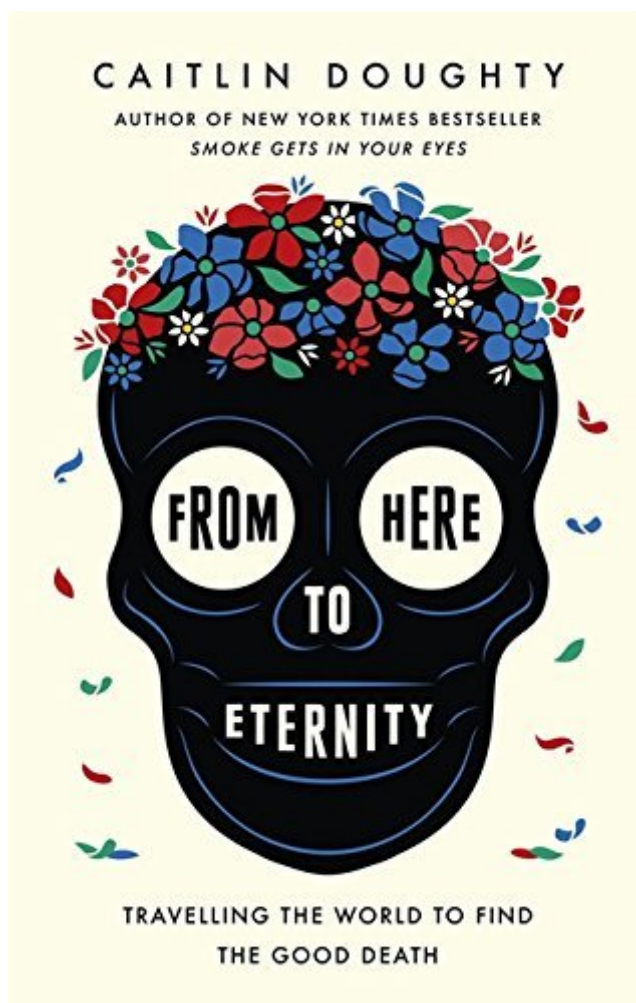


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From Here To Eternity: Travelling The World To Find The Good Death



Synopsis

As a practising mortician, Caitlin Doughty has long been fascinated by our pervasive terror of dead bodies. In *From Here to Eternity* she sets out in search of cultures unburdened by such fears. In rural Indonesia, she observes a man clean and dress his grandfather's mummified body. She meets Bolivian *Áf* (cigarette-smoking, wish-granting human skulls), and introduces us to the Japanese ritual of *kotsuage*, in which relatives use chopsticks to pluck their loved-ones' bones from cremation ashes. With curiosity and morbid humour, Doughty introduces us to inspiring death-care innovators, participates in powerful death practices almost entirely unknown in the West and explores new spaces for mourning - including a futuristic glowing-Buddha columbarium in Japan, a candlelit Mexican cemetery, and America's only open-air pyre. In doing so she expands our sense of what it means to treat the dead with 'dignity' and reveals unexpected possibilities for our own death rituals.

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