



Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry)

From North Atlantic Books

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There's nothing funny about dying ... or is there? Malachy McCourt, Jacquelyn Mitchard, and 22 more share hilarious and moving stories of confronting death. *Exit Laughing* makes death more approachable as it reveals the funny side of "passing on." As painful as it is to lose a loved one, *Exit Laughing* shows us that in times of grief, humor can help us with coping and even healing.

Best-selling author Amy Ferris explains how her mother's dementia led to a permanent ban from an airline. Ellen Sussman writes of flying her mother's body home and watching the burial wardrobe spill out on the baggage carousel. Broadway and television actor Richard McKenzie shares the riotous story of a funeral procession led by a lost hearse. Bonnie Garvin even manages to find a heavy dose of dark humor in her parents' three unsuccessful attempts at a double suicide. These stories, along with tales from Joshua Braff, Barbara Graham, Dianne Rinehart, and more, constitute a book whose purpose is to remind readers that when dealing with illness, aging, and dying, there is an important place for laugh-out-loud humor.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Follow the adventures of a funeral party led astray by a lost hearse, or picture the kazoo being played at Jessica Mitford's funeral. Some of the selections will remind readers of similar encounters with grief, and of the absurd events that interrupt the depressing times that force one to laugh in spite of the sorrow."

—*San Francisco Book Review*

"Death happens, and the writers in *Exit Laughing* show that humor can serve as an acceptable and beneficial means to mend broken hearts. Laughter, Zackheim writes in her introduction, 'can open the door to emotions shared, and perhaps through this sharing we can not only process the reality of death but mend the complex and often difficult relationships we share with the person who is dying.'"

—*Shelf Awareness*

"*Exit Laughing* puts a light twist on a serious topic: death."

—*J Weekly*

"*Exit Laughing* makes death more approachable as it reveals the funny side of 'passing on.'"

—Literary Mama

"The stories in *Exit Laughing* all address a subject that many of us have difficulty discussing: death and its inevitability, its circumstances, its sadness and all the other emotions that go along with it. But the dominant theme running throughout this anthology, and hence the title, is humor. It is so welcome. Each of the authors in Victoria Zackheim's collection shares personal anecdotes and stories: fond (and sometimes not so fond) recollections all tinged with the love, feelings, and humor enjoyed with the subjects. Ms. Zackheim says in her introduction that so many of us use humor to ease pain; it can play an important role in helping us talk about and accept the death of a loved one. This anthology clearly underscores that concept."

—Story Circle Book Reviews

"This comforting book makes the reader feel as if she has been invited to a dinner party to share not only good food, but personal stories about how humor appeared at times of death of a loved one."

—Transitional Keys

"As we all know, laughter is good therapy, just as writing about death is good grief work. *Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death* is funny and therapeutic. It's a useful book for mourners, for therapists, and for anyone who is worried about the impending death of a loved one."

—*PsycCritiques*, American Psychological Association

"From beloved husbands to difficult mothers and more, this moving and often fiercely funny collection illuminates with grace, humor, and a few belly laughs the way someone's death can change our lives."

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Pictures of You*

"In a culture where the discussion of death is basically taboo, the authors in *Exit Laughing* relate their stories with candor, compassion, love, and yes, humor. A perfect mix of gravitas and levity to the subject nobody wants to talk about: mortality. As funny and poignant as *Harold and Maude*, *Exit Laughing* makes it clear that even the Grim Reaper will put on a monkey face and maybe even giggle, when tickled."

—Sara Pritchard, author of *Crackpots* and *Help Wanted: Female*

“I love this anthology! Absorbing, poignantly moving, but most of all, profoundly life-affirming.”—Sandra Gulland, best-selling author of *Mistress of the Sun* and *The Josephine B. Trilogy*

“This gem of an anthology about what we fear, avoid, would rather not mention, let alone read about—death—is the funniest book I’ve read in years. *Exit Laughing* is a bold, outrageous, never sanctimonious, death-defying collection that looks straight in the eye of the inevitable while making you laugh real tears.”

—Beverly Donofrio, author of *Riding in Cars with Boys* and *Looking for Mary*

About the Author

Victoria Zackheim is author of *The Bone Weaver*, a novel, and the editor of five anthologies: *The Other Woman*, which was on the national bestseller list in Canada for several weeks, *For Keeps*, *The Face in the Mirror*, and *He Said What?*. Her play based on five essays from *The Other Woman* will begin a six-week theater run in summer 2012. Zackheim teaches Personal Essay in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and is a frequent speaker at writers' conferences, non-profit educational and philanthropic organizations, and book fairs. A 2010 San Francisco Library Laureate, she is actively involved in social media including Facebook, Goodreads, Redroom, Shewrites, and the AARP Writers Forum. A graduate of UCLA (BA) and San Francisco State University (MA), she lives in San Francisco.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Scottie Hicks:

This *Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry)* book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This specific *Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry)* without we understand teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't end up being worry *Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry)* can bring whenever you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even phone. This *Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry)* having great arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Lydia Donaldson:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what one you should start with. This *Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry)* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Brenda Rodriguez:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by match the internet and the resources within it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each details they get. How a lot more to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Studying a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry) book because this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Carolyn Lew:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry) guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written in good manner for you, leaking every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation Exit Laughing: How Humor Takes the Sting Out of Death (Io Poetry) as good book not simply by the cover but also from the content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

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