



Mummies, Cannibals and Vampires: The History of Corpse Medicine from the Renaissance to the Victorians

Richard Sugg

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Mummies, Cannibals and Vampires charts in vivid detail the largely forgotten history of European corpse medicine, when kings, ladies, gentlemen, priests and scientists prescribed, swallowed or wore human blood, flesh, bone, fat, brains and skin against epilepsy, bruising, wounds, sores, plague, cancer, gout and depression.

One thing we are rarely taught at school is this: James I refused corpse medicine; Charles II made his own corpse medicine; and Charles I was made into corpse medicine. Ranging from the execution scaffolds of Germany and Scandinavia, through the courts and laboratories of Italy, France and Britain, to the battlefields of Holland and Ireland, and on to the tribal man-eating of the Americas, Mummies, Cannibals and Vampires argues that the real cannibals were in fact the Europeans. Medicinal cannibalism utilised the formidable weight of European science, publishing, trade networks and educated theory. For many, it was also an emphatically Christian phenomenon. And, whilst corpse medicine has sometimes been presented as a medieval therapy, it was at its height during the social and scientific revolutions of early-modern Britain. It survived well into the eighteenth century, and amongst the poor it lingered stubbornly on into the time of Queen Victoria. This innovative book brings to life a little known and often disturbing part of human history.

Mummies, Cannibals and Vampires: The History of Corpse Medicine from the Renaissance to the Victorians Details

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From Reader Review Mummies, Cannibals and Vampires: The History of Corpse Medicine from the Renaissance to the Victorians for online ebook

Noran Miss Pumkin says

Too strange to pass it up!

Susan Tan says

this rare macabre view of European life from royalty to peasant life is a must read for anyone who is in history class or considers herself an expert in European history. I learned a lot that you can make Candles out of human fat, that there's a complex chain of retail businesses in corpse medicine throughout the 12th to 19th century.

Jordan says

I really enjoyed reading this! It was really informative, if a little dry at times, but it got the point across. There was an absence of fluff and Dr. Sugg didn't sugarcoat things so as not to offend someone's delicate sensibilities. I actually got to talk to Dr. Sugg and he's really nice. He answered all the questions I had and didn't get frustrated with me.

Lauren orso says

what a slog this was to get through. as usual, i find it interesting how big a part the catholic church had to play in encouraging medical cannibalism and other totally vampiric cures, but overall, it took me a very long time to get through this even with a lot of skimming.

Dylan Benito says

Interesting book, but academic and a bit dry.

Nicole says

This book was fascinating and unfortunately as it was from the library I wasn't able to give it as much attention as I'd wished to - I need to buy and reread it more closely someday but it's so expensive! We shall see. Really really interesting stuff.

Dna says

Reading this for the 3rd or 4th time.

Mills College Library says

610.4 S9474 2011

Nezka says

Very detailed and complex dissection of the history, use, philosophy, and general decline of corpse medicine in the Western World. Specifically, the most focus is on the use of human fluids and body parts, but the history and use of other animals is also discussed. Highly informative and engaging, and thought provoking. Definitely recommend, but as you can imagine, not a light read.

Miranda L. says

Just, WOW!

Francesca Matteoni says

<http://shm.oxfordjournals.org/content...>

Heidi says

Disturbing, gross, and it's all true..what isn't there to like? Reads like a research paper so be prepared for footnotes, citation references, etc..but if you like medical history or even history, especially the more disturbing aspects of drinking blood,eating people,mummies, and superstitions (like drinking blood will enable you to walk through fire) then it's worth muddling through the research writing style.

Celeste says

was very eye opening but a lot of it was repetitive

Dean says

An Entertaining work and I think that anyone who works in the healing arts or is a writer who normally has his work involve the middle ages, this is a must own. The title recommends something more unusual, but in the end, this is really a work about Medicine and what Humans have used regarding saving peoples lives that would shock modern people.

Annette says

Somewhat interesting, but I was put off by such statements as "just who were the real cannibals? Was it those without books, without guns, given to wearing fewer clothes and worshipping lesser-known God's? Or was it those who, in their determination to swallow flesh and blood and bone, threw cannibal trade networks across hundreds of miles of land and ocean[...]? The reader must, of course, make their own decision..." (p 2)

No, I'm pretty sure he makes, or attempts to make, that decision for me. And that irritates me in a nominally educated work.
