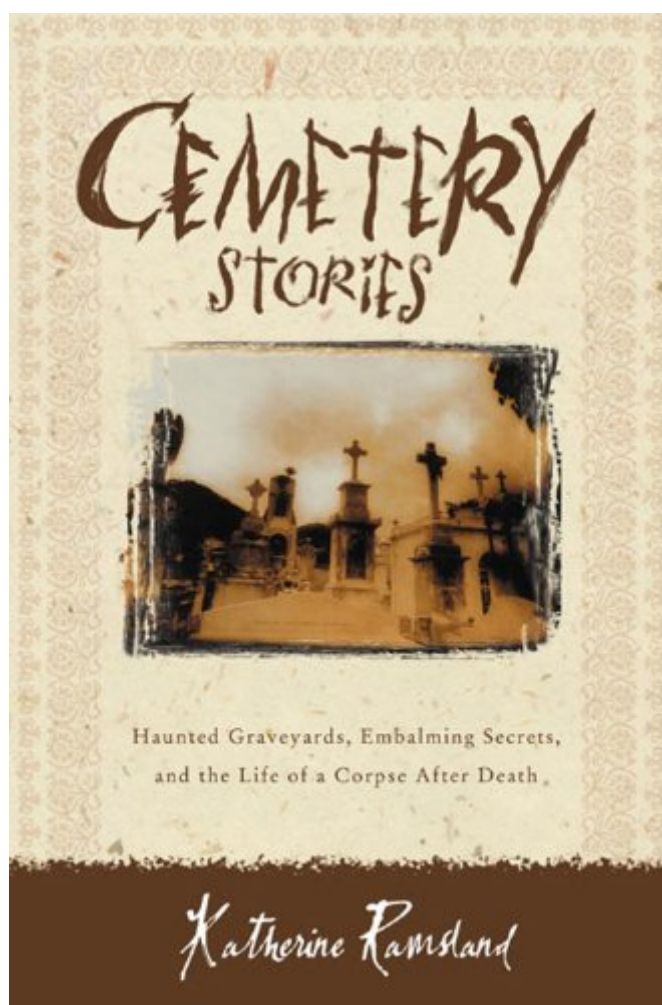


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Cemetery Stories: Haunted Graveyards, Embalming Secrets, And The Life Of A Corpse After Death



Synopsis

Never look at a grave the same way again Admit it: You're fascinated by cemeteries. We all die, and for most of us, a cemetery is our final resting place. But how many people really know what goes on inside, around, and beyond them? Enter the world of the dead as Katherine Ramsland talks to mortuary assistants, gravediggers, funeral home owners, and more, and find out about: Stitching and cosmetic secrets used on mutilated bodies Embalmers who do more than just embalm The rising popularity of cremation art Ghosts that infest graveyards everywhere If you've ever scoffed at the high price of burying the dead, or ever wondered how your loved ones are handled when they die, or simply stared at tombstones with morbid fascination, then take a trip with Katherine Ramsland and learn about the booming industry -- and strange tales -- that surround cemeteries everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was an excellent book to read as it was organized and also listed many questions about Funeral services for our loved ones. Even cultural beliefs were covered and the not so good issues that occur behind closed doors of the mortuary or Funeral Home. Even my mom's birthplace,

Jerome, AZ was examined and even gave me the name of the cemetery that is there in this picturesque ghost town. A GREAT reference book to look up for papers, etc. and even for your own information.

I'm looking to get in the funeral business so I got this book for a great deal. I have learned so much. I've had 2 other friends barrow it and they were fascinated. This book tells you everything that happens to the body after we pass. If your squeamish then do not read this book. But if you're looking to learn this is the book for you. I give this book 5 stars.

Cemetery Stories definitely will not appeal to all interested in the subject matter at hand. It broadly dips into a range of topics, from ceremonies, corpse preparation, cremation, coffins, burials, ghosts etc (even necrophilia). So whilst you may learn a few facts along the way, if you want in-depth information on any of those topics then look to more specialised books. The appeal here is the "strange tales". Ramsland asks those in the industry for weird or shocking tales and that is exactly what they give her. Whether they are true or not, we will never know as they are unsubstantiated. Some are fascinating, some are jaw-dropping, and some are funny. If there was a death-industry version of a Hollywood gossip magazine, at times it felt like this book would be the template. If your ears prick up when someone is relaying a story about some mysterious graveyard occurrence, a story of a twisted embalmer makes you queasy but you cant stop listening to the details, or simply love re-telling stories that make others squirm, then you will probably enjoy this book. There was also a lot of information in here that i have read in other books, most likely "Stiff", "Deaths Acre", "Buried Alive" and so on. So if you are widely read on the subject matter, then really all that is left for you is the tales. Despite my criticisms and the fact that i often read scientific books on these topics, i whizzed through this in a day or two and generally found it entertaining.

Overall, this is a great book. Not too seriously in depth, but a touches on a bit of everything macabre related to death. So it's a good choice for casual reading, but you're not going to learn a whole lot, and the "ghost stories" were not researched in depth at all. Take those with a grain of salt and do your own research - the "facts" are much different. The story about the son of Satan buried in Illinois, for instance. It held my interest until the stories about Necrophilia and Necromancy - NO THANK YOU. Yes, these things happen, but I felt she could have touched on the subjects without being so explicit. It was too much.

I can't believe the ratings on this book aren't higher. I truly enjoyed this book. Of course a lot of it is going to be on the morbid side. HELLO! What do you expect? I read a couple reviews where people were complaining about the discussion of necrophilia, and I have to set the record straight by explaining that this topic is discussed very quickly and there is no deep description about it. Perhaps, my interest in morbid topics runs deeper than the average reader. However, if you aren't slightly intrigued by these types of topics...don't pick up a book called "Cemetery Stories". It says right in the description that the book discusses the darker side of death. I thought the book was captivating and well-written. I didn't want to put it down. So, definitely 5 stars from me!

I didn't expect this book to give me a play by play description of how to embalm a body or cremate a corpse. I also didn't expect this to be an extension of Jessica Mitford's rip on the funeral industry. I didn't expect this to be an unending series of ghost stories. I expected random stories that delved into the often strange and sometimes humorous happenings that occur in funeral homes and cemeteries. I expected to hear stories that have their roots in what is commonly called "gallows humor". And I got exactly what I expected. Some of the stories were short and moderately interesting, some had me guessing such as who the actress is who is buried in a pet cemetery by her pooch (and not by her husband). A few had me cringeing such as the thought of a less than professional embalmer wielding a wanton trocar like a headhunter jabbing a spear around. Some stories even had me laughing. And one story even featured the ever quirky and wonderful Shelley Winters. The best part of this book was that it kept me reading. I took it to the health club and pumped away on a health cycle and read, read, read. I couldn't put the darn thing down. After I finished reading it, the book made it through my small circle of friends. Five people out of five gave it high marks.

This was a wonderful book.... I couldn't put it down and if this is of interest to you then you will not be dissapointed.

Read this when it first came out 12 years ago. Had to have the Jax main library actually do some digging (pun intended) for it as the catalog showed numerous copies available but unable to locate even one. Then the librarian read it before she contacted me and she loved it! Then posted it on the website as a must read. Well worth the full book price but thanks to I bought it for 1 cent.

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