

"Stiff" by Mary Roach

Introduction

- a. Explain what the author meant when she said she saw "her mother's cadaver".

Chapter 1: A Head Is a Terrible Thing to Waste Due _____

- a. Why is it important that the doctors (and students) learn to objectify the bodies?
- b. What is the malar fat pad and why might plastic surgeons focus on this area?
- c. How has surgery changed since the 17th century?

Chapter 2: Crimes of Anatomy Due _____

- a. How do medical schools encourage respect for the dead? (or do they?)
- b. How were cadavers acquired before the modern day "donation" method?
- c. What was Robert Knox's fatal PR blunder?
- d. What options did early surgeons have to learn anatomy when government does not sanction human dissection?

Chapter 3: Life After Death Due _____

- a. What is autolysis?
- b. Why do bodies bloat? (And do dead people really fart?)
- c. How are the dead prepared for burial?
- d. What is the scientific purpose for understanding how bodies decay?

Chapter 4: Dead Man Driving Due _____

- a. Why are cadavers used to test vehicle crashes?
- b. Why are side impacts particularly dangerous?
- c. Why are "pieces" of cadavers sometimes used instead of the whole cadaver?

Chapter 5: Beyond the Black Box Due _____

- a. What kind of information is included in the Aerospace Pathology book?
- b. How is that information useful to investigators?
- c. What happens to a body when it hits water after falling from an extreme height?
- d. Why do airlines not install features that would make flying safer?

Chapter 6: The Cadaver Who Joined the Army Due _____

- a. Why are large caliber bullets preferred over smaller ones?

- b. Why do people (and some animals) fall to the ground after being shot?
- c. Why are frangible bullets so devastating to the human body?
- d. What scientific value does bullet research on cadavers have?

Chapter 7: Holy Cadaver Due _____

- a. What experiments were performed to determine the physiological effects of crucifixion?

Chapter 8: How to Know If You're Dead Due _____

- a. What is a beating-heart cadaver?
- b. Why were "waiting mortuaries" necessary?
- c. Why is the heart given so much credit for being the seat of life (or the soul)?
- d. What is the modern definition of death?
- e. Why did the author call the cadaver a dead hero?

Chapter 9: Just a Head Due _____

- a. What experiments were performed to determine if a severed head still retained consciousness?
- b. What scientific value do these experiments have?

Chapter 10: Eat Me Due _____

- a. Before the scientific method was used, what information did doctors use to prescribe remedies for various illnesses?
- b. Describe one of these dubious remedies and explain why it might have actually worked.
- c. What are some reasons that cannibalism exists?

Chapter 11: Out of the Fire and Into the Compost Bin Due _____

- a. What is tissue digestion and how is it accomplished?
- b. What are the potential benefits of composting the dead?
- c. Where does the water inside a human (or cadaver) come from? Where does it go?

Chapter 12: Remains of the Author Due _____

- a. How are human skeletons prepared (from real bodies)?
- b. What is plastination?

FINAL ESSAY: Would you donate your body to science? Explain.