



Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers

By Mary Roach

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"One of the funniest and most unusual books of the year....Gross, educational, and unexpectedly sidesplitting."—*Entertainment Weekly*

Stiff is an oddly compelling, often hilarious exploration of the strange lives of our bodies postmortem. For two thousand years, cadavers—some willingly, some unwittingly—have been involved in science's boldest strides and weirdest undertakings. In this fascinating account, Mary Roach visits the good deeds of cadavers over the centuries and tells the engrossing story of our bodies when we are no longer with them.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"Uproariously funny" doesn't seem a likely description for a book on cadavers. However, Roach, a Salon and Reader's Digest columnist, has done the nearly impossible and written a book as informative and respectful as it is irreverent and witty. From her opening lines ("The way I see it, being dead is not terribly far off from being on a cruise ship. Most of your time is spent lying on your back"), it is clear that she's taking a unique approach to issues surrounding death. Roach delves into the many productive uses to which cadavers have been put, from medical experimentation to applications in transportation safety research (in a chapter archly called "Dead Man Driving") to work by forensic scientists quantifying rates of decay under a wide array of bizarre circumstances. There are also chapters on cannibalism, including an aside on dumplings allegedly filled with human remains from a Chinese crematorium, methods of disposal (burial, cremation, composting) and "beating-heart" cadavers used in organ transplants. Roach has a fabulous eye and a wonderful voice as she describes such macabre situations as a plastic surgery seminar with doctors practicing face-lifts on decapitated human heads and her trip to China in search of the cannibalistic dumpling makers. Even Roach's digressions and footnotes are captivating, helping to make the book impossible to put down.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-Those curious or brave enough to find out what really happens to a body that is donated to the scientific community can do so with this book. Dissection in medical anatomy classes is about the least bizarre of the purposes that science has devised. Mostly dealing with such contemporary uses such as stand-ins for crash-test dummies, Roach also pulls together considerable historical and background information. Bodies are divided into types, including "beating-heart" cadavers for organ transplants, and individual parts-leg and foot segments, for example, are used to test footwear for the effects of exploding land mines. Just as the nonemotional, fact-by-fact descriptions may be getting to be a bit too much, Roach swings into macabre humor. In some cases, it is needed to restore perspective or aid in understanding both what the procedures are accomplishing and what it is hoped will be learned. In all cases, the comic relief welcomes readers back to the world of the living. For those who are interested in the fields of medicine or forensics and are aware of some of the procedures, this book makes excellent reading.

Pam Johnson, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

Not grisly but inspiring, this work considers the many valuable scientific uses of the body after death. Drawn from the author's popular Salon column.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nola Schroeder:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider any time those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you.

All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* as your daily resource information.

Dorothy Walker:

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your short space of time to read it because this all time you only find guide that need more time to be study. *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* can be your answer as it can be read by you actually who have those short free time problems.

Daniel Scholz:

The book untitled *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the woman idea with easy way. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author gives you in the new era of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice read.

James Snider:

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