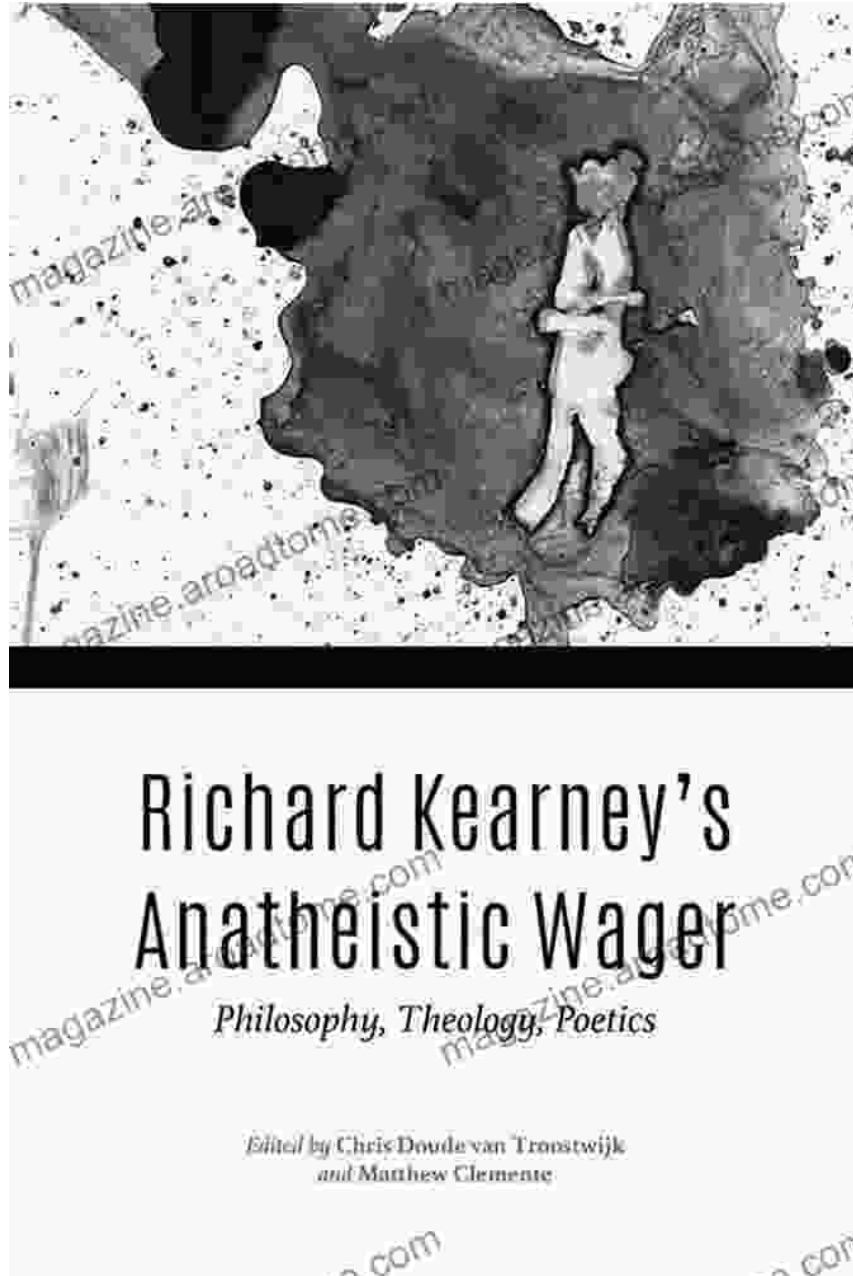
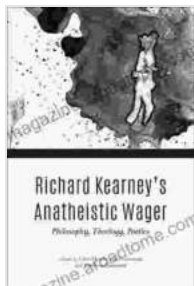


# Richard Kearney: An Atheistic Wager: Philosophy, Theology, Poetics



In *An Atheistic Wager: Philosophy, Theology, Poetics*, renowned philosopher Richard Kearney proposes a bold and thought-provoking argument that challenges traditional notions of religion and belief. Kearney

invites readers to embark on an intellectual journey that explores the possibility of an "atheistic wager," a wager that embraces the absence of God while affirming the human capacity for meaning, morality, and creativity.



## Richard Kearney's Atheistic Wager: Philosophy, Theology, Poetics

by Matthew Clemente

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1621 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 278 pages
Lending	: Enabled



### The Atheistic Wager

Kearney argues that the traditional "Pascal's Wager," which posits that it is rational to believe in God due to the potential infinite reward and limited risk, is flawed. He contends that the wager relies on a false dichotomy between belief and non-belief and ignores the possibility of an alternative to both theism and atheism.

Instead, Kearney proposes an "atheistic wager" that acknowledges the absence of God but embraces the human potential for meaning and purpose. He argues that by wagering on atheism, we are liberated from the burdens of traditional religious beliefs and can fully appreciate the beauty and fragility of human existence.

## **Philosophy, Theology, and Poetics**

Kearney draws upon a wide range of disciplines, including philosophy, theology, and poetics, to explore the implications of the atheistic wager. He engages with the writings of philosophers such as Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Levinas, as well as theologians like Schleiermacher and Bultmann, to challenge traditional notions of God and the human relationship to the divine.

Through poetic language and evocative imagery, Kearney invites readers to experience the world from an atheistic perspective. He explores the beauty of nature, the complexities of human relationships, and the depths of human creativity. By doing so, he demonstrates that an atheistic wager can lead to a rich and meaningful life.

## **Embracing Uncertainty**

One of the central themes of the book is the importance of embracing uncertainty. Kearney argues that the atheistic wager is not a call to blind faith or despair but an invitation to accept the inherent ambiguity of existence. By wagering on atheism, we acknowledge that we do not have all the answers and that human knowledge is always incomplete and provisional.

This acceptance of uncertainty, Kearney contends, can be a source of liberation and creativity. It allows us to move beyond the limitations of traditional religious beliefs and embrace the possibilities of a world without God.

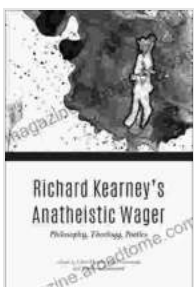
## **Towards a New Spirituality**

While *An Atheistic Wager* confronts traditional religious beliefs, it also offers a profound and nuanced understanding of spirituality. Kearney argues that atheism does not preclude a sense of awe, wonder, and connection to the world. Instead, he proposes a new spirituality that is grounded in the human experience of meaning, beauty, and ethical responsibility.

This new spirituality is characterized by a deep appreciation for the fragility and interconnectedness of all living things. It emphasizes the importance of compassion, empathy, and social justice. By wagering on atheism, we can embrace this new spirituality and work towards creating a more just and humane world.

*An Atheistic Wager* is a groundbreaking and thought-provoking work that challenges our assumptions about religion, belief, and the human condition. Kearney's eloquent prose and rigorous argumentation invite readers to question their own beliefs and explore the possibilities of an atheistic wager.

Whether you are a devout believer, a skeptic, or someone simply curious about the nature of existence, *An Atheistic Wager* is a must-read. It is a profound and thought-provoking exploration of the human condition that will leave you questioning your own beliefs and rethinking the nature of spirituality.



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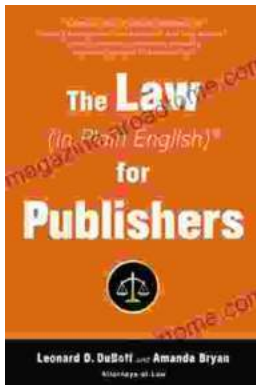
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