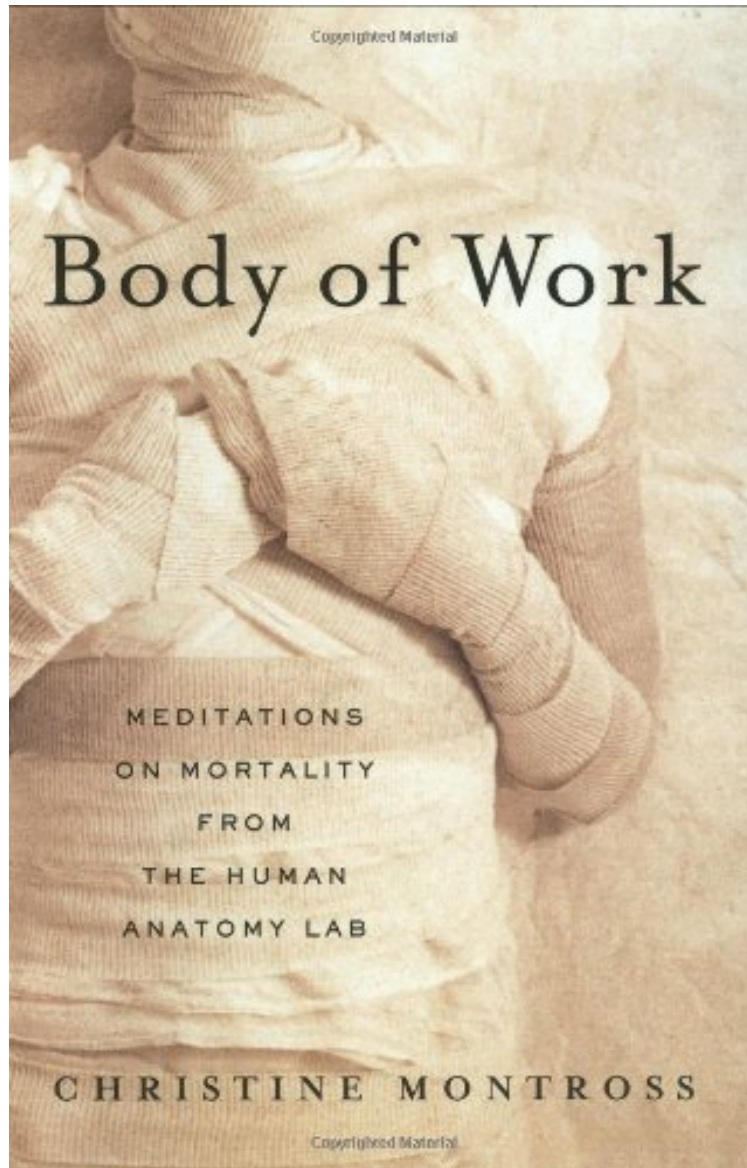


[Download] Body of Work: Meditations on Mortality from the Human Anatomy Lab

Body of Work: Meditations on Mortality from the Human Anatomy Lab

Christine Montross

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Christine Montross : Body of Work: Meditations on Mortality from the Human Anatomy Lab before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Body of Work: Meditations on Mortality from the Human Anatomy Lab:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Door Into The Medical World By Samantha Orr This novel is truly a must read. Montross paints a clear picture of the struggles that new medical students will face within their first weeks of medical school, and through their final months of residency. She also lets those who aren't medical students get a slight glimpse at the trials these students are put through, and it shows the dedication and determination needed to be a doctor. But this book does more than that, it opens a door that most people would lock and throw away the key. She lets the reader enter the world of human dissection, and shows just how human people are even after death. Montross lets the reader into how people can connect to the dead, and explains that medical students will become intertwined with the body placed in front of them. This book does more than explain the journey of one medical student, it demonstrates the need to explore just how far a person can connect with strangers around them and even those who have passed, and teach people that even in death, you can learn something new about yourself. This book hit home for me, because I am a pre-med student, and it amazes me the way Montross connected with Eve, her cadaver. It opened my eyes to the struggles I'll face with dissecting, and after reading this book, I don't know if dissecting is even the right word, because it feels more real than that. She explores in depth the questions that I'm sure every person who has stepped into a medical school lab has thought, or future medical students will think. It also gives the reader a sense of pride, knowing how far people have come in these past centuries on acquiring these bodies for dissection. It shows the evolution of dissection in anatomy labs, but it also demonstrates the resolve humans have towards learning. This book not only teaches life lessons, it gives an insight into a history, that otherwise remains a mystery to most. In my personal opinion any aspiring medical student or anyone who enjoys the mysteries of the medical world, should invest time to read this book. It demonstrates not only the technical aspect of dissection, but it opens eyes to the emotional stress that aspiring doctors feel, and the damage that is done within a student's life when it comes time to learn from their cadavers. It shows how the student grows, and develops a sense of unseen compassion for those who donate their bodies to science. Montross lets people into a world, that seems like no other and lets those who are alien grasp just a slight understanding of the medical world, and the trials we put other humans through to earn the title of M.D.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A moving and accurate description of the anatomy lab and culture of medicine By RJI really enjoyed this book. I am a medical student, and I first heard an excerpt of "Body of Work" read aloud at my own school's vigil for the bodies donated to us. I got all tearful in the auditorium and almost immediately went home to buy the book on . I was one of those who had a fair amount of emotional difficulty during anatomy dissections (and I remember my sister exclaiming "Med students still do that!?" when I brought it up), and the author managed to put those feelings into words much more poetically than I could have imagined. Read this book if you are curious about the process of human dissection, are dubious about the importance or potential impact of cadaver donation, or are a med student just trying to process the emotional toll of it all.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I loved this book By hayes.bethanyd I loved this book! I loved how she discussed her anxiety through the semester and also incorporated some history and anatomical trips that she went on.

A hauntingly moving memoir of the relationship between a cadaver named Eve and the first-year medical student who cuts her open Christine Montross was a nervous first-year medical student, standing outside the anatomy lab on her first day of class, preparing herself for what was to come. Entering a room with stainless-steel tables topped by corpses in body bags is shocking no matter how long you've prepared yourself, but a strange thing happened when Montross met her cadaver. Instead of being disgusted by her, she was utterly intrigued-intrigued by the person the woman once was, humbled by the sacrifice she had made in donating her body to science, fascinated by the strange, unsettling beauty of the human form. They called her Eve. This is the story of Montross and Eve-the student and the subject-and the surprising relationship that grew between them. *Body of Work* is a mesmerizing, rarely seen glimpse into the day-to-day life of a medical student-yet one that follows naturally in the footsteps of recent highly successful literary renderings of the mysteries of medicine such as Atul Gawande's *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*. Christine Montross was a poet long before she became a doctor and brings an uncommon perspective to the emotional difficulty of the first year of medical school-the dispiriting task of remaining clinical and detached while in the anatomy lab and the struggle with the line you've crossed by violating another's body once you leave it. Montross was so affected by her experience with Eve that she undertook to learn more about the history of cadavers and the study of anatomy. She visited an autopsy lab in Ireland and the University of Padua in Italy where Vesalius, a forefather of anatomy, once studied; she learned about body snatchers and grave-robbers and anatomists who practiced their work on live criminals. Her disturbing, often entertaining anecdotes enrich this exquisitely crafted memoir, endowing an eerie beauty to the world of a doctor-in-training. *Body of Work* is an unforgettable examination of the mysteries of the human body and a remarkable look at our relationship with both the living and the dead.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Though it never goes for the gross-out effect, this memoir is not for the squeamish. "You begin to learn to heal the living by dismantling the dead," says Montross, and though her recollections encompass all of her medical training, the narrative backbone of the story is her semester-long dissection of a human cadaver, from opening up the ribcage to removing the brain from the skull. Montross was a poet and writing teacher

before she decided to become a doctor, and she peppers her account of the dismantling of her cadaver, Evendash;so named because she has no belly buttonmdash;with arresting imagery: to test the heart's semilunar valves ("little half-moons that work passively and without musculature"), she and another student take the organ to a sink and run tap water through it. Performing her own dissection leads Montross to explore the history of studying anatomy through corpses, which brings tantalizing detours to medieval Italian universities and saints' shrines. But she also recounts her earliest encounters with living patients, such as a heart-wrenching consultation with a man suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, who can communicate only by blinking. Her thoughtful meditations on balancing clinical detachment and emotional engagement will easily find a spot on the shortlist of great med school literature. (June 25) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. How lucky we are that a poet decided to become a physician. Although all physicians share a personal history of countless hours in the human anatomy lab, only a rare few, I suspect, would be able to so deftly illuminate this transforming and peculiar experience. Montross is a master of detail, so much so that I was shocked to find myself hovering over my own cadaver in medical school again, holding a scalpel as if for the first time. -- Katrina Firlik, MD, Neurosurgeon and author of *Another Day in the Frontal Lobe*The physician, like the sculptor, approaches the human body with reverence and admiration. Carried a little further, it becomes worship. In *Body of Work*, an unflinching memoirist conveys the process, both emotional and intellectual, by which human anatomy is mastered by the doctor-to-be. It should be read by anyone with aspirations for a life in medicine. -- Richard Selzer, author of *Mortal Lessons*, *The Doctor Stories* and *Letters to a Young Doctor*This is a book about crossing the bar. The anatomies discussed here are diverse and gripping, and remind me of the essays of Richard Selzer, which is a high compliment indeed. -- Edward Hoagland, author of *Compass Points*About the AuthorChristine Montross is a practicing inpatient psychiatrist and an assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She lives in Providence, Rhode Island.