



Death's Summer Coat: What the History of Death and Dying Teaches Us About Life and Living

Brandy Schillace

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Death is something we all confront—it touches our families, our homes, our hearts. And yet we have grown used to denying its existence, treating it as an enemy to be beaten back with medical advances.

We are living at a unique point in human history. People are living longer than ever, yet the longer we live, the more taboo and alien our mortality becomes. Yet we, and our loved ones, still remain mortal. People today still struggle with this fact, as we have done throughout our entire history. What led us to this point? What drove us to sanitize death and make it foreign and unfamiliar?

Schillace shows how talking about death, and the rituals associated with it, can help provide answers. It also brings us closer together—conversation and community are just as important for living as for dying. Some of the stories are strikingly unfamiliar; others are far more familiar than you might suppose. But all reveal much about the present—and about ourselves.

Death's Summer Coat: What the History of Death and Dying Teaches Us About Life and Living Details

Date : Published January 4th 2016 by Pegasus Books (first published February 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9781605989389

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Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Death, History, Medical

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From Reader Review Death's Summer Coat: What the History of Death and Dying Teaches Us About Life and Living for online ebook

Dlmrose says

2.5

E.A. says

An engaging read

TJ says

The topic is fascinating, but the execution lacking. The author has the attention span of a gnat, introducing interesting topics and then moving on after a sentence or two. I'd be interested to read a more complete, more academic treatment of the same material.

David Becker says

Rather haphazard collection of funereal facts from around the world, coverage of the death with dignity movement and more. If there was an overarching theme or argument, I couldn't discern it.

Stephanie says

Everyone should read this book. It really makes you reflect on your beliefs and how we as a culture got to where we are today when it concerns death. It managed to not be uncomfortable or disrespectful. It was a great conversation starter. Anyone who knows someone who has died or know old people or is willing to come to terms with the fact that someday you too will die can find a friend in this book.

Phoebe says

From the very first review I read of this book, I couldn't wait to get my hands on it. I drove to several local bookstores, assuming that since the author works here in Cleveland, it would be easy to find as soon as it was released. But no. I ended up having to order it online.

Maybe it seemed disappointing because I had built it up so much in my mind? I'm not sure, but I am sure that it was not what I expected. Right on the cover are the words "What th History of Death and Dying Teaches

Us about Life and Living" and yet that whole "teaches us about life and living" part seemed, to me, markedly absent. I don't really feel like I learned a thing about life or living from this book. I learned some interesting stuff about death and dying, for sure. But overall... Disappointed.

Louise Armstrong says

I got bored with this - it's a list of customs but there's nothing much else. Flat reportage rather than mind-blowing ideas.

Ramandus Grayhat says

Fluidly written, moves from one topic to the next effortlessly. Explains death rituals and beliefs among various cultures and religions without bias.

Mills College Library says

306.9 S3343 2016

Ending Well says

Every time I read this I am reminded at how wonderful a job it does introducing the important threads how "how we got here" in terms of our relationship to mortality, death, and mourning.

Kimberly Lohr says

"Death, not as the end of life, but as a part of it."

In turns academic and poetic, looking at history and worldwide death rituals to better understand how the west got to this place where death is hidden away.

Melissa says

This book is better for people intrested in death and haven't read anything else about the subject. There are only a few chapters and each chapter has different sections. My problem is that the author seemed to jump around and so you would be reading about something then she would be talking about something else.

Joanne Mcleod says

I believe it is through history we can learn about and more clearly see our present, and make plans for our future. I found this book helped do that with the topic of death and dying.

I found Brandy's concluding sentence very well summarized why it is important as an individual and a community to talk and share more about death and dying before the 'winter' of life descends upon us:

"We cannot wait until death happens to talk about death. It's a bit like waiting until winter to gather in the grain. Why not meet now, talk now, while the sun is still warm on your back? That's the value of the death's summer coat."

Sue Gross says

how other cultures deal with death

Annika Brock says

I agree with what a lot of people have already said about this: it's interesting information, but each topic is glossed over fairly quickly.
