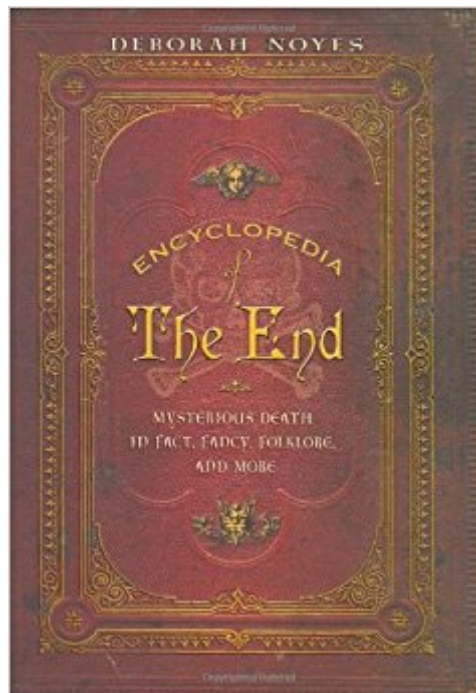




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Encyclopedia Of The End: Mysterious Death In Fact, Fancy, Folklore, And More



Synopsis

How much do we truly know and understand about our own mortality? Enter *Encyclopedia of the End*, a compulsively readable and beautifully illustrated compendium that explores this most taboo of topics. Entries present a kaleidoscopic mix of topics from afterlife to assassination, forensic science to funeral foods, rigor mortis to reincarnation and more. With an appreciation for the profound and profane, Deborah Noyes helps lift the shroud of secrecy surrounding one of the most fascinating and ordinary phenomena of life. After all, who says that a book about death can't be lively?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. This stylish A-to-Z encounter with all things related to death and dying shows Noyes (*The Ghosts of Kerfol*; *Red Butterfly*), a Candlewick editor, at her liveliest, starting with the quotations from the infamous deceased which appear on the endpapers. Addressing topics as far-ranging as Genocide, Goth (as in goth fashion) and Spirit Photography (she traces its origins to an 1861 Boston jewelry engraver turned fraudulent medium), the author offers a broad illumination of spiritual, historical and biological aspects of death. Photos, paintings and engravings in homage to the end make the book dynamic visually, too. Readers will be struck by the breadth of information provided in a single entry, as well as by the way the entries speak to one another, forming a cohesive whole. But what may please readers the most is Noyes's welcome neutrality: the only agenda here is in the service of knowledge. Ages 12 & up. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Grade 6 – 10 • Just as epicurean geology professor Dr. William Buckland is said to have eaten the embalmed heart of French King Louis XIV, students will devour Noyes's new book. Chock-full of fascinating facts, this is an alphabetically arranged compendium of enthralling yet easy-to-understand entries from "Amulet" to "Exhumation" to "Widow Sacrifice." The encyclopedic style renders the scope much less daunting than a straight narrative, as students can digest a bit at a time without getting lost. Readers will enjoy learning how bees and animal entrails have been used to predict the future, how mummies were embalmed in ancient Egypt, and how spirit photographers attempted to capture images of the souls of the dearly departed. The book is both comprehensive and compulsively readable, and even the most reluctant readers will find themselves caught up in the vivid descriptions and colorful photos and reproductions. A visually pleasing and attention-grabbing offering.

• Kelly McGorray, Glenbard South High School, Glen Ellyn, IL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Great great read about the death. Lol

My daughter was ecstatic when receiving this for Christmas. She had asked for it and is already reading and recording information out of the book to use in her fan fiction pieces that she is writing.

Encyclopedia of the End braves the grim reaper to demystify death in an alphabetically-listed banquet of facts, folklore, science and history. The scientifically inclined will be intrigued by the process of rigor mortis, postmortem and near-death experience, to name just a few. The history buff will find fascinating stories of 19th century body snatchers, death masks, death portraits, and tales of Houdini convening with the spirit world. Looking for a lighter fair at the death banquet? Skip to the letter G and read about goths, ghosts and graveyards. Looking for something meatier? The author includes the different cultural viewpoints on death in a respectful, but never preachy tone. Each topic includes just the right amount of details to keep inquisitive readers of the dead (or undead) engrossed for weeks. Best of all, the author impartial tone truly honors the dearly departed.

Written in encyclopedic form, this book delivers. It is a compilation of a large variety of topics and things relating to death, dying, burial, and what lies beyond. Well read people will likely already be aware of much of the information covered in the book. The book itself would best be displayed as a

coffee table book and morbid conversation starter.

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