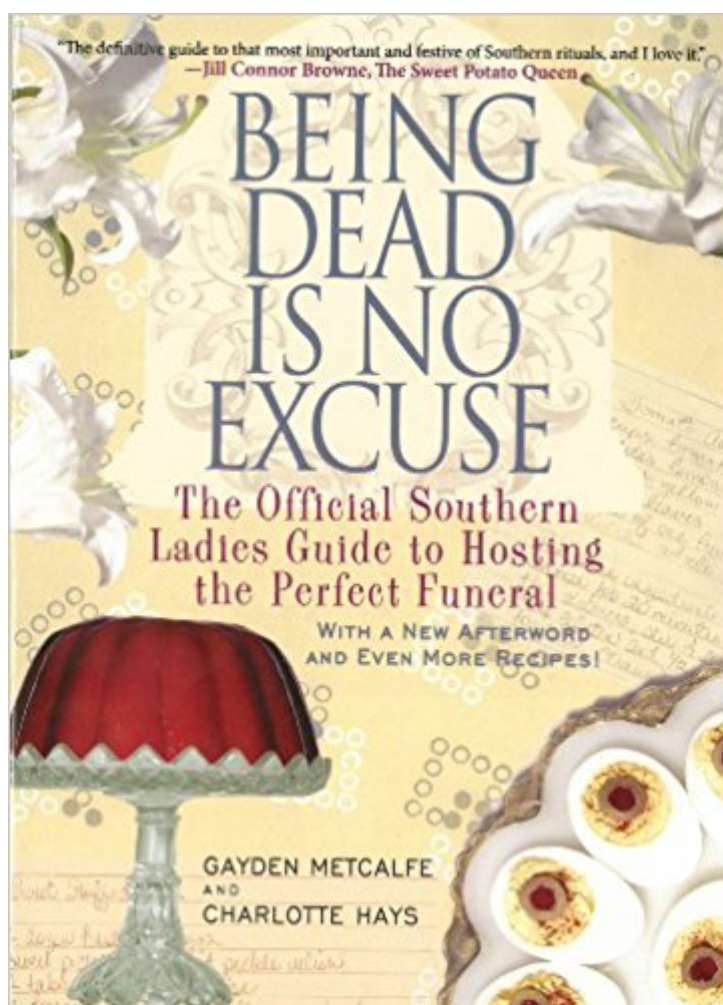


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Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide To Hosting The Perfect Funeral



Synopsis

Folks in the Delta have a strong sense of community, and being dead is no impediment to belonging to it. Down South, they don't forget you when you've up and died--in fact, they visit you more often. But there are quintessential rules and rituals for kicking the bucket tastefully. Having a flawless funeral is one of them. In this deliciously entertaining slice of Southern life (and death), inveterate hostess Gayden Metcalfe explains everything you need to know to host an authentic Southern funeral. Can you be properly buried without tomato aspic? Who prepares tastier funeral fare, the Episcopal ladies or the Methodist ladies? And what does one do when a family gets three sheets to the wind and eats the entire feast the night before a funeral? Each chapter includes a delicious, tried-and-true Southern recipe, critical if you plan to die tastefully any time soon. Pickled Shrimp, Aunt Hebe's Coconut Cake, and the ubiquitous Bing Cherry Salad with Coca-Cola are among the many dishes guaranteed to make the next funeral the most satisfying one yet. Even if you've never been south of Rochester, this book will charm, it will entertain, and it will give you all the ingredients required for the perfect Southern send-off.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Metcalfe, a lifelong Southerner who's been hiding out in the social circles of Greenville, Miss., exposes the culinary and cultural last rites of the deep South in a fashion that is as sidesplitting as it is politically incorrect, as sincere as it is backstabbingly brutal. She is capably aided by Hays, a "recovering gossip columnist" from Washington, D.C. Residents of the Mississippi

Delta, where "polishing silver is the southern lady's version of grief therapy," take their comfort food semiseriously, be it traditional Pickled Shrimp, Liketa Died Potatoes (which incorporate both cheddar cheese and canned cheddar cheese soup) or cream cheeseâ€laden Pecan Tassies. Nobody would be caught dead without Tomato Aspic at the funeral, and St. James' Cranberry Congealed Salad topped with mayonnaise is the dessert of choice. An entire chapter is devoted to stuffed eggs, and another is dedicated to dishes that use canned soup as their base ("Nothing whispers sympathy quite like a frozen-pea casserole with canned bean sprouts and mushroom soup"). A lengthy discourse on "The Methodist Ladies vs. the Episcopal Ladies" is laugh-out-loud funny in its contrast of customs and cuisines and its consideration of the consolation of a "nice, stiff cocktail." And many Greenville residents, alive and deceased, drop by for a howdy, including poor Maribell Wilson, who made the mistake of driving her daddy's ashes home with the windows down. B&w illus. Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

There are too few words and phrases to adequately describe this unique devil-take-the-hindmost approach to cooking and end-of-life ceremonies. Tongue in cheek? Maybe. Laugh-out-loud narrative? Definitely. Plus, an extraordinary combination of ingredients (it is a cookbook, after all). We learn that a "glowing obituary is practically a birthright in the Delta"; that both artificial flowers and carnations at a funeral are definitely passe; and that two of the top-10 "hits" for a funeral ceremony are "Abide with Me" and "Amazing Grace." The lists--and detailed social customs--go on and on and on, including guidance on well-stocked pantry foodstuffs and eternal cocktails. One hundred or so (who's counting?) recipes ensure that no cuisine is omitted; a pineapple casserole nestles beside tomato aspic with mayonnaise. Pimiento cheese enhances the traditional crustless finger sandwiches and picked shrimp. In the end, the authors guarantee no one will ever be out of place at a south-of-the-Mason-Dixon-Line funeral celebration. Barbara Jacobs Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The choices given for the review aren't at all appropriate for this type of book. I think they're meant for fiction (referring to "plot", "pace" or "mood". Instead, it's a compilation of Southern funeral vignettes, recipes, customs and routines. I found it funny without being irreverent, recipes are not at all difficult and easy to imagine either making or enjoying. I read it straight through, along with "Food to Die For" from Lynchburg VA, and loved them both. Good timing, too, since I had need of their guidance less than a week after I received them. Loved them both!!!

Folks - can't add to many of the reviews here, given this isn't a new release. But if you are here reading this...Consider this as a crash course in recipes that have been around long before we ever heard of Paula Dean. This is a recipe book written with Erma Bombeck wit, and and a real feel for the Southern Church Lady culture we've come to know and love. For as much laughing as I have done reading the narrative, each one of these recipes has been used more than a few times at parties and socials. The humor is timeless, and you'll never feel so bad at a funeral after reading a chapter from this and bringing the family of the deceased a recipe or two from this book. Given more of these away than Gideon had Bibles or Carter had liver pills. My favorites are the Beer-Cheese Pimiento, the Breakfast Casserole, and Homemade Vegetable Soup. You can follow the recipe, substitute the Campbell's soup mix with white sauces mixed with celery and mushrooms made from the juice of the veggies sauteed in butter and white wine, with cream folded in - for a Julia touch. If you're already dealing with death, no reason you can't add a dash of the perfectly divine! Highly recommend. Just put the butcher knife down before you read the funny parts!

If you are from the South or just a wannabe, this is a delightful read. You will recognize many of the characters though you may have never met the ones in the book personally. Tradition, custom, and social mores are all there, intermingled with some tasty recipes. After reading this, you will look forward to the funeral food, assuming you have the good taste to be Southern (or wish you were).

Have had this book in hardback for several years, very funny with some great recipes! Downloaded onto my kindle so I will have it with me when I travel. I wanted access to all those recipes without carrying a book. Comes it handy on vacations or on weekends at the river cottage. It's also one of those books that can be read over and over. There are several in the series so the laughs can continue.

This is a fun, light-hearted read (with some good recipes) with much tongue-in-cheek about the South and our customs. As a Southerner, I enjoyed it and laughed a few times.

This is a very funny book with great southern recipes. I have made several and everyone was delicious.

Very funny and informative . Lots of recipe's. I think you would really enjoy it if your from the south.

I read this book after reading that Nelle Harper and Alice Lee loved it. I must say, it is really funny! I'm a Yankee in Pennsylvania but I see our friends, neighbors and church folk in all these stories. It could be me! I will try some of the recipes. However, I must admit I started turning pages faster to avoid recipe details after awhile. Don't let that stop you from reading "Being Dead Is No Excuse" because you will think of it every time you attend a funeral and reception ...forever!!!

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