

Undertaker At Work The

A National Book Award Finalist: "One of the most life-affirming books I have read in a long time...brims with humanity, irreverence, and invigorating candor." —Tom Vanderbilt, *The Nation* "Every year I bury a couple hundred of my townspeople." So opens this singular and wise testimony. Like all poets, inspired by death, Thomas Lynch is, unlike others, also hired to bury the dead or to cremate them and to tend to their families in a small Michigan town where he serves as the funeral director. In the conduct of these duties he has kept his eyes open, his ear tuned to the indispensable vernaculars of love and grief. In these twelve pieces his is the voice of both witness and functionary. Here, Lynch, poet to the dying, names the hurts and whispers the condolences and shapes the questions posed by this familiar mystery. So here is homage to parents who have died and to children who shouldn't have. Here are golfers tripping over grave markers, gourmands and hypochondriacs, lovers and suicides. These are the lessons for life our mortality teaches us.

Tim Thompson is a young man waiting only to join his entire family in the grave. But when he is hired by a mysterious undertaker business, he learns that many things other than death can happen to him, from meeting and falling for an outlaw vampire, to being reunited with his relatives after they emerge from the grave! Undead life is anything but simple, especially when you are the son of an ultra-dominant vampire. Opium traffickers, vampire hunters, Japanese ghosts: the intrigues of the vampire court of England are complex. "Undertakers Inc." is a hair-raising journey to the other side of the grave and into a dramatic power struggle between the powers that dwell there.

I go to work with a police escort. I am the gatekeeper of the worst behavior by the world's biggest banks, law firms, and corporations. I've overseen the ruin of thousands of companies. Eighty percent of my clients die. I am the Corporate Undertaker. You don't want to meet me... but many of you will. In this thrilling business memoir, author Domenic Aversa reveals the firsthand account of his messy life as an entrepreneur and corporate crisis manager. For more than 25 years, he has actively assisted companies in dramatic operational transition. During his career, he's had chairs thrown at his head and guns pointed at his heart. Occasionally, he's able to pull off a miracle and save a company. Most of the time, he simply tries to ease the agony. This book will show you how to navigate the most difficult stages of your entrepreneurial journey: life, adversity, crisis, death, and rebirth. A dark and unexpected novel about a Dublin undertaker who finds himself on the wrong side of the Irish mob. Paddy Buckley is a grieving widower who has worked for years for Gallagher's, a long-established—some say the best—funeral home in Dublin. One night driving home after an unexpected encounter with a client, Paddy hits a pedestrian crossing the street. He pulls over and gets out of his car, intending to do the right thing. As he bends over to help the man, he recognizes him. It's Donal Cullen, brother of one of the most notorious mobsters in Dublin. And he's dead. Shocked and scared, Paddy jumps back in his car and drives away before anyone notices what's happened. The next morning, the Cullen family calls Gallagher's to oversee the funeral arrangements. Paddy, to his dismay, is given the task of meeting with the grieving Vincent Cullen, Dublin's crime boss, and

Cullen's entourage. When events go awry, Paddy is plunged into an unexpected eddy of intrigue, deceit, and treachery. By turns a thriller, a love story, and a black comedy of ill manners, *The Last Four Days of Paddy Buckley* is a surprising, compulsively readable debut novel.

"On a sunny Wednesday morning in October, a day that would mark the end of one life and the beginning of another, I found out my grouchy next door neighbor was the walking dead. When you turn around expecting to see something familiar, and instead see something else altogether, it takes a little while for your brain to catch up with your eyes. I call it the 'Holy Crap Factor.'" Forced to flee his home and family, twelve-year-old Will Ritter falls in with the Undertakers—a rag-tag army of teenage resistance fighters who've banded together to battle the Corpses. Praise for Ty Drago: "...The author hardly sets a foot or a word wrong." -Publishers Weekly "More, if you please, Mr. Drago." -Booklist

"I tremble to say there's good in death, because I've looked in the eyes of the grieving mother and I've seen the heartbreak of the stricken widow, but I've also seen something more in death, something good. Death's hands aren't all bony and cold."—from *Confessions of a Funeral Director* We are a people who deeply fear death. While humans are biologically wired to evade death for as long as possible, we have become too adept at hiding from it, vilifying it, and—when it can be avoided no longer—letting the professionals take over. Sixth-generation funeral director Caleb Wilde understands this reticence and fear. He had planned to get as far away from the family business as possible. He wanted to make a difference in the world, and how could he do that if all the people he worked with were . . . dead? Slowly, he discovered that caring for the deceased and their loved ones was making a difference—in other people's lives to be sure, but it also seemed to be saving his own. A spirituality of death began to emerge as he observed:

- The family who lovingly dressed their deceased father for his burial
- The act of embalming a little girl that offered a gift back to her grieving family
- The nursing home that honored a woman's life by standing in procession as her body was taken away
- The funeral that united a conflicted community

Through stories like these, told with equal parts humor and poignancy, Wilde offers an intimate look into the business and a new perspective on living and dying.

With stunning visuals and in-depth commentary, *Undertaker: 25 Years of Destruction* takes the reader deep into the darkness, where few dare to tread! Learn everything you need to know about sports-entertainment's mysterious grim reaper of justice with this massive hardback tome. Follow in-depth discussion of the deadman's rise within the WWE ranks, read exclusive interviews with Superstars, Announcers and other WWE personalities and take a behind-the-scenes look at the demon of death valley's historic Wrestlemania streak.

On Dee Branch's first date with Johnnie Oliver, a fourth-generation funeral director, she knew she was in for a unique relationship when he had to leave "for just a minute"—and he came back to the car with a corpse. Over twenty years later, Dee was still in love with her charming southern gentleman when he passed away suddenly in 2007. Determined to carry on Johnnie's work, Dee earned her mortuary science degree, only to find herself no longer needed in the family business. So Dee crossed the racial divide in the most segregated industry in America and joined the staff of an African-

American funeral home as a single white woman. In *The Undertaker's Wife*, Oliver draws from her wealth of experience to provide candid and often hysterically funny advice on dying well and surviving the loss of those who have gone before. Her insights on the common ground of grief, survival, and the ever-present faithfulness of God (to all of us, regardless of our race, religious upbringing, or socio-economic background) will help readers prepare for one of life's only certainties—and do it with wisdom, grace, and a healthy dose of joy.

If Bill Bryson were to join a Winnipeg funeral home as an apprentice, and if he searched for the meaning of life and death while he was at it, you'd have *Curtains* - enlightening, full of life in the midst of death, and very funny. "There's a time, from when someone dies to when they magically pop up at the funeral or as a bag of ashes, that remains a black hole, invisible to civilians, and they're happy with that arrangement. My job covers that gap." At forty-four Tom Jokinen began to seriously question the secular funeral rites that are taking over the industry: is this really the way we want to say our final goodbyes? The question had such a hard grip on his Finnish soul that he decided to quit his job in order to become an apprentice undertaker. *Curtains* is about what he found, from the mundane to the macabre. Among the things he learned: in cremation, the heart and head are the last parts to burn; purple lipstick looks best on a dead man; funeral directors have been known to dance during the service - out of sight of funeral goers, of course, and with the utmost respect for the dead. For anyone who's secretly wondered why they paid \$2000 for a 5-lb bag of dust - or questioned whether that dust was really the person they loved - *Curtains* lifts the veil on the funeral industry in the 21st century.

The Undertaker. After you have breathed your final breath the Undertaker prepares your body for the afterlife. They carry the burden of making you at ease in your new home for all eternity. The stories these brave men and women could tell! We have gathered but a few for you today in these pages. **UNDERTAKER TALES IS A FICTIONAL ANTHOLOGY OF HORROR STORIES.**

Nothing covers up a big secret faster than a fresh grave. Someone with a scalpel and embalming table is planting bodies under other people's names. Pete Talbott, a harried Boston computer wonk, is still grieving over the death of his wife, when he finds himself at the wrong end of Gino Parini's .45 reading his own obituary torn from the morning newspaper. Talbott figures it's all a big mistake, until Parini shows him his wife's obituary too; and that's a mystery that Pete Talbott can't leave well-enough alone. Sandy Kasmarek is a kick-ass art gallery attendant on Chicago's stylish North Michigan Avenue, and her late and un-lamented husband is also featured in another of the bogus obituaries. With a photographer's sharp eye and the quick feet of a black belt, she and Pete are soon embroiled in government corruption, organized crime, and an FBI undercover shell game. From a funeral home in Indiana, to car chases on the Dan Ryan Expressway, a bloody townhouse in Boston's Back Bay, snipers in New York's Washington Square, the cramped lower bunk on an

AMTRAK train, they find themselves knee-deep in sleazy lawyers, corrupt County sheriffs, the FBI, and Mafia hit men. And if Pete and Sandy can't stop him, they know they will be next on the Undertaker's list. Looking for a good beach book or something to curl up with in front of the fire, this fast-moving conspiracy thriller is from the author of *Burke's Gamble*, *Burke's War*, *The Undertaker*, *Amongst My Enemies*, *Thursday at Noon*, and *Aim True*, *My Brothers*, with over 500 Kindle 5-Star Reviews. Enjoy!

“The Undertaker’s Daughter is a wonderfully quirky, gem of a book beautifully written by Kate Mayfield...Her compelling, complicated family and cast of characters stay with you long after you close the book” (Monica Holloway, author of *Cowboy & Wills* and *Driving With Dead People*). How does one live in a house of the dead? Kate Mayfield explores what it meant to be the daughter of a small-town undertaker in this fascinating memoir evocative of *Six Feet Under* and *The Help*, with a hint of Mary Roach’s *Stiff*. After Kate Mayfield was born, she was taken directly to a funeral home. Her father was an undertaker, and for thirteen years the family resided in a place nearly synonymous with death, where the living and the dead entered their house like a vapor. In a memoir that reads like a Harper Lee novel, Mayfield draws the reader into a world of haunting Southern mystique. In the turbulent 1960s, Kate’s father set up shop in sleepy Jubilee, Kentucky, a segregated, god-fearing community where no one kept secrets—except the ones they were buried with. By opening a funeral home, Frank Mayfield also opened the door to family feuds, fetishes, murder, suicide, and all manner of accidents. Kate saw it all—she also witnessed the quiet ruin of her father, who hid alcoholism and infidelity behind a cool and charismatic façade. As Kate grows from trusting child to rebellious teen, the enforced sobriety of the funeral home begins to chafe, and she longs for the day she can escape the confines of Jubilee and her place as the undertaker’s daughter. “Mayfield fashions a poignant send-off to Jubilee in this thoughtfully rendered work” (Publishers Weekly).

Campion takes up local lodgings on Apron Street in London, a place where urchins abound and a quasi-feudal order is maintained by the eccentric Palinode family, when a threat is sensed and the police are baffled.

The Undertaker, A Memoir of the First Woman Funeral Director in the Core of Brooklyn by Laura Del Gaudio is a story of growing up over a funeral home, attending funeral directing school, morgue duty, lifelong friends, post-traumatic stress, alcoholism, and being the best damn funeral director for every color and nationality in downtown Brooklyn. The funeral homes--both the author's grandfather's and father's--were in Historic Downtown Brooklyn, where the Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn Heights, the famous Promenade, the Central Borough Hall and the Courts were all within walking distance; where George Washington and Walt Whitman at one time were just the neighborhood guys that ended up doing okay for themselves. It's where the world either lives or passes through. This is where science took hold of the author. The

Undertaker is her lively story of learning the family business from under the kitchen table and becoming the first women funeral director in Brooklyn. It's also the story of how she learned empathy in the face of unspeakable traumas.

Albert Campion, an elegant and engaging detective is sent into the eccentric Palinode household, where there have been two suspicious deaths. And, if poisoning were not enough, there are also anonymous letters, sudden violence and a vanishing coffin. Meanwhile, the Palinodes go about their nocturnal business and Compion dices with danger in his efforts to find the truth.

From rookie mistakes and runaway corpses to screaming dead men and unusual requests, a collection of stories by funeral directors. Only the scathing wit and searching intelligence of Jessica Mitford could turn an exposé of the American funeral industry into a book that is at once deadly serious and side-splittingly funny. When first published in 1963, this landmark of investigative journalism became a runaway bestseller and resulted in legislation to protect grieving families from the unscrupulous sales practices of those in "the dismal trade." Just before her death in 1996, Mitford thoroughly revised and updated her classic study. *The American Way of Death Revisited* confronts new trends, including the success of the profession's lobbyists in Washington, inflated cremation costs, the telemarketing of pay-in-advance graves, and the effects of monopolies in a death-care industry now dominated by multinational corporations. With its hard-nosed consumer activism and a satiric vision out of Evelyn Waugh's novel *The Loved One*, *The American Way of Death Revisited* will not fail to inform, delight, and disturb. "Brilliant--hilarious. . . . A must-read for anyone planning to throw a funeral in their lifetime."--New York Post "Witty and penetrating--it speaks the truth."--The Washington Post

This book examines the shifts that have taken place in the funeral industry since 1900, focusing on the figure of the undertaker and exploring how organizational change and attempts to gain recognition as a professional service provider saw the role morph into that of 'funeral director'.

An enthralling novel of historical fiction for fans of Lisa Wingate and Ellen Marie Wiseman, *The Undertaker's Assistant* is a powerful story of human resilience set during Reconstruction-era New Orleans that features an extraordinary and unforgettable heroine at its heart. "The dead can't hurt you. Only the living can." Effie Jones, a former slave who escaped to the Union side as a child, knows the truth of her words. Taken in by an army surgeon and his wife during the War, she learned to read and write, to tolerate the sight of blood and broken bodies—and to forget what is too painful to bear. Now a young freedwoman, she has returned south to New Orleans and earns her living as an embalmer, her steady hand and skillful incisions compensating for her white employer's shortcomings. Tall and serious, Effie keeps her distance from the other girls in her boarding house, holding tight to the satisfaction she finds in her work. But despite her reticence, two encounters—with a charismatic state legislator named Samson Greene, and a beautiful young Creole, Adeline—introduce her to new worlds of protests and activism, of soirees and social ambition. Effie decides to seek out the past she has blocked from her memory and try to trace her kin. As her hopes are tested by betrayal, and New Orleans grapples with violence and growing racial turmoil, Effie faces loss and heartache, but also a chance to finally find her place . . .

A wry and compassionate selection of essays reflecting on mortals and mortality, from the acclaimed author of *The Undertaking*. For nearly four decades, poet, essayist, and small-town funeral director Thomas Lynch has probed relations between the literary and mortuary arts. His life's work with the dead and the bereaved has informed four previous collections of nonfiction, each exploring identity and humanity with Lynch's signature blend of memoir, meditation, gallows humor, and poetic precision. *The Depositions* provides an essential selection from

these masterful collections—essays on fatherhood, Irish heritage, funeral rites, and the perils of bodiless obsequies—as well as new essays in which the space between Lynch’s hyphenated identities—as an Irish American, undertaker-poet—is narrowed by the deaths of poets, the funerals of friends, the loss of neighbors, intimate estrangements, and the slow demise of a beloved dog. In “Gladstone,” from *The Undertaking*, Lynch reflects on his then twenty-five years as an undertaker at the Midwinter Conference for Michigan funeral directors, which incongruously takes place on an island in the Caribbean. With brutal, generous honesty, “The Way We Are,” from *Bodies in Motion and at Rest*, grapples with Lynch’s time as a single parent coming to terms with generations of his family inheritance of alcoholism and recovery. The press of the author’s own mortality animates the new essays, sharpening a curiosity about where we come from, where we go, and what it means. As Alan Ball writes in a penetrating foreword, Lynch’s work allows us “to see both the absurdity and the beauty of death, sometimes simultaneously.” With this landmark collection, he continues to illuminate not only how we die, but also how we live.

Nicole Glover delivers the second book in her exciting *Murder & Magic* series of historical fantasy novels featuring Hetty Rhodes and her husband, Benjy, magic practitioners and detectives living in post-Civil War Philadelphia. Nothing bothers Hetty and Benjy Rhodes more than a case where the answers, motives, and the murder itself feel a bit too neat. Raimond Duval, a victim of one of the many fires that have erupted recently in Philadelphia, is officially declared dead after the accident, but Hetty and Benjy’s investigation points to a powerful Fire Company known to let homes in the Black community burn to the ground. Before long, another death breathes new life into the Duval investigation: Raimond’s son, Valentine, is also found dead. Finding themselves with the dubious honor of taking on Valentine Duval as their first major funeral, it becomes clear that his passing was intentional. Valentine and his father’s deaths are connected, and the recent fires plaguing the city might be more linked to recent community events than Hetty and Benji originally thought. *The Undertakers* continues the adventures of murder and magic, where even the most powerful enchantments can’t always protect you from the ghosts of the past . . .

"Engaging images accompany information about the Undertaker. The combination of high-interest subject matter and light text is intended for students in grades 3 through 7"--Provided by publisher.

The blogger behind *Confessions of a Funeral Director*—what *Time* magazine called a "must read"—reflects on mortality and the powerful lessons death holds for every one of us in this compassionate and thoughtful spiritual memoir that combines the humor and insight of *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* with the poignancy and brevity of *When Breath Becomes Air*. We are a people who deeply fear death. While humans are biologically wired to evade death for as long as possible, we have become too adept at hiding from it, vilifying it, and—when it can be avoided no longer—letting the professionals take over. Sixth-generation funeral director Caleb Wilde understands this reticence and fear. He had planned to get as far away from the family business as possible. He wanted to make a difference in the world, and how could he do that if all the people he worked with were . . . dead? Slowly, he discovered that caring for the deceased and their loved ones was making a difference—in other people’s lives to be sure, but it also seemed to be saving his own. A spirituality of death began to emerge as he observed: The family who lovingly dressed their deceased father for his burial The act of embalming a little girl that offered a gift back to her grieving family The nursing home that honored a woman’s life by

standing in procession as her body was taken away The funeral that united a conflicted community Through stories like these, told with equal parts humor and poignancy, Wilde offers an intimate look into the business and a new perspective on living and dying

First Published in 2017. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an Informa company.

Only a woman with an iron backbone could succeed as an undertaker in Victorian London, but Violet Morgan takes great pride in her trade. While her husband, Graham, is preoccupied with elevating their station in society, Violet is cultivating a sterling reputation for Morgan Undertaking. She is empathetic, well-versed in funeral fashions, and comfortable with death's role in life--until its chilling rattle comes knocking on her own front door. Violet's peculiar but happy life soon begins to unravel as Graham becomes obsessed with his own demons and all but abandons her as he plans a vengeful scheme. And the solace she's always found in her work evaporates like a departing soul when she suspects that some of the deceased she's dressed have been murdered. When Graham's plotting leads to his disappearance, Violet takes full control of the business and is commissioned for an undertaking of royal proportions. But she's certain there's a killer lurking in the London fog, and the next funeral may be her own. Equal parts courage, compassion, and intrigue, Christine Trent tells an unrestrained tale of love and loss in the rigidly decorous world of Victorian society. Praise for the novels of Christine Trent "Genuinely engrossing. . .with a rare Regency heroine who loves her work and does it well." Publishers Weekly on *By the King's Design* "Exuberant, sparkling, beguiling. . .brims with Dickensian gusto!" --Barbara Kyle, author of *The Queen's Lady* on *The Queen's Dollmaker* "Winningly original. . .glittering with atmospheric detail!" --Leslie Carroll, author of *Royal Affairs* on *The Queen's Dollmaker*

Discover a more lighthearted side of the funeral industry in this collection of real-life stories from the authors of *Mortuary Confidential*. Not knowing what to do, I sat on the church steps and waited. As the gravity of my failure began to well up in me, I began to cry . . . I Had Lost The Hearse! Funerals and the all the things that accompany them are traditionally somber, contemplative events in which the bereaved look to their undertaker to guide them through that most difficult of times. Of course, sometimes tradition gets thrown under the bus. From a dysfunctional family who turn their mother's wake into a full-blown riot, to funeral crashers looking for free meals, to a horse-drawn hearse taking the dearly departed for the ride of their afterlife, these accounts from actual undertakers will have you laughing, thinking, and gasping in disbelief. A literal graveyard of wild coincidences, slapstick humor, and touching moments, *Over Our Dead Bodies* explores the lighter side of the dead, the living, and the lone undertaker who must make it all go as planned—even if it doesn't. Praise for *Mortuary Confidential* "Outrageous funeral stories, dipped in beauty and morbid humor." —Caleb Wilde, author of *Confessions of a Funeral Director* "Curious, wildly honest stories that need to be told, but just not at the

dinner table.” —Dana Kollmann, author of *Never Suck a Dead Man’s Hand* “As unpredictable and lively as a bunch of drunks at a New Orleans funeral.” —Joe R. Lansdale, author of *Moon Lake* “Sick, funny, and brilliant! I love this book.” —Jonathan Maberry, Bram Stoker Award–winning author of *They Bite! And Rot & Ruin* “These true mortuary tales are poignant—and suddenly, gaspi

The eternal darkness of death comes to every human. Whether it is the miscarriage of an imperfect, fertile egg, or the grim reaper coming to harvest our soul, we all enter into another world in an instant. It can happen at any time, from the moment of conception until well past the century mark. We all have our very own time to die. "My Life With Death" is a fast paced, firsthand account of one man's journey as an undertaker. From David VanBuskirk's accidental beginning as an ambulance driver, to the surprise ending, he takes his readers through some of the most memorable instances in his life while dealing with the injured, the dying, and the dead. Out of the thousands of experiences in his career, these are the incidents that will forever be etched into his memory. The story contains compelling accounts about Dave's involvement with some of those dead human bodies, and their survivors. It contains his own observations, thoughts, and descriptions of how, when, and where death occurred. He relays his relationship to the circumstances, and to the part he played in the removal and disposition of those bodies. Dave's intentions are to enlighten the reader about his profession: what undertakers do, the odd hours they work, and to let you know that those in the funeral industry are humans, also. Some of what he writes about is sad, some of it is humorous, and some of it is extremely gross. Dave tells about some of the mistakes he's made in dealing with grieving families, and some of his embarrassing moments while conducting funeral services. He relays the humor attached to death, and the gruesome, grotesque looking bodies that he's been forced to deal with. He also reveals some behind the scenes techniques involved in the preparation of dead human bodies. Dave explains, in vivid detail, how an autopsy is performed, and how the body is put back together by the embalmer. He also explains how he makes a grotesque looking body presentable to the next of kin. "During my thirt

A thrilling novel from #1 international bestselling author Sara Blaedel, author of *The Forgotten Girls* "One of the best I've come across." -- Michael Connelly "Sara Blaedel is a force to be reckoned with. She's a remarkable crime writer who time and again delivers a solid, engaging story that any reader in the world can enjoy." -- Karin Slaughter "One can count on emotional engagement, spine-tingling suspense, and taut storytelling from Sara Blaedel." -- Sandra Brown

Already widowed by the age of forty, Ilka Nichols Jensen, a school portrait photographer, leads a modest, regimented, and uneventful life in Copenhagen. Until unexpected news rocks her quiet existence: Her father--who walked out suddenly and inexplicably on the family more than three decades ago--has died. And he's left her something in his will: his funeral home. In Racine, Wisconsin. Clinging to this last shred of communication from the father she hasn't heard from since

childhood, Ilka makes an uncharacteristically rash decision and jumps on a plane to Wisconsin. Desperate for a connection to the parent she never really knew, she plans to visit the funeral home and go through her father's things--hoping for some insight into his new life in America--before preparing the business for a quick sale. But when she stumbles on an unsolved murder, and a killer who seems to still be very much alive, the undertaker's daughter realizes she might be in over her head . . .

At forty-four, Tom Jokinen decided to quit his job in order to become an apprentice undertaker, setting out to ask the questions: What is the right thing to do when someone dies? With the marketplace offering new options (go green, go anti-corporate, go Disney, be packed into an artificial reef and dropped in the Atlantic.), is there still room for tradition? In a year of adventures both hair-raising and hilarious, Jokinen finds a world that is radically changed since Jessica Mitford revised *The American Way of Death*, more surprising than *Six Feet Under*, and even funnier and more illuminating than *Stiff*. If Bill Bryson were to apprentice at a funeral home, searching for the meaning of life and death, you'd have *Curtains*. "Poems that stick with you like a song that won't stop repeating itself in your brain, poems whose cadences burrow into your bloodstream, orchestrating your breathing long before their sense attaches its hooks to your heart." —Washington Post on *Captivity*

Someone dumped a body in an open grave at the cemetery, and the undertaker isn't happy about it. But he isn't happy about the police trying to solve it, either. In fact, the undertaker tries to solve it himself. The undertaker's name is Yvgeny, and Yvgeny is an unlikeable and morally ambiguous Sherlock Holmes aficionado who lives with his mother in a mortuary in middle-Georgia. He wears Victorian era dress and speaks with a Polish accent. Don't let Yvgeny's career choice scare you away from the story- while some of Yvgeny's antics will make you cringe, there is nothing gory or violent. The story begins with Yvgeny preparing for a funeral. He gets annoyed when he discovers someone dumped a body into a grave he had dug for someone else. Always looking for a way to make an extra buck, he hauls the body back to his office to inspect. After filching a nice watch, he calls the police. Of course, Yvgeny doesn't like the police, and he eventually decides to solve the crime himself. With his love for Sherlock Holmes and inflated ego, he estimates his chances of solving the crime are far higher than those of the detectives. Yvgeny teams up with a motley assortment of not always like-minded characters in this small Georgia town, trying to stay one step ahead as the detectives close in. The local talent includes the mentally deficient one-eyed owner of the army-navy surplus store and the local doctor/deputy coroner who is a recovering hippie with a Tom Selleck fetish. In the middle of everything, Yvgeny falls for the crude and vulgar granddaughter of an old man buried in his cemetery. She is turned off by his bizarre fashion and strange interests, but Yvgeny is persistent. Will he solve the crime? Will he get the girl? Read and find out!

As the title implies, *Lady Undertaker* tells the story of three women in the male-dominated world of the funeral industry. Set in a fictitious small town in Georgia, just outside Atlanta, the book spans 40 years, ending in the present day. The three women profiled are Leona, wife of a funeral director, Sydney, her daughter, and Kalen, her niece. Both younger women are licensed funeral directors. *Lady Undertaker* is a labor of love for authors Lyn Johnson and Lisa D. Branch-Tucker, two sister-friends who run a funeral home in Philadelphia, where they are both licensed funeral directors. They also own a catering and event planning business. They say as strong African-American women, Both our mothers and grandmothers are entrepreneurs. It was a natural fit for us to work in the funeral industry. They are currently writing two more books, *Embalmer's Blues* and *The Final Viewing*. Publisher's website: <http://www.strategicpublishinggroup.com/title/LadyUndertaker.html>

As visiting physician to Bethlem Hospital, the archetypal "Bedlam" and Britain's first and (for hundreds of years) only public institution for the insane, Dr. John Monro (1715–1791) was a celebrity in his own day. Jonathan Andrews and Andrew Scull call him a "connoisseur of insanity, this high priest of the trade in lunacy." Although the basics of his life and career are well known, this study is the first to explore in depth Monro's colorful and contentious milieu. Mad-doctoring grew into a recognized, if not entirely respectable, profession during the eighteenth century, and besides being affiliated with public hospitals, Monro and other mad-doctors became entrepreneurs and owners of private madhouses and were consulted by the rich and famous. Monro's close social connections with members of the aristocracy and gentry, as well as with medical professionals, politicians, and divines, guaranteed him a significant place in the social, political, cultural, and intellectual worlds of his time. Andrews and Scull draw on an astonishing array of visual materials and verbal sources that include the diaries, family papers, and correspondence of some of England's wealthiest and best-connected citizens. The book is also distinctive in the coverage it affords to individual case histories of Monro's patients, including such prominent contemporary figures as the Earls Ferrers and Orford, the religious "enthusiast" Alexander Cruden, and the "mad" King George III, as well as his crazy would-be assassin, Margaret Nicholson. What the authors make clear is that Monro, a serious physician neither reactionary nor enlightened in his methods, was the outright epitome of the mad-trade as it existed then, esteemed in some quarters and ridiculed in others. The fifty illustrations, expertly annotated and integrated with the text, will be a revelation to many readers.

A comprehensive historical survey of the work of undertakers in the first half of the twentieth century, essential reading for anyone interested in understanding an often hidden but certainly most fascinating trade. Reflecting the rapidly changing nature of the undertaker's work in pre, inter and post- war Britain, this book details the introduction of embalming; how the enormous task of dealing with the dead from both World Wars was undertaken; how undertakers

coped with the tragic death toll of the Spanish flu, and the rise of the Co-operative Funeral Service. Around these more institutional historical keystones, the author includes several important burials from the period: the moving story of the burial of the Unknown Soldier; the extraordinary tale of the 'empty coffin' of Lord Kitchener, and the awful logistics of dealing with the worst ever aviation tragedy, the crash of the airship R101. Also included is the author's own collection of rare photographs detailing the changes in modes of transport, premises and coffins that took place during this time, along with contemporary advertising and other images showing the undertaker at work. A further section illustrates the work of a related occupation, the monumental mason.

[Copyright: 97a12c265bfe2c45f92f0d170bd484a](#)