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Does This Mean You'll See Me Naked?: Field Notes From A Funeral Director



Synopsis

Why would someone want to hang out with dead bodies? With curious anecdotes and unbelievable truth, funeral director Robert Webster reveals that answer and more, offering readers entertaining and quirky stories gleaned from a life lived around death. Webster tackles those embarrassing questions we all have about what really goes on behind the scenes when you've left this world: Strange things people put in caskets The biggest rip-offs in the business The crazy things that happen to a body after death Lime, waz, and other ways to hide the truth The most important thing an undertaker does How to avoid the high-pressure funeral parlor What that's not a coffin the body is resting in

Book Information

File Size: 695 KB

Print Length: 249 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks; Reprint edition (May 1, 2011)

Publication Date: May 1, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004TTS2US

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #249,974 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #33 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Science & Scientists #88 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Sociology > Death #127 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Doctors & Medicine

Customer Reviews

This text gives you the usual side commentaries, but combines that with a lot of information that a non-funeral director would not know much less think about in life. There are tips on what to watch out for when dealing with a funeral home, as well as behind-the-scenes aspects other books on this topic never mention.

I know most folks don't like to think about death or read about it, but I dated the son of a funeral home owner years ago and never really knew what was behind the swinging doors to the prep room. The story was very interesting and informative and the writing was very entertaining as he recalled interesting calls and services he had to perform. I am now reading a story about a young woman who works in a crematory as not much was discussed in this book about cremains. Morbid, yes, but interesting and informative and I am also reading a light romance novel at the same time to "brighten" my day.

I liked that the author went into much details about the homes' and directors' experiences with all the various tasks and also having to deal with family members, especially when there is conflict. I would have liked to read more details about the various stages of decomposition and the "special" handling processes that are required. I must say that I have a new respect and regard for funeral home personnel as a whole now. I would definitely recommend this book to any one who loves reading as it is educational on its own level but especially to individuals with elderly parents. I did not realize the importance of being prepared for such large sums if dollars up front, but I very well understand the reason. I gave a four star rating and not a five star because, as stated, I would have liked more details on the entire process and stages of the corpses, but still a good read overall.

I have worked in the florist industry my whole adult life so I feel I know a little bit about the funeral industry as well. I feel Webster was right on the money when he wrote about the odd things people do, say and request in such a time. The story's that are more behind closed door info were very interesting although probably not for everybody. One thing I take exception with Webster on is his opinion that people should send money instead of flowers. I fully appreciate a funeral director wanting to get paid for the merchandise and services they provide. After all they are providing for their family. The florist is in the same boat. They work hard for their customers so they can provide for their families. All in all a super book.

The title caught my attention and I found Mr. Webster's discussion of what goes on behind closed doors both revealing, informative and his manner of telling the story very warm and genuine. If you are interested in the undertaking of the business of undertaking while still keeping your civilian status, well this book is for you.

A fascinating look into a profession that is a dark mystery to most of us. Rather than continuing with my somewhat negative view of funeral directors, I learned an enormous amount about the pros and cons of this line of work, appreciated the tips I got on saving money when being the grieving family myself, and most importantly realized that these folks are nothing more than highly trained professionals performing a much needed service in our society. Webster's gentle sense of humor is tempered throughout the book by his profound respect for the dead and; he never once makes you feel as if you or a loved one would be in anything but the best of hands when that time comes.

Great book with tons of information about a subject not everyone is willing to talk about. The author tells you the grim details with a touch of humor.

I really enjoyed this book and found that I couldn't put it down. It had all the gruesome details one would expect, but it also had a great deal of practical information. The only drawbacks had to do with the author's sometimes very subjective information. I found myself reading about the good time of "the 1970s" a bit and his thoughts on religion. That aside, he is charismatic and fun to read so this is pretty easy to forgive. If you are interested in the world of mortuary work I highly recommend this book.

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