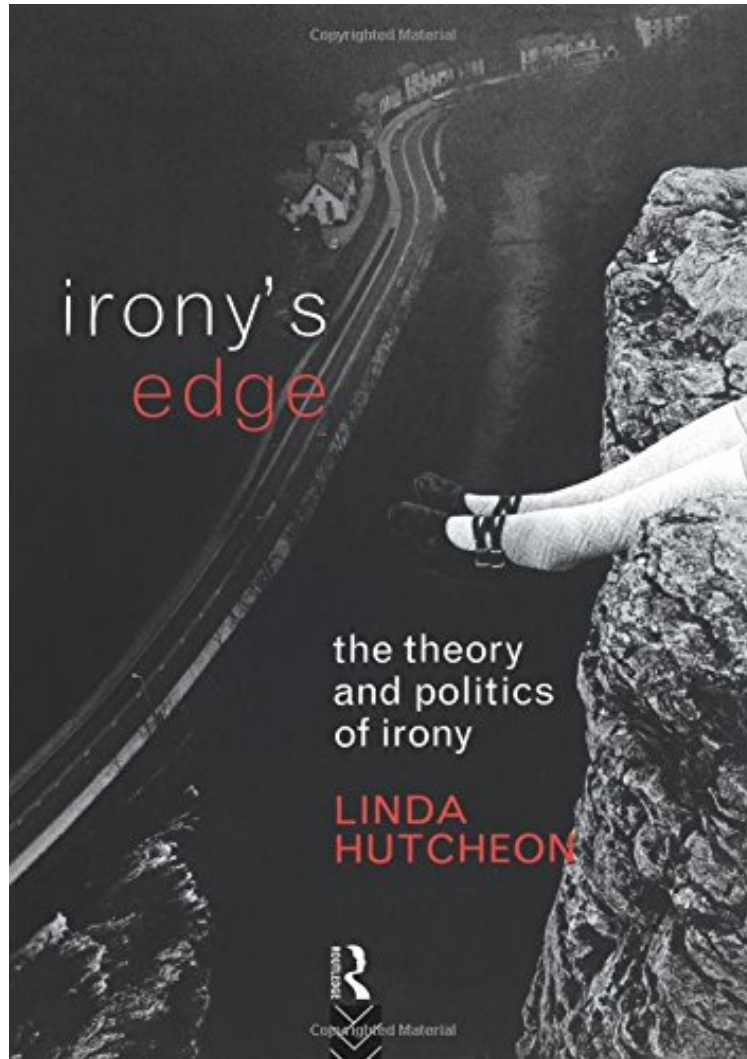


## Irony's Edge: The Theory and Politics of Irony

Linda Hutcheon

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#335916 in Books Linda Hutcheon 1994-12-15 1994-11-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.69 x .59 x 8.26l, 1.33 #File Name: 0415054532264 pagesIrony s Edge The Theory and Politics of Irony | File size: 30.Mb

**Linda Hutcheon : Irony's Edge: The Theory and Politics of Irony** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Irony's Edge: The Theory and Politics of Irony:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. you won't be disappointed with Linda Hutcheon's book-length study on the subjectBy D. WotitzkyFar from being just a literary trope or dated historical concept, irony, as Linda Hutcheon demonstrates, has a pervasive impact on our lives, implicit in the very fabric of our culture. In "Irony's Edge: The Theory and Politics of Irony," Linda Hutcheon examines the place of irony in contemporary discourse. This is a common theme to anyone familiar with postmodernism; so if you're interested in questions of irony and postmodern theory, you won't be disappointed with Linda Hutcheon's book-length study on the subject. I should caution that this

book is not for the reader whose interest is peaked solely by the coupling of irony and politics in the title. Irony is an incredibly complex term, and the concept of it Professor Hutcheon is dealing with is far more demanding a study than casual reading would allow for. This is a book written for scholars and graduate students, predominately. Reading "Irony's Edge" without having first engaged with postmodern theory or studies of irony would make her ideas difficult to follow. But for those who have some competence in either of those subjects, Hutcheon's book is a wonderfully thorough, intriguing study. She engages with many popular theories of irony, both past and present, not simply delineating them, but engaging with them. Hutcheon sees a number of problems with postmodern irony, particularly its use in political engagements and social discourse. Those who champion the ability to destabilize dominant modes of power through ironic discourse are in the majority, but for Hutcheon, this utilization is problematic. The trouble with irony as a tool in political discourse is that people may miss the point. Irony is, after all, saying one thing while meaning another. Hutcheon shows how speaking ironically about colonialism or capitalist nations in order to undermine them may actually do the opposite. While some people will see the irony, many others will not. If people miss the irony, then the irony fails to engender the proper effect. This, Hutcheon points out, can have serious political consequences. If you're interested in postmodernism, irony, and politics, you should buy this book.

The edge of irony, says Linda Hutcheon, is always a social and political edge. Irony depends upon interpretation; it happens in the tricky, unpredictable space between expression and understanding. *Irony's Edge* is a fascinating, compulsively readable study of the myriad forms and the effects of irony. It sets out, for the first time, a sustained, clear analysis of the theory and the political contexts of irony, using a wide range of references from contemporary culture. Examples extend from Madonna to Wagner, from a clever quip in conversation to a contentious exhibition in a museum. *Irony's Edge* outlines and then challenges all the major existing theories of irony, providing the most comprehensive and critically challenging theory of irony to date.

"This fascinating, learned, and in all respects curiously edifying study leaves us with the open and disturbingly postmodern question: 'Is there a safe 'age of irony?'.'" - *World Literature Today Elegantly Written*, exceptionally informative and original, *Irony's Edge* is arguably the most important study of irony to date. . .