

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:



Hayley Campbell writes for WIRED, BuzzFeed, The Guardian, GQ, Esquire, Empire, VICE, FIGHTLAND, New Statesman, McSweeney's, The Comics Journal, hosts the "Unpopped" podcast for the BBC and "Must Watch" on BBC Radio 5 Live. She wrote a book about Neil Gaiman and her latest book, *All the Living and the Dead*, was published in 2022.

(Source: Hayleycampbell.com)

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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

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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)

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach (2004)

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)

The Art of Neil Gaiman (2014)

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 9/11 \(July 6, 2015\)](#)

[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](#)

The Guardian: [I Was Virginia's Executioner from 1982 to 1999. Any Questions for Me? \(November 21, 2013\)](#)

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 \(July 18, 2018\)](#)

University of Oxford: [Digital Graveyards: Are the Dead Taking Over Facebook? \(April 29, 2019\)](#)

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

New to #ReadICT? Join the challenge! For more information visit wichitalibrary.org/readict.

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.