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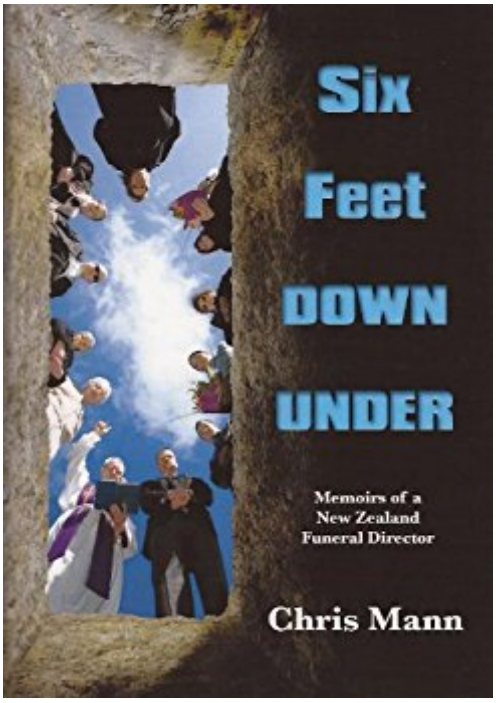
Six Feet DOWN UNDER (Memoirs Of A New Zealand Funeral Director)



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Synopsis

When people hear you are a Funeral Director the reactions vary. Some will quickly change the subject, but the majority of people will ask plenty of questions.This is because there is an element of mystique about the profession. Consequently, people want to know what you do, and what youâ ™ve seen.This book starts from my early days as a Funeral Directorâ ™s assistant through to becoming a Funeral Director. It covers stories of tragedy, stories of laughter, stories of interest and some of the things that can and do go wrong! I worked for a leading Auckland funeral directing firm for eight years. I worked there on two separate occasionsâ ”1986 to 1989 and again in 1998 to 2003. This is my story, my thoughts, my observations. From dealing with bereaved families, or helping the New Zealand Police at tragic roadside smashes and murders, through to the funerals themselves. From funerals attended by the Prime Minister and high class society, to funerals attended by street kids and drug addicts. From funerals where attendance is in the thousands, through to the funerals where nobody came!A Funeral Directors job is not all grief and sad stories. There is sadness associated with this industry, but it also has many moments of laughter, joy and boredom. However, it is always, always interesting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Throughly enjoyed this read, Chris’s humour was tasteful yet enjoyable, can’t wait to read his next book, buying it now.

I had wanted to read this book for a long time, but with one thing and another, had’nt done so....I finally did so, after browsing on and was glad I had. I enjoyed the book-it was entertaining without going into too much gory detail.Some of his anecdotes literally made me LOL and others brought tears to my eyes....the story of the little boy with his matchbox toy car being one. My only criticism, and it is only a small one, is the grammatical errors-the one that caught my eye was the use of the word "uncomfortableness"-shouldn’t it have been "discomfort"? and there was another one, but I can’t remember what it was. Anyway, for me, 6 Feet Under was definitely a good read-for me, a sign of a good read is not being able to put it down until it’s finished, and that’s what I did with this one.

Loved it!! one of the best book I’ve read in ages. It had it all. Funny, informative, sensitive, thought provoking. Couldn’t put it down. Went to work each day relaying what I’d read, and 3 staff members went out in search of it. Not my usual choice of reading, but so glad I did. In fact, liked it enough to buy the 2nd book, and wasn’t disapointed with that either

I really enjoyed this easy read. Always curious about funeral home goings on. It was funny and informative. I’m going to read his next one now.

I am very interested with the "funeral business" so I really enjoyed this book. There were things that I learned that I did not know before. Of course being in New Zealand I realize that the laws there are different than in this beautiful USA. Also being in the 70’s and 80’s I was shocked to understand the difference between now and then. It is just an enjoyable read and I would recommend it to anyone. Purchase and Enjoy. Merry Christmas to all!

Chris Mann comes across as a courteous, caring person. His accounts are not overly graphic, but the point is made. He also gives us "the way they do it" in New Zealand, which is different in America. I love the language differences similar to being a visitor in London, for example. I’d recommend this to anyone interested in the "behind-the-scenes" in funeral service.

I came across a review of this book several months ago in our Police News Magazine which is delivered to secondary schools. I actually cut out the review but then lost it. When my children

brought me a kindle recently, I recalled the title. As a middle aged kiwi, I share with the author's introductory view that the profession previously held an air of mystique. I found his book to be an honest, informative, thought provoking, and at times, funny, read. I have a new-found respect for funeral directors and their staff.

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