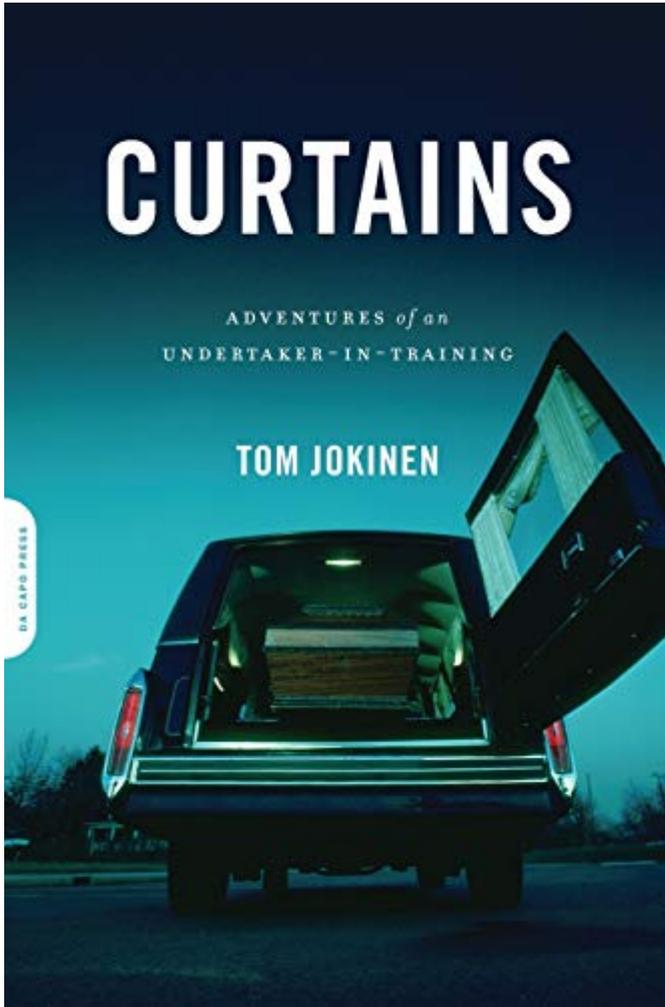


CURTAINS

ADVENTURES *of an*
UNDERTAKER - IN - TRAINING

TOM JOKINEN

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Curtains: Adventures of an Undertaker-In-Training-

Tom Jokinen 2010-09 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, youd have Curtains.

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Curtains-Tom Jokinen

2010-03-09 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.

Curtains-Tom Jokinen

2010-03-23 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.

Does This Mean You'll See Me Naked?-Robert D.

Webster 2011 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, wax, 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

Mortuary Confidential-

Kenneth McKenzie 2010 From rookie mistakes and runaway corpses to screaming dead men and unusual requests, a collection of stories by funeral directors.

Mortician Diaries-June

Knights Nadle 2010-10-04 After 50 years in the funeral business, 80-year-old grandmother-undertaker June Knights Nadle has seen it all — at least all of what goes on before, during, and after life's ultimate challenge. In *Mortician Diaries*, she combines equal doses of charm, humanity, humor, and reality to tell it like it is on this taboo subject. A kind of *Prairie Home Companion* set in a mortuary, the book features memorable stories of regret — “I wish I had kissed him on the morning he had the accident” — and renewal, as the lesson of facing life's last great event is learned, or not. Some of the accounts here are funny, some sad. Some are haunting in their strangeness as they reveal the many ways in which people cope. Along the way, the reader is drawn into Nadle's

own life story as an unconventional woman who devoted herself to the dead and to those they left behind.

Funerals to Die For-Kathy Benjamin 2013-03-18 True stories that put the, er, "fun" back into funerals! The hereafter may still be part of the great unknown, but with *Funerals to Die For* you can unearth the rich--and often, dark--history of funeral rites. From getting a portrait painted with a loved one's ashes to purchasing a safety coffin complete with bells and breathing tubes, this book takes you on a whirlwind tour of funeral customs and trivia from all over the globe. Inside, you'll find more than 100 unbelievable traditions, practices, and facts, such as: The remains of a loved one can be launched into deep space for only \$1,000. In Taiwan, strippers are hired to entertain funeral guests throughout the ceremony. Undertakers for the Tongan royal family weren't allowed to use their hands for 100 days after preparing a king's body. In the late 1800s, New Englanders would gulp down

a cocktail of water and their family member's ashes in order to keep them from returning as vampires. Whether you fear being buried alive or just have a morbid curiosity of the other side, *Funerals to Die For* examines what may happen when another person dies.

Confessions of a Funeral Director-Caleb Wilde 2017-09-26 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

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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

Undertaker Tales: What They Don't Teach You at

Mortuary School-Norgus Press 2011-10-01 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.

Grave Matters-Mark Harris 2008-12-09 Examines the embalming process and the impact the standard funeral has on the environment while also discussing alternative eco-friendly burials.

Over Our Dead Bodies:- Kenneth McKenzie 2014-06-01 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 has to make it all go as planned--even if it doesn't. Praise for *Mortuary Confidential* "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 "Sick, funny, and brilliant! I

love this book."--Jonathan Maberry, multiple Bram Stoker Award-winning author of *They Bite!* and *Rot & Ruin* "These true mortuary tales are poignant--and suddenly, gaspingly, in-your-face funny." --Booklist

The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade-Thomas Lynch

2010-03-01 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

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.

Good Mourning-Elizabeth Meyer 2015-08-25 Elizabeth Meyer's "sweet, touching, and funny" (Booklist) memoir reads as if "Carrie Bradshaw worked in a funeral home a la Six Feet Under" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Good Mourning offers a behind-the-scenes look at a legendary funeral chapel on New York City's Upper East Side—mixing big money, society drama, and the universal experience of grieving—told from the unique perspective of a fashionista turned funeral planner. Elizabeth Meyer stumbled upon a career in the

midst of planning her own father's funeral, which she turned into an upbeat party with Rolling Stones music, thousands of dollars worth of her mother's favorite flowers, and a personalized eulogy. Starting as a receptionist, Meyer quickly found she had a knack for helping people cope with their grief, as well as creating fitting send-offs for some of the city's most high-powered residents. Meyer has seen it all: two women who found out their deceased husband (yes, singular) was living a double life, a famous corpse with a missing brain, and funerals that cost more than most weddings. By turns illuminating, emotional, and darkly humorous, Good Mourning is a lesson in how the human heart grieves and grows—whether you're wearing this season's couture or drug-store flip-flops.

Opening Heaven's Door-Patricia Pearson 2014-05-13 The first book by a respected journalist on Nearing Death Awareness—similar to Near-Death Experience—this "fascinating" (Kirkus Reviews)

exploration brings “humor, sympathy, and keen critical intelligence to a topic that is all too often off-limits” (Ptolemy Tompkins, collaborator with Eben Alexander on *Proof of Heaven*). People everywhere carry with them extraordinary, deeply comforting experiences that arrived at the moment when they most needed relief: when they lost a loved one. These experiences can include clear messages from beyond, profound and vividly beautiful visions, mysterious connections and spiritual awareness, foreknowledge of a loved one’s passing—all of which evade explanation by science and logic. Most people keep these transcendent experiences secret for fear they will be discounted by hyper-rational scrutiny. Yet these very common occurrences have the power to console, comfort, and even transform our understanding of life and death. Prompted by her family’s surprising, profound experiences around the death of her father and her sister, reporter Patricia Pearson sets out on an open-minded

inquiry, a rare journalistic investigation of *Nearing Death Awareness*, which Anne Rice praises as “substantive, eloquent, and worthwhile.” *Opening Heaven’s Door* offers deeply affecting stories of messages from the dying and the dead in a fascinating work of investigative journalism, pointing to new scientific explanations that give these luminous moments the importance felt by those who experience them. Pearson also delves into out-of-body and near-death experiences, examining stories and research to make sense of these related but distinct categories. Challenging current assumptions about what we know and what we are still unable to explain, *Opening Heaven’s Door* will forever alter your perceptions of the nature of life and death.

Madness, Murder and Mayhem-Kathryn Burtinshaw
2018-10-30 Following an assassination attempt on George III in 1800, new legislation significantly altered the way the criminally insane were treated by the judicial system in Britain. This

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book explores these changes and explains the rationale for purpose-built criminal lunatic asylums in the Victorian era. Specific case studies are used to illustrate and describe some of the earliest patients at Broadmoor Hospital the Criminal Lunatic Asylum for England and Wales and the Criminal Lunatic Department at Perth Prison in Scotland. Chapters examine the mental and social problems that led to crime alongside individuals considered to be weak-minded, imbeciles or idiots. Family murders are explored as well as individuals who killed for gain. An examination of psychiatric evidence is provided to illustrate how often an insanity defence was used in court and the outcome if the judge and jury did not believe these claims. Two cases are discussed where medical experts gave evidence that individuals were mentally irresponsible for their crimes but they were led to the gallows. Written by genealogists and historians, this book examines and identifies individuals who committed heinous crimes and researches the impact

crime had on themselves, their families and their victims.

Technologies of the Human Corpse-John Troyer 2020

"How human technological interventions into death and the dead body since the nineteenth century have had a profound impact on today's (and future) end-of-life and human mortality realities. As Director of the Centre for Death and Society, the world's only interdisciplinary studies centre dedicated to researching death, dying, and the dead body, and the son of an American Funeral Director who grew up in the funeral industry, I am uniquely positioned to author a new book on the human corpse and technology. Death and the dead body are both extremely popular topics, and the books being currently published are tapping into that popular appeal. Most of these books, however, cover topics that remain perennially discussed. Indeed, it is striking how so many of the current books on death and dying reflect the same issues raised during the 1970's, a

decade during which Publisher's Weekly enthusiastically told its readers "Death is now selling books!" A quick snapshot of some current(ish) death, dying, and dead body books includes, but is certainly not limited to: Mary Roach's *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, which was published in 2003 but remains widely read thirteen-years later; more recent books, such as Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal*, Caitlin Doughty's *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, and Brandy Schillace's *Death's Summer Coat* have all tapped into this popular genre. Books by academic authors such as Margaret Schwartz's *Dead Matter* and Thomas Laqueur's *The Work of the Dead* present historical and cultural contexts that are equally important. My listing of texts could exceed several pages but what is important about most contemporary death books is that the texts rarely give the history of publishing books on death much analysis. If any death-topic authors' names appear they are usually Jessica Mitford, Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, and Ernest Becker. Sigmund Freud

sometimes appears (in connection to Becker) but on the whole these specific authors represent a fraction of the 'death canon.' What I am writing improves on these texts by presenting readers with a more complex and interesting history than most books on death, dying, and the dead body currently pursue. In a nutshell I present a longer view on how human technological interventions into death and the dead body since the nineteenth century have had a profound impact on today's (and future) end-of-life and human mortality realities. It is too easy to sum up most current books on death, dying, and the dead body by simply saying, "We've been here before" - but it's also accurate. What my book presents are new and important ways to critically understand both the distant and recent past of human death, e.g., nineteenth century postmortem photography's crucial relationship to twentieth century life extension technology. Ironically, these nineteenth century historical records are often archived and accessible (and very well

presented in MIT Press's *Secure the Shadow* by Jay Ruby), whereas web based material from twenty, even ten-years-ago often disappears before it can be analyzed and discussed. The key point for any book being written about death and dying today is that it really needs to understand and articulate how popular interest in death didn't emerge from nowhere. The current popularity of death, dying, and the dead body is the result of many individuals working in many different fields over the last two centuries as both academics and practitioners. More than anything the collective twenty-first century discourse on death needs to have its dominant narratives challenged and pushed in new directions. This book takes on that challenge and re-defines death, dying, and the dead body for readers by opening up human mortality's complicated and often vexing history"--

Down Among the Dead

Men-Michelle Williams

2010-08-10 "Thankfully

Williams's reminiscence does

more than delight in the creepy and the ghoulish; it breathes life into the mortuary workers themselves." — The Brooklyn Rail Michelle Williams is young and attractive, with close family ties, a busy social life . . . and an unusual occupation. When she impulsively applies to be a mortuary technician and is offered the position, she has no idea that her decision to accept will be one of the most momentous of her life. "What I didn't realize then, she writes, "was that I was about to start one of the most amazing jobs you can do." To Williams, life in the mortuary is neither grim nor frightening. She introduces readers to a host of unique characters: pathologists (many eccentric, some utterly crazy), undertakers, and the man from the coroner's office who sings to her every morning. No two days are alike, and while Williams's sensitivity to the dead never wavers, her tales from the crypt range from mischievous to downright shocking. Readers won't forget the fitness fanatic run over while doing nighttime push-ups on

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the road, the man so large he had to be carted in via refrigerated truck, or the guide dog who led his owner onto railway tracks—and left him there. The indomitable Williams never bats an eye, even as she is confronted—daily—with situations that would leave the rest of us speechless. “This entertaining memoir chronicles the author’s first year on the job, which sees her learning how to perform a postmortem, determine cause of death, and deal with grieving relatives and shady undertakers (among a lot of other things) . . . Not your run-of-the-mill occupational memoir, but definitely an interesting one.” —Booklist

Pardon My Hearse-Allan Abbott 2015-06-15 Even celebrities die—and he was the man who picked up the bodies! Allan Abbott ran the leading hearse, mortuary, and funeral services company in Hollywood and got an unprecedented glimpse of how celebrities really live and die. The Forrest Gump of the funeral industry, Abbott was everywhere celebrities died,

from helping to prepare Marilyn Monroe's body for burial to standing next to Christopher Walken at Natalie Wood's funeral. Now in his memoir “Pardon My Hearse,” Abbott tells the rags-to-shroud story of how we went from a young man with a hearse to the funeral driver to the stars—a rollicking, unexpectedly hilarious story of glamorous funerals, mishaps with corpses, and true-life glimpses of celebrities at their most revealing moments. “Pardon My Hearse” is an eye-opening look at secret Hollywood from the man who literally knows where the bodies are buried.

The American Way of Death Revisited-Jessica Mitford 2011-11-23 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

The Undertaker's

Daughter-Kate Mayfield
2015-01-13 "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).

Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?: Big Questions from Tiny Mortals About Death-Caitlin Doughty

2019-09-10 New York Times Bestseller Winner of the 2019 Goodreads Choice Award for Science & Technology Best-selling author and mortician Caitlin Doughty answers real questions from kids about death, dead bodies, and decomposition. Every day, funeral director Caitlin Doughty receives dozens of questions about death. The

best questions come from kids. What would happen to an astronaut's body if it were pushed out of a space shuttle? Do people poop when they die? Can Grandma have a Viking funeral? In *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?*, Doughty blends her mortician's knowledge of the body and the intriguing history behind common misconceptions about corpses to offer factual, hilarious, and candid answers to thirty-five distinctive questions posed by her youngest fans. In her inimitable voice, Doughty details lore and science of what happens to, and inside, our bodies after we die. Why do corpses groan? What causes bodies to turn colors during decomposition? And why do hair and nails appear longer after death? Readers will learn the best soil for mummifying your body, whether you can preserve your best friend's skull as a keepsake, and what happens when you die on a plane. Beautifully illustrated by Dianné Ruz, *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?* shows us that death is science and art, and only by asking questions can we begin to embrace it.

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Rest in Peace-Gary

Laderman 2005 Gary

Laderman traces the origins of American funeral rituals, & looks at the increasing subordination of religious figures to the funeral director in the late 20th century, demonstrating that the modern director is very far from Mitford's manipulator of 'The American Way of Death'.

Adventures of Huckleberry

Finn-Mark Twain 2010-01-01

In Mark Twain's classic tale of friendship and adventure, Huckleberry Finn escapes his evil, drunken father, befriends a runaway slave named Jim, and sails the Mississippi River! As Huck and Jim sail to freedom, they encounter con men and thieves and get in plenty of trouble along the way. Follow Huck's coming-of-age journey in the Calico Illustrated Classics adaptation of Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Calico Chapter Books is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO Group. Grades 3-8.

Bust-Adam B. Resnick

2007-03-01 On the surface, Adam Resnick was your typical guy next door, a friendly, charismatic father of two. But he spent the first decade of his adult life winning and losing fortunes playing blackjack and betting on sports, sometimes winning and losing millions in mere hours-until, in one frenzied night, he received a phone call that was his moment of reckoning, and that sounded the death knell for his lifelong addiction. Bust is a white-knuckled story of the highs and lows of a world-class gambler. Introduced to gambling at the age of six, Resnick was a whiz kid who was winning tens of thousands by his teens. A successful businessman, he won and lost millions at the gambling tables throughout his twenties-and wrote more than 130 bad checks to cover his losses. Resnick's high-rolling lifestyle opened the door to the parties 'n' celebrities universe of Las Vegas, while at the same time introducing him to the underbelly of bookies and mobsters. He was surrounded

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by a host of enablers who lent him cash—often at exorbitant rates that enriched their pockets at his expense. And, finally, he found what seemed like the answer to his prayers: An insider at a family-owned Chicago bank who gave him an open line of credit. It all came to a head one fateful morning when a phone call informed him that he had 24 hours to deposit \$3,000,000 into a bank account. Cornered by sure financial ruin, a prison sentence, and worse, Resnick drove to a casino in Hammond, Indiana, with a million dollars in cash . . . won up to \$8 million in one night . . . and then lost it all before he left the table. In one frenzied night—captured on casino videotape—Resnick brought down that bank, and won himself a jail sentence for bank fraud. Adam Resnick's story is both moving and timely. Coming when the multi-billion-dollar gambling industry is bigger than ever and celebrity poker tournaments are the rage, this stinging indictment of gambling's dark side and portrait of a lifelong addict will draw readers who want to know more about what it is to

be a high roller—the risks, the exhilaration, and the eventual collapse

Pudd'nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins-

Mark Twain 1922 This is a story of a sober kind, picturing life in a little town of Missouri, half a century ago. The principal incidents relate to a slave of mixed blood and her almost pure white son, whom she substitutes for her master's baby. The slave by birth grows up in wealth and luxury, but turns out a peculiarly mean scoundrel, and perpetrating a crime, meets with due justice. The science of fingerprints is practically illustrated in detecting the fraud. The title character is the village atheist, whose maxims doubtless express much of the author's own disillusion.

Stories in Stone-Douglas Keister 2004-04-05 Certain symbols abound in modern Western culture that are instantly recognizable: the cross signifies Christianity, the six-pointed Star of David

is revered by Jews, the golden arches frequently means it's time for lunch. Other symbols, however, require a bit of decoding-particularly those found in cemeteries. Cemeteries are virtual encyclopedias of symbolism. Engravings on tombstones, mausoleums and memorials tell us just about everything there is to know about a person- date of birth and death as well as religion, ethnicity, occupation, community interests, and much more. In the fascinating new book *Stories in Stone: The Complete Guide to Cemetery Symbolism* by noted author Douglas Keister, the secrets of cemetery symbolism are finally revealed. For instance, did you know that it is quite rare to see a sunflower on a tombstone? Did you know that the human foot symbolizes humility and service since it consistently touches the earth? Or the humble sheaf of wheat-while it is often used to denote someone who has lived a long and fruitful life, do you know other meanings it might carry? *Stories in Stone* provides history along with images of a wide variety of

common and not-so-common cemetery symbols, and offers an in-depth examination of stone relics and the personal and intimate details they display-flora and fauna, religious icons, society symbols, and final impressions of how the deceased wished to be remembered. Douglas Keister has created a practical field guide that is compact and portable, perfect for those interested in family histories and genealogical research, and is the only book of its kind that unlocks the language of symbols in a comprehensive and easy-to-understand manner. Douglas Keister has photographed fourteen award-winning, critically acclaimed books (including *Red Tile Style: America's Spanish Revival Architecture*, *The Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Home*, and *Storybook Style: America's Whimsical Homes of the Twenties*) earning him the title "America's most noted photographer of historic architecture." He also writes and illustrates magazine articles and contributes photographs and essays to other books, calendars,

posters, and greeting cards. Doug lives in Chico, California, and travels frequently to photograph and lecture on historic architecture and photography.

A Journey in Other Worlds-

John Jacob Astor 2012-06-01
Author John Jacob Astor met his end in the sinking of the Titanic. Though he was born into wealth, Astor achieved fame as a popular science fiction writer. In this, his best-known work, Astor spins a captivating tale of what life would be like in the twenty-first century, including many technological predictions that are amazingly accurate.

Getting Everything You Can Out of All You've Got-

Jay Abraham 2001-10-12 A consultant to some of America's leading corporations shares key insights and ideas on how to supercharge one's business and career, explaining how to create and develop new opportunities for wealth in any business, enterprise, or venture. Reprint. 50,000 first

printing.

Hos, Hookers, Call Girls, and Rent Boys-

David Henry Sterry 2009-06-10 The only thing the writers in this book have in common is that they've exchanged sex for money. They're PhDs and dropouts, soccer moms and jailbirds, \$2,500-a-night call girls and \$10 crack hos, and everything in between. This anthology lends a voice to an underrepresented population that is simultaneously reviled and worshipped. Hos, Hookers, Call Girls, and Rent Boys is a collection of short memoirs, rants, confessions, nightmares, journalism, and poetry covering life, love, work, family, and yes, sex. The editors gather pieces from the world of industrial sex, including contributions from art-porn priestess Dr. Annie Sprinkle, best-selling memoirist David Henry Sterry (Chicken: Self-Portrait of a Young Man for Rent), sex activist and musical diva Candye Kane, women and men right off the streets, girls participating in the first-ever National Summit of Commercially Sexually

Exploited Youth, and Ruth Morgan Thomas, one of the organizers of the European Sex Work, Human Rights, and Migration Conference. Sex is a billion-dollar industry. Meet the real people who are its flesh and blood.

The Dead Beat-Marilyn Johnson 2009-10-13 Marilyn Johnson was enthralled by the remarkable lives that were marching out of this world—so she sought out the best obits in the English language and the people who spent their lives writing about the dead. She surveyed the darkest corners of Internet chat rooms, and made a pilgrimage to London to savor the most caustic and literate obits of all. Now she leads us on a compelling journey into the cult and culture behind the obituary page and the unusual lives we don't quite appreciate until they're gone.

As Bright As Heaven-Susan Meissner 2019-01-22 From the acclaimed author of *A Bridge Across the Ocean* and *The Last Year of the War* comes a new novel set in

Philadelphia during the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, which tells the story of a family reborn through loss and love. In 1918, Philadelphia was a city teeming with promise. Even as its young men went off to fight in the Great War, there were opportunities for a fresh start on its cobblestone streets. Into this bustling town, came Pauline Bright and her husband, filled with hope that they could now give their three daughters--Evelyn, Maggie, and Willa--a chance at a better life. But just months after they arrive, the Spanish Flu reaches the shores of America. As the pandemic claims more than twelve thousand victims in their adopted city, they find their lives left with a world that looks nothing like the one they knew. But even as they lose loved ones, they take in a baby orphaned by the disease who becomes their single source of hope. Amidst the tragedy and challenges, they learn what they cannot live without--and what they are willing to do about it. *As Bright as Heaven* is the compelling story of a mother and her daughters who find

themselves in a harsh world not of their making, which will either crush their resolve to survive or purify it.

Cast Member Confidential:-

Chris Mitchell 2010-01-01

This is the story that Disney would never tell you. What do you do when everything in your life falls apart? If you're Chris Mitchell, you run away from home--all the way to Disney World, a place where no one ever dies--and employees, known as Cast Members, aren't allowed to frown. Mitchell shares the behind-the-scenes story of his year in the Mouse's army.

From his own personal Disneyfication, to what really happens in the hidden tunnels beneath the Magic Kingdom and what not to eat at the Mousketeria, it was a year filled with more adventure--and surprises--than he could ever have "imagineered."

Funny and moving, Mitchell tracks his ascent through the backstage social hierarchy in which princesses rule, and his escapades in the "Ghetto" where Cast Members live and anything goes. Along the way, he unmasks the misfits and

drop-outs, lifers and nomads who leave their demons at the stage door as they preserve the magic that draws millions to this famed fantasyland--the same magic that Mitchell seeks and ultimately finds in the last place he ever expected. Chris Mitchell is an action sports photographer and journalist who grew up in Los Angeles. He was a senior at UCLA when he started his first magazine, an inline skating publication, and sold it to Sports & Fitness Publishing. Within a few years, he was working on five magazines within The Surfer Group. He continues to work closely with a number of publications and websites, as well as event and TV production companies like ESPN, ASA Entertainment and Lifelounge. He is a recognized expert in action sports, and as such, has stunt coordinated dozens of productions, including Batman and Robin, Brink! and Airborne. He is also the Chairman of the International Inline Stunt Federation for the advancement of extreme skating as a healthy and safe activity. After spending a year working as a photographer at

Disney World in Orlando, Florida, he moved back to Los Angeles, where he currently lives.

Spy in a Little Black Dress-

Maxine Kenneth 2012-10-02

Inspired by an actual letter in the John F. Kennedy Library written by Jackie and revealing her job offer from the newly formed CIA When young Jackie Bouvier receives her second assignment from the CIA, she knows it will go better than her first. She managed to survive the Paris job-while looking her best in Givenchy, no less-but now she's completed her official CIA training. So she's excited to show her boss exactly what she can do for her country. Her new mission: Go undercover in sultry Havana and investigate a young revolutionary named Fidel Castro. But before Jackie can infiltrate the communist cabal, she's in past her hemline in danger. In another exciting adventure, she colludes with Grace Kelly, dances with Frank Sinatra, and flirts with an up-and-coming congressman from Massachusetts. As the

international intrigue escalates, Jackie must use all her finely honed skills to stay ahead of her enemies . . . and make sure spying never goes out of fashion.

To be Or Not to be-

Ryan North 2016 The greatest work in English literature, now in the greatest format of English literature: a chooseable-path adventure! William Shakespeare's Hamlet has finally been restored to its original second-person non-linear branching narrative format. Now it's up to you to decide what happens next. Play as Hamlet and revenge your father's death. Play as Ophelia and make scientific discoveries. Play as King Hamlet, Sr. and die on the first page!

Silent Witnesses-

Nigel McCrery 2014-09-01 Crime novelist and former police officer Nigel McCrery provides an account of all the major areas of forensic science from around the world over the past two centuries. The book weaves dramatic narrative and

scientific principles together in a way that allows readers to figure out crimes along with the experts. Readers are introduced to such fascinating figures as Dr. Edmond Locard, the "French Sherlock Holmes"; Edward Heinrich, "Wizard of Berkeley," who is credited with having solved more than 2,000 crimes; and Alphonse Bertillon, the French scientist whose guiding principle, "no two individuals share the same characteristics," became the core of criminal identification. Landmark crime investigations examined in depth include a notorious murder involving blood evidence and defended by F. Lee Bailey, the seminal 1936 murder that demonstrated the usefulness of the microscope in examining trace evidence, the 1849 murder of a wealthy Boston businessman that demonstrated how difficult it is to successfully dispose of a corpse, and many others.

And Then I Cried-Justin Jordan 2012-07 Jordan details life as an Air Force Mortuary Non Commissioned Officer. He holds nothing back, and

shares in graphic detail how he honored Americas heroes, both at deployed locations and stateside.

Too Politically Sensitive-Michale Callahan 2009-01-01 Former Illinois State Police Investigations Commander Michale Callahan recounts his review of the wrongful convictions of Randy Steidl and Herb Whitlock for the 1986 murder of newlyweds Dyke and Karen Rhoads in Paris, Illinois, and ongoing attempts on the part of officials to impede Callahan's investigation.

American Nerd-Benjamin Nugent 2008-05-13 Most people know a nerd when they see one but can't define just what a nerd is. American Nerd: The Story of My People gives us the history of the concept of nerdiness and of the subcultures we consider nerdy. What makes Dr. Frankenstein the archetypal nerd? Where did the modern jock come from? When and how did being a self-described nerd become trendy? As the nerd emerged, vaguely

formed, in the nineteenth century, and popped up again and again in college humor journals and sketch comedy, our culture obsessed over the designation. Mixing research and reportage with autobiography, critically acclaimed writer Benjamin Nugent embarks on a fact-finding mission of the most entertaining variety. He seeks the best definition of nerd and illuminates the common ground between nerd subcultures that might seem unrelated: high-school debate team kids and ham radio enthusiasts, medieval reenactors and pro-circuit Halo players. Why do the same people who like to work with computers also enjoy playing Dungeons & Dragons? How are those activities similar? This clever, enlightening book will appeal to the nerd (and antinerd) that lives inside all of us.

Disgrace-J. M. Coetzee
2017-01-03 J.M. Coetzee's latest novel, *The School days of Jesus*, is now available from Viking. Late Essays: 2006-2016 will be available January 2018. Set in post-

apartheid South Africa, J. M. Coetzee's searing novel tells the story of David Lurie, a twice divorced, 52-year-old professor of communications and Romantic Poetry at Cape Technical University. Lurie believes he has created a comfortable, if somewhat passionless, life for himself. He lives within his financial and emotional means. Though his position at the university has been reduced, he teaches his classes dutifully; and while age has diminished his attractiveness, weekly visits to a prostitute satisfy his sexual needs. He considers himself happy. But when Lurie seduces one of his students, he sets in motion a chain of events that will shatter his complacency and leave him utterly disgraced. Lurie pursues his relationship with the young Melanie—whom he describes as having hips “as slim as a twelve-year-old’s”—obsessively and narcissistically, ignoring, on one occasion, her wish not to have sex. When Melanie and her father lodge a complaint against him, Lurie is brought before an academic committee where he admits

he is guilty of all the charges but refuses to express any repentance for his acts. In the furor of the scandal, jeered at by students, threatened by Melanie's boyfriend, ridiculed by his ex-wife, Lurie is forced to resign and flees Cape Town for his daughter Lucy's smallholding in the country. There he struggles to rekindle his relationship with Lucy and to understand the changing relations of blacks and whites in the new South Africa. But when three black strangers appear at their house asking to make a phone call, a harrowing afternoon of violence follows which leaves both of them badly shaken and further estranged from one another. After a brief return to Cape Town, where Lurie discovers his home has also been vandalized, he decides to stay on with his daughter, who is pregnant with the child of one of her attackers. Now thoroughly humiliated, Lurie devotes himself to volunteering at the animal clinic, where he helps put down diseased and unwanted dogs. It is here, Coetzee seems to suggest, that Lurie gains a redeeming sense of compassion absent

from his life up to this point. Written with the austere clarity that has made J. M. Coetzee the winner of two Booker Prizes, *Disgrace* explores the downfall of one man and dramatizes, with unforgettable, at times almost unbearable, vividness the plight of a country caught in the chaotic aftermath of centuries of racial oppression.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks-Rebecca Skloot 2010-02-02 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “The story of modern medicine and bioethics—and, indeed, race relations—is refracted beautifully, and movingly.”—Entertainment Weekly NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE FROM HBO® STARRING OPRAH WINFREY AND ROSE BYRNE • ONE OF THE “MOST INFLUENTIAL” (CNN), “DEFINING” (LITHUB), AND “BEST” (THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER) BOOKS OF THE DECADE • ONE OF ESSENCE’S 50 MOST IMPACTFUL BLACK BOOKS OF THE PAST 50 YEARS • WINNER OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE HEARTLAND

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PRIZE FOR NONFICTION
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST
BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The
New York Times Book Review
• Entertainment Weekly • O:
The Oprah Magazine • NPR •
Financial Times • New York •
Independent (U.K.) • Times
(U.K.) • Publishers Weekly •
Library Journal • Kirkus
Reviews • Booklist • Globe
and Mail Her name was
Henrietta Lacks, but scientists
know her as HeLa. She was a
poor Southern tobacco farmer
who worked the same land as
her slave ancestors, yet her
cells—taken without her
knowledge—became one of
the most important tools in
medicine: The first “immortal”
human cells grown in culture,
which are still alive today,
though she has been dead for
more than sixty years. HeLa
cells were vital for developing
the polio vaccine; uncovered
secrets of cancer, viruses, and
the atom bomb’s effects;
helped lead to important
advances like in vitro
fertilization, cloning, and gene
mapping; and have been
bought and sold by the
billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks
remains virtually unknown,
buried in an unmarked grave.
Henrietta’s family did not

learn of her “immortality”
until more than twenty years
after her death, when
scientists investigating HeLa
began using her husband and
children in research without
informed consent. And though
the cells had launched a
multimillion-dollar industry
that sells human biological
materials, her family never
saw any of the profits. As
Rebecca Skloot so brilliantly
shows, the story of the Lacks
family—past and present—is
inextricably connected to the
dark history of
experimentation on African
Americans, the birth of
bioethics, and the legal
battles over whether we
control the stuff we are made
of. Over the decade it took to
uncover this story, Rebecca
became enmeshed in the lives
of the Lacks
family—especially Henrietta’s
daughter Deborah. Deborah
was consumed with questions:
Had scientists cloned her
mother? Had they killed her
to harvest her cells? And if
her mother was so important
to medicine, why couldn’t her
children afford health
insurance? Intimate in feeling,
astonishing in scope, and
impossible to put down, The

Immortal Life of Henrietta
Lacks captures the beauty
and drama of scientific
discovery, as well as its

human consequences.