



The Oxford Book of Death

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"Reading for this anthology," writes D.J. Enright, "I was moved to the thought that on no theme have writers shown themselves more lively." A survivor of Belsen voiced the same sentiment when, reflecting on the concentration camps, he wrote, "When in death we are in the midst of life." By turns poignant, tragic, comic, and inspiring, this anthology of thoughts about death ranges from ancient times to the present day and includes quotes from philosophers, scientists, literary figures, and common men. Arranged under headings such as "Love," "War," "Last Words," and "Children," these selections show the varied, sometimes surprising, reactions of the dying and the bereaved to the final human act.

The Oxford Book of Death Details

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From Reader Review The Oxford Book of Death for online ebook

Pirullinen says

When I read this book the first time, my English wasn't good enough, so I didn't really understand anything, and I struggled through it.

I recently re-read this book and found it very interesting. I am myself absolutely terrified of dying, and in a sense this book comforted me. It is filled with quotes about death as it occurs in different stages in life. There is a chapter on children and animals as well.

The book mainly consists of quotes and there is little text in between the quotes in some parts of the book, but the quotes are very well selected and help emphasize the points of the author.

Tom Young says

Classic dip in stuff. A subject we don't often like to think about but the range of human reflection on it is fascinating.

Joshua Spotts says

The Oxford Book of Death is the greatest title I have ever read. The book is pretty good too.

Scholarly author of The Oxford Book of the Supernatural and The Oxford Book of Friendship, D.J. Enright compiles both prominent and discreet excerpts of literature and human observance into one book concerning death.

It is rather hard to explain why, but the book is not depressing, as one might assume from some a title. In truth, it was heartening, encouraging, and, morbid as it may seem, has assisted me in understanding death via the concepts of thousands of mankind from all over the world that have pondered death before me.

While I enjoyed the book and indeed read ever piece compiled in it, it may be wiser for the common reader to simply skim through it as it does get rather thick in parts. It would also be a good reference book, as Oxford Books are often designed to be; yet for some reason I read it for pleasure.

Even if you don't read it, though I would recommend you do, you could get one for your bookshelf and simply enjoy its awesome presence.

The Literary Chick says

By turns macabre, powerful, visual, thought provoking, and yes, hilarious, this compilation scans the ages for poetry, literature, sayings, and opinions on the eternal question of death.

Meghan Chiampa says

I mean, come on. I love compilations of things and I really like the idea of death. This is a collection of poetry, memoir, song and fiction about the subject. The only stupid thing is that the bits are so short. I understand abridging fiction, but poetry? come on, I want to see the whole poem. I guess it's more of reference, but I'm too lazy.

I bought this at a used bookstore. the total with tax was 13.13. swear.

Jordan says

An mildly interesting collection of esoterica, probably best used for reference rather than read cover-to-cover.

Marjolein says

A little disappointing as the selection criteria used by the author are not always clear. Also it might have been better if the quotes had been placed in order of the date of publication or when it was written, as this might have provided an overview of the changing beliefs and views that people held towards death over the ages. It also might have benefited from a footnote or two, as it now strikes one rather as a random collection of quotes rather than an anthology on death.

Amy says

Musings or quotations from texts divided into topics on death such as: the hour of death, mourning, hereafters etc.

I was hoping for more "last words" which is only two pages. I was also disappointed that most of the samples came from old examples (ancient greece, 1800's) I feel more current examples could have been found.
