

**Drowned Dames, Mauled Men, & Crispy Critters: A Body
Disposal Primer for Writers**

By Jeanne Adams

Things to think about...

- I. How'd S/He Die?
 - a. Shooting
 - b. Strangling
 - c. Burning
 - d. Car Accident
 - e. Industrial Accident
 - f. Other...

- II. And the Body Goes To...
 - a. The Hospital
 - b. The Morgue
 - c. The County Medical Examiner
 - d. The Funeral Home
 - e. Home to the House
 - f. Timing
 - g. Making sure the body's NEVER found...

- III. The Great Y-Incision
 - a. Limited Autopsy
 - b. Full Post Mortem
 - c. Where are the Parts?
 - d. Donation to a Research Facility
 - e. Timing

- IV. Funerals are for the Living
 - a. Last Requests
 - b. Embalming and the Silver Sword
 - c. Cosmetic Reconstruction
 - d. Caskets
 - i. Open or Closed?
 - ii. Wood or Metal?
 - iii. Cheap or Expensive?
 - iv. Military
 - e. Visitation/Wake
 - f. Flowers and Flags

- V. Burial and Cremation
 - a. Buying a Plot
 - b. Opening a Grave
 - c. The Vault, the Tent, The Setting
 - d. Closing a grave
 - e. Markers and Memorials
 - f. Weather and the Dead

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- g. Cremation, the Process
- h. Ashes, Ashes Everywhere
 - i. Containers/Urns
 - ii. Scattering
 - iii. The Columbarium

- VI. Death and the Law
 - a. Who Owns a Body?
 - b. One Container, Two Container
 - c. To Embalm or Not to Embalm...
 - d. Who signs the Death Certificate?
 - e. Insurance Claims
 - f. Wills and Estates

- VII. Religion, Rank, Death and Burial
 - a. Christian
 - i. Protestant
 - ii. Catholic
 - b. Jewish
 - c. Muslim
 - d. Hindu
 - e. Military
 - f. Arlington and Bellfontaine; The Rules
 - g. Burial At Sea

- VIII. Hitting the Big Time
 - a. Mass Deaths
 - b. Suicide Pacts
 - c. Natural Disasters
 - d. Terrorist Attacks
 - e. Other...

- IX. Q&A

- X. Websites of Interest (List of websites)

- XI. Further Reading (Bibliography)