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# Readings For Remembrance: A Collection For Funerals And Memorial Services



## Synopsis

"My aim in gathering these readings has been to counter the isolation that visits the bereaved in our society," writes Eleanor Munro in her wonderful introduction, "to remind us all that loss is the fundamental human experience, universally shared and collectively survived generation after generation." In *Readings for Remembrance*, she brings together a rich and thoughtful selection of writings from a vast range of sources--from scripture and hymns, Milton and Montaigne, to Stevens, D. H. Lawrence, and other modern and postmodern poets--as well as useful indexes and suggestions for music. Examining the ways we respond to death, the importance of memorial services and ritual, and how we pay tribute to loved ones, the writings collected here offer profound wisdom and solace for both reader and audience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eleanor Munro is the editor of *Wedding Readings* and the author of several books. Her essays and criticism appear in the national and art press.

It was more readings, and such. I wanted more poems, etc. It was suggested by a group, but I did not use any of the things in it.

This book offers the widest variety of all possible sentiments one would care to use at a memorial or funeral service, with quotes from Yeats, Joyce, Dante, St. Augustine, Lao-Tzu, Praxilla of Sicyon,

Rilke, Ovid, Virgil, Tolstoy, the Papago, the Aztec, the Maya, the priest Fujiwara No Toshinari, a Buddhist aphorism, a Hindu teaching, Homer, Sophocles, Proust, to name but a few. The book is arranged in sections, each section addressing a different aspect of grief: Why We Gather; Raw Grief and Bitter Mourning; Mysteries: What is Death? What Are Time and Space?; Transformations; Heroes and Heroines, Great and Simple; Timeless Praise in Scripture and Verse; Meditations on Wisdom Coming Slowly; Healing, Changing, Moving On. In the back of the book is a list of music suggestions for the service. I found the book to be not only wonderful for its stated purpose but also as an ideal gift to give on the anniversary date of a loved one's death. Also, I have used quotes from the book in condolence letters. In times of grief we are asked to be our most eloquent, when really, we have been rendered incapacitated, the headless body, with "Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears." (Wordsworth)

There are only a few items in this book that I think could be appropriately read at a funeral or memorial service.

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