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Final Thoughts: Eternal Beauty In Stone



Synopsis

The story of life and death in America as told through beautiful cemetery art photography accompanied by meaningful epitaphs from cemeteries up to 300 years old. View 68 cemeteries in 224 beautiful photographs that breathe life into existence of those who have passed before us, and who are now enshrined for eternity in landscaped paradises. Within each placid scene and through heartfelt words displayed upon markers, join photographer John Thomas Grant in his one-of-a-kind study of an American tradition.

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Customer Reviews

Back in the middle of the twentieth century when I was just a wee child we often had to drive by Wyuka cemetery on our way to downtown Lincoln, Nebraska. Wyuka was a garden cemetery, modeled on PÃre Lachaise cemetery in Paris, but of course we didn't know that at the time. What we know was that Wyuka was a big cemetery. We also knew that when you drove by a cemetery you had to hold your breath, lest you inhale some deathly vapors. Inhaling those vapors would ultimately result in a premature agonizing death. Our friend Thomas (he was never called Tommy) Williams, who wore spectacles out of the womb, uttered words with more than two syllables and was the neighborhood know-it-all told us that was a fact. He also told us that the ivy-covered cylindrical building on the edge of the cemetery contained the fetid remains of people who didn't have enough money to pay for a burial plot. They were simply given the heave-ho into the masonry receptacle and left to rot. It was a fact. Luckily, "O" Street, which was the main vehicular artery that

bordered Wyuka cemetery, didn't have any stoplights on that deadly stretch and my lead-footed mother, who usually piloted our massive Mercury Monterey on the forays downtown, (and who apparently also knew about the noxious vapors), would always rapidly motor on by. Thus details my youthful experience with cemeteries. By neither design nor intention did I consciously avoid cemeteries. They just weren't the sort of place I ever considered as an entertainment or education option. That would change. In the early 1970's, after I had moved to California, I decided to make a go at being a professional photographer. I had dabbled in the darkroom for a few years and even made a few dollars shooting weddings, products and portraits.

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