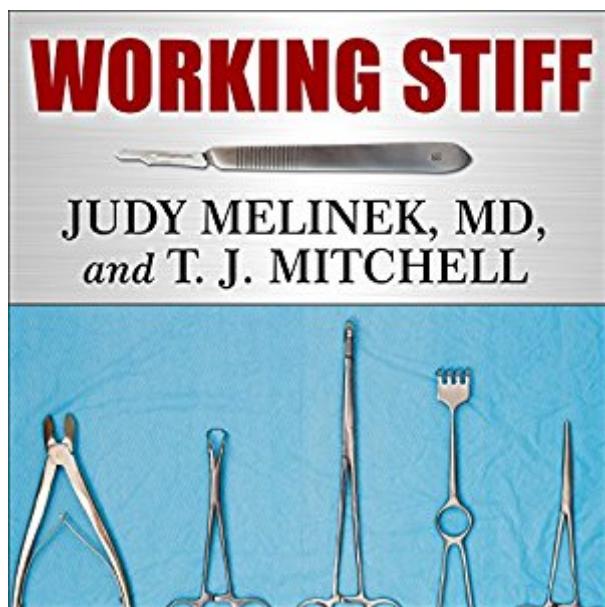


The book was found

Working Stiff: Two Years, 262 Bodies, And The Making Of A Medical Examiner



Synopsis

Just two months before the September 11 terrorist attacks, Dr. Judy Melinek began her training as a New York City forensic pathologist. With her husband and their toddler holding down the home front, Judy threw herself into the fascinating world of death investigation-performing autopsies, investigating death scenes, and counseling grieving relatives. *Working Stiff* chronicles Judy's two years of training, taking listeners behind the police tape of some of the most harrowing deaths in the Big Apple. Lively, action-packed, and loaded with mordant wit, *Working Stiff* offers a firsthand account of daily life in one of America's most arduous professions. The body never lies - and through the murders, accidents, and suicides that land on her table, Dr. Melinek lays bare the truth behind the glamorized depictions of autopsy work to reveal the secret story of the real morgue.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An excellent book with so many touching moments. What really pulled at my heart strings was when she talks about 9/11 and the World Trade Center tragedy. I remember the news but it never shook me like her description of the remains and all that was happening in New York at that moment. I am glad that I had the opportunity to read this book. Enjoy !

I've always been a science geek and most interested in Biology, especially human anatomy and physiology. I also love detective shows, especially those that use science and careful observation to solve the case and put the bad guy away. So Judy Melinek's book on her experience as a NYC

medical examiner in training was a perfect read for me. The whole book was riveting, combining vivid descriptions of her gruesome and sometimes heart-rending work with just enough of her thoughts, emotions, and life story to keep it from being a cold, detached account. Each chapter was excellent but the last chapters were the best of all, detailing her work of helping to examine and catalog the remains of the World Trade Center massacre and the Queens disaster, the crash of Flight 300. Highly recommend it to all who have a strong stomach!

What a great book and what a wonderful person is Judy Melinek, omg....all the very special she had on her team, they all deserve every award available to mankind. I was overwhelmed by her strong constitution after just a few cases, and then when I had read over half of this book , not really noticing a time line , KABOOM, the horror of September 11, 2001!! Yes, Judy and all that wonderful group went to work, sometimes for over a hundred hour shifts, doing the unthinkable . I could not put this book down for hours.....it is so well written that you are right there with herno.....that, not very many people could endure, but, I cried, even smiled once in a great while, she is some one to behold!! I will never forget this fantastically written book nor this unbelievable woman.,

Working Stiff is a fantastic, engrossing read. The memoir tracks Dr. Melinek's journey through her forensic pathology fellowship training program, highlighting some of the more interesting cases she encounters along the way. As a physician and pathologist myself (although my expertise is not in forensics), I felt at home with the subject matter. However, Dr. Melinek does a great job explaining the medical terms and processes in such a way that the book is very approachable for anyone outside of the medical field. Dr. Melinek's expertise, sense of humor, passion for her work and empathy for her patients and the patient families comes through in her writing. The chapters devoted to her experience working to identify victims after the 911 attack on the World Trade Center are particularly compelling and heartbreaking. This book is highly recommended to anyone interested in gaining a better understanding of the world of forensic pathology and the very important work performed by medical examiners day in and day out.

Amazing read! Judy Melinek details her two years working as a Medical Examiner in training in New York. The details are not for the faint of heart. Melinek takes you on a rather intimate journey over her time that provides the readers with a behind-the-scenes detailed look at what an ME can take part in. I do advise no one with any 9-11 related PTSD read this, however. Mrs. Melinek was involved in the ground zero clean up/body recovery and identity of victims of 9-11 and it was the

hardest part, in my opinion, to swallow. If you don't get squeamish, you will enjoy this read and learn the mater-of-fact and respectful approach that is taken by such an unrecognized field. In fact, you may fear death a little less after this read. Well written. Would recommend.

I've always been fascinated with autopsy's and the people who do them. This book is awesome. I don't consider it gory as much as medically descriptive. I was hooked from page one and finished the book in no time. For anyone in the medical field, or anyone who enjoys Patricia Cornwell's Scarpetta series, I recommend this book. It also gives a very descriptive albeit sad account of 9/11 in the eyes of the medical examiners who received the bodies after the fall of the twin towers. I can't imagine the stress and trauma that befell all of them after trying to identify not only the bodies but the thousands of body pieces that came through their office.

Touching, smart, and super-entertaining. Though I don't especially think of myself as a major fan of the CSI-type forensics TV shows, I've enjoyed reading medical-essay nonfiction by authors like Atul Gawande (NYT) and Oliver Sacks. So I thought I'd give this a try. Working Stiff succeeds as a multi-part mystery novel, a fun science lesson(s), a poignant September 11th memorial, and, in a strange way, a love story: The authors are a husband/wife team, and though the story is ostensibly of the wife's fascinating workday tales, you strongly feel the husband's loving presence as the two of them navigate a way for her to honor her unique talents and become the family breadwinner. It's got lots of detail, some deliciously gory (you can skip the parts you don't like) based on apparently years worth of detailed notes that Dr. Melinek wrote in a journal every day. The individual cases are structured so that some are simple learning lessons and others are ongoing mysteries that you're invited to think through with Dr. Melinek as she experiences it. Amusingly, she also points out how the CSI-type shows get it all wrong! Finally, I was touched by the level of personal intimacy that Dr. Melinek invites the reader to share. She shares a harrowing story about the family tragedy that brought her to forensic pathology, and brings it up throughout her memoir as you can see how it affects her choices throughout her career. I also respected her choice here to admit her mistakes so that we have a more honest picture of how the process fits together, and the emotional toll on the professionals who take on this job. Well done to Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Melinek for a smart book that you honestly won't be able to put down till you're done.

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