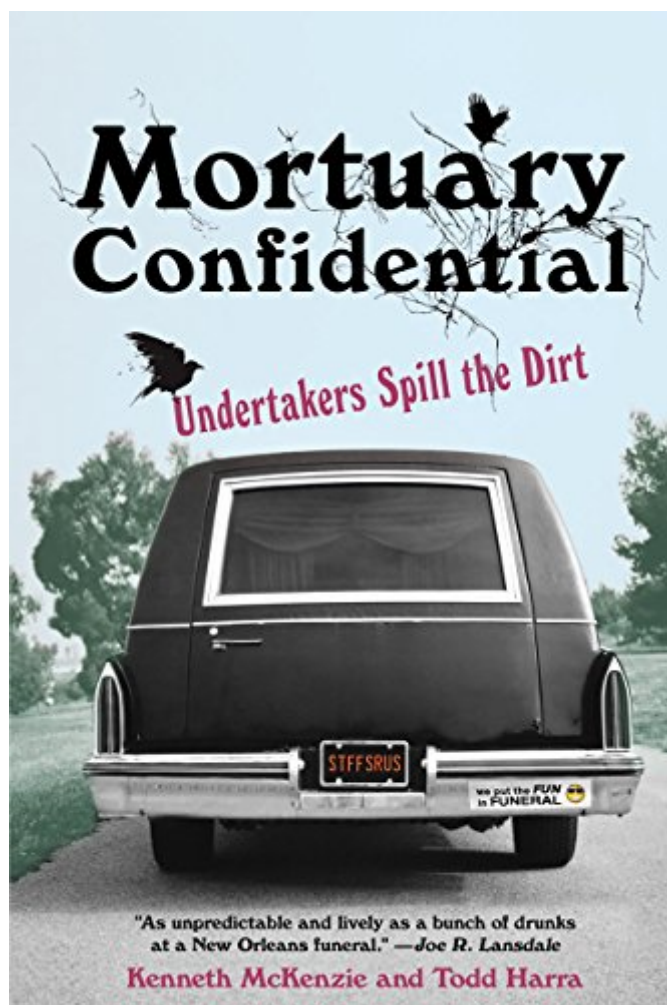


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Mortuary Confidential: Undertakers Spill The Dirt



Synopsis

When the casket reached the front of the sanctuary, there was a loud cracking sound as the bottom fell out. And with a thump, down came Father Iggy. From shoot-outs at funerals to dead men screaming and runaway corpses, undertakers have plenty of unusual stories to tell--and a special way of telling them. In this macabre and moving compilation, funeral directors across the country share their most embarrassing, jaw-dropping, irreverent, and deeply poignant stories about life at death's door. Discover what scares them and what moves them to tears. Learn about rookie mistakes and why death sometimes calls for duct tape. Enjoy tales of the dearly departed spending eternity naked from the waist down and getting bottled and corked--in a wine bottle. And then meet their families--the weepers, the punchers, the stolidly dignified, and the ones who deliver their dead mother in a pickup truck. If there's one thing undertakers know, it's that death drives people crazy. These are the best "bodies of work" from America's darkest profession. "Sick, funny, and brilliant! I love this book." --Jonathan Maberry, multiple Bram Stoker Award-winning author of *They Bite!* and *Rot & Ruin* "As unpredictable and lively as a bunch of drunks at a New Orleans funeral." --Joe R. Lansdale

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Customer Reviews

Bravo! Well done. Mortuary Confidential provides a glimpse into a world that most people will never experience. A down to earth human perspective into the realities of our end of life experience. While many of the stories, all told by funeral professionals, are laugh out loud funny they also enlighten you to the challenges funeral experts face on a day to day basis. When we mere mortals make a mistake we can remind ourselves to relax and take comfort that it is not a life or death mistake. When a Funeral Director makes a slip-up it is a life or death mistake! Reading these funny, poignant stories makes me realize how uniquely rewarding and challenging the funeral profession must be. Highly recommend reading fast, easy, fun. Funeral Stories...additional read...Over Our Dead Bodies- Todd Harra, Kenneth McKenzie

It is nice to know the people who care for us and our loved one at the parting journey of our lives are so nice and dedicated. I loved the book and got a few chuckles out of it. My niece is studying to become a mortician so I am going to send this book on to her and I bet she will love it also. I am not afraid of dying, just of looking bad in the process.

Imagine savoring a world class meal with friends while trading stories over dessert and coffee and you have "Mortuary Confidential". It's a collection of about 50 stories from people who work in the funeral business. They cover the range from tales of personal loss, to humor and stories that just plain make you shake your head. The sad ones you would expect, but in general, this book is more upbeat than not. It is self-published, and feels like it could use the work of a professional editor. However - with that said, I loved the book and will read it again. You have to remember they not only work with the deceased, but deal with the grief and loss of the family member who is coming in to make final arrangements. So they are part counselor, part artist, part mediator, and all the while having to maintain a business and the mountains of work that coincides with that. For example: More than one story-teller recalled collecting and embalming a dear friend who had asked that "You take care of me". The story-teller each relayed that they did this hard job as an act of love towards their friend. Can you imagine something more difficult than that? Yet they had the courage and love to provide this service as a last 'gift' to their friend. Some stories were amusing, like trying to have a love life while living upstairs in a funeral home. A la "Six Feet Under" anyone? Some stories were laugh out loud funny, while charmingly sad. A woman lost her only daughter to diabetes. She came

in to do funeral arrangements. Here's the story: "... Leaned over the desk and whispered clandestinely to me as if there were other people who might overhear, "She doesn't have any legs." Without missing a beat I stared back at her and whispered, "Same price." She sat back and laughed so hard tears came to her eyes. This book is well worth the money and time. I suspect there will be a follow up book and I will certainly buy it. If it were given the benefit and polish of a pro editor, IMO this could be a best seller in the retail book stores.

These stories show that undertakers/funeral directors are real people, doing a job that most of us don't give much thought to until we need their services. I feel like I understand more of what happens behind the scene of an unhappy part of life. If you like unusual stories and antidotes of jobs this is a very good read.

The last loving gesture humanity can render to those who have died is respect. The authors understand and convey that their "service" is to the living which they offer by showing respect for the dead. For balance, they also acknowledge that when human beings are running things, the people in charge have to expect the unexpected and be ready to deal with it. Sometimes the hearse gets lost in road construction on the way to the cemetery. Sometimes road conditions send the hearse into the ditch. Sometimes squirrels get into the funeral home and sometimes the casket just isn't sturdy enough to hold the decedent. So what do you do? You deal with it, respectfully. (Disclosure: my father was a second generation funeral director. Reading the McKenzie and Harra books were like listening again to some of the stories he brought home from F.D. conventions. With respect and a sense of humor, people can keep their dignity and get the job done.) Highly recommended for anyone who wants to know what "real" funeral directors are like.

This was another great read that offered a lot of background for a lot of questions that I had about deaths in my own family with regard to what happens in the funeral home and also how truly mean and otherwise inhuman some patrons can be toward the funeral director and family members. I finished reading the book finding comfort in the fact that we are all in this together!

This book is a collection of anecdotes from those who work in the mortuary business. The stories are entertaining, enlightening, and sometimes emotional. I guess I expected a bit more in depth look at what their jobs entail on a day to day basis. Overall, it was a quick read and entertaining.

A compilation of short stories from people around the death industry. A good light introduction/read for someone outside the industry, but really fails to capture the realities of working in the death industry beyond "helping people" and "oops, the van broke down." The stories are certainly entertaining, but of little other substance. I encourage you to buy and read this book if you're looking for a quick glimpse behind the veil, but for an expose or hard look at the industry and the reality of its practices, I would look elsewhere.

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