Date: 4/21/23

Name of Podcast: Read. Return. Repeat. A ReadICT Podcast.

Episode Title and Number: The (Burial) Plot Thickens (Season 3, Episode 3)

Episode Summary: In this episode, hosts Daniel Pewewardy and Sara Dixon talk about the often-avoided topic of death in recognition of #ReadICT category 9: a book about death or grief. Joining them on the podcast is journalist Hayley Campbell, author of the book *All the Living and the Dead: From Embalmers to Executioners, an Exploration of the People Who Have Made Death Their Life’s Work*. They discuss what led her to writing a book about a topic that makes many people squeamish, which job she could (or couldn’t) do if she had chosen to work with the dead, and why we should take more afternoon strolls through cemeteries.

Guest Bio:


(Source: Hayleycampbell.com)

Topic Index:

How Hayley became interested in the physical aspects of death 2:08
How and when the interviews happened that appear in the book 3:50
Commonalities between people working in the death industry 6:28
Interviewing a former executioner 10:49
Capitalism and the quality of the death industry 14:10
Ethics and death 19:03
How writing the book changed her perception of death (and life) 23:24
Digital immortality 26:04
Influence of the British (Comic) Invasion on her writing 32:15
Most memorable interviewee 35:19
What job would she choose if she worked in the death industry 37:53
What a healthy relationship with death looks like 41:02
Ways to engage more with death/how to be more death positive 46:03
Recommended books and media to learn more about death 47:50
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Books mentioned in this episode:

*From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death* by Caitlin Doughty (2017)
*Technologies of the Human Corpse* by John Troyer (2020)
*Duck, Death and the Tulip* by Wolf Erlbruch (2016)

Books recommended in this episode:

*Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas,* by Jim Minick
*Crying in H Mart,* by Michelle Zauner
*The Winners,* by Fredrik Backman
*I Have Some Questions for You,* by Rebecca Makkai
*Bridge to Terabithia,* by Katherine Paterson
*Beirut Hellfire Society,* by Rawi Hage
*Signal Fires,* by Dani Shapiro
*Battlefield Angels: Saving Lives Under Enemy Fire from Valley Forge to Afghanistan,* by Scott McGaugh
*Hamnet,* by Maggie O’Farrell
*The Lifted Veil,* by George Eliot
*The Virgin Suicides,* by Jeffrey Eugenides
*Cursed Bunny,* by Bora Chung, Translated by Anton Hur
Special Thanks to Wichita Public Library Staff and our reading community on Facebook for sharing their recommendations!

Resources & Links:

About Hayley Campbell
Website

Instagram: @hayleycampbelly

Twitter: @hayleycampbell

Unpopped Podcast (Co-Host)
BBC Radio 5 Must Watch Podcast (Co-host)

Books by Hayley Campbell
All the Living and the Dead: From Embalmers to Executioners, an Exploration of the People Who Have Made Death Their Life’s Work (2022)


More Articles About Death by Haley Campbell

Buzzfeed:

Here’s What a Mortician Has to Say About the Future of Death (April 22, 2015)

This Guy Had Himself Dissected by His Friends and His Skeleton Put on Public Display (June 8, 2015)

What It Was Like Working in the Temporary Mortuary During 7/7 (July 6, 2015)

I Hung Out with Jeremy Bentham’s Severed Head and This is What I learned (September 4, 2015)

I Got Drunk with the Funeral Industry to Find Out What Happens When We Die (September 10, 2015)

The Strange Case of the Woman Whose Skin Was Turned into a Book (October 21, 2015)

Inside London’s Bone Archive, Where the Dead We Dig Up Go to Live (November 13, 2015)

Kim Noble and the Art of Turning Suicide into Theatre (December 10, 2015)

The Independent:

I Saw the Death Industry Up Close – It Changed My Life (March 24, 2022)

New Statesman:

My Life as an Amateur Taxidermist, or, How I Ended Up in my Pyjamas at 3pm Awaiting the Delivery of Two Frozen Squirrels (June 16, 2013)
Why a Double Funeral on Your Birthday is the Best Party You’ll Ever Have (December 8, 2015)

Wired UK:
In the Future, Your Body Won’t Be Buried...You’ll Dissolve (August 15, 2017)

More articles written by Hayley Campbell can be found at www.hayleycampbell.com.

Other Media/Interviews
Films to Be Buried With, with Brett Goldstein Podcast Episode 25 (December 26, 2018)

Distraction Pieces Podcast with Scroobius Pip Episode 445 (March 29, 2022)

Book Shambles Podcast (April 7, 2022)

KERA Think Podcast Episode “Who Takes Care of You When You Die?” (August 10, 2022)

The Virtual Memories Show Podcast Episode 499 (August 16, 2022)

Other Resources

Death Penalty Information Center: Executions Overview


NPR: Carrying Out Executions Took a Secret Toll on Workers – Then Changed Their Politics (November 16, 2022)

KGW.com - Portland Hotel Hosted ‘Pay-Per-View’ Autopsy of Human Corpse Despite Objections from Medical Examiner (October 28, 2021)

Wired: A Son’s Race to Give His Dying Father Artificial Immortality (July 18, 2018)


NPR: QR Codes for Headstones Keep Dearly Departed Close (September 29, 2012)

British Comic Invasion

National Library of Medicine: Bereavement Care Practices Following Stillbirths: Health-Care Provider’s Perspective (March 16, 2022)

The Guardian: Welcome the Reaper: Caitlin Doughty and the ’Death-Positivity’ Movement (October 27, 2017)

Religion Unplugged: An Indonesian Tradition of Digging Up Dead Relatives for a Spirited Afterlife Ritual (February 13, 2023)
Joincake.com: What Happens at an Irish Wake: Customs, Songs & Etiquette
Caitlin Doughty
Ask a Mortician (YouTube Series)
The Order of the Good Death
Empire magazine (UK)

Full Transcript: https://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e3.aspx

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Want to be featured on a future episode of our podcast? Check out our new book review hotline! Call 316-261-8507 to leave a review for one of our #ReadICT categories! Please limit your recording to no more than 3 minutes. Please listen to the recording at the beginning for what category we are collecting reviews for. Be sure to state your name, location if you live outside Wichita, ReadICT category name, title and author of book and a few words of why you are recommending the book.