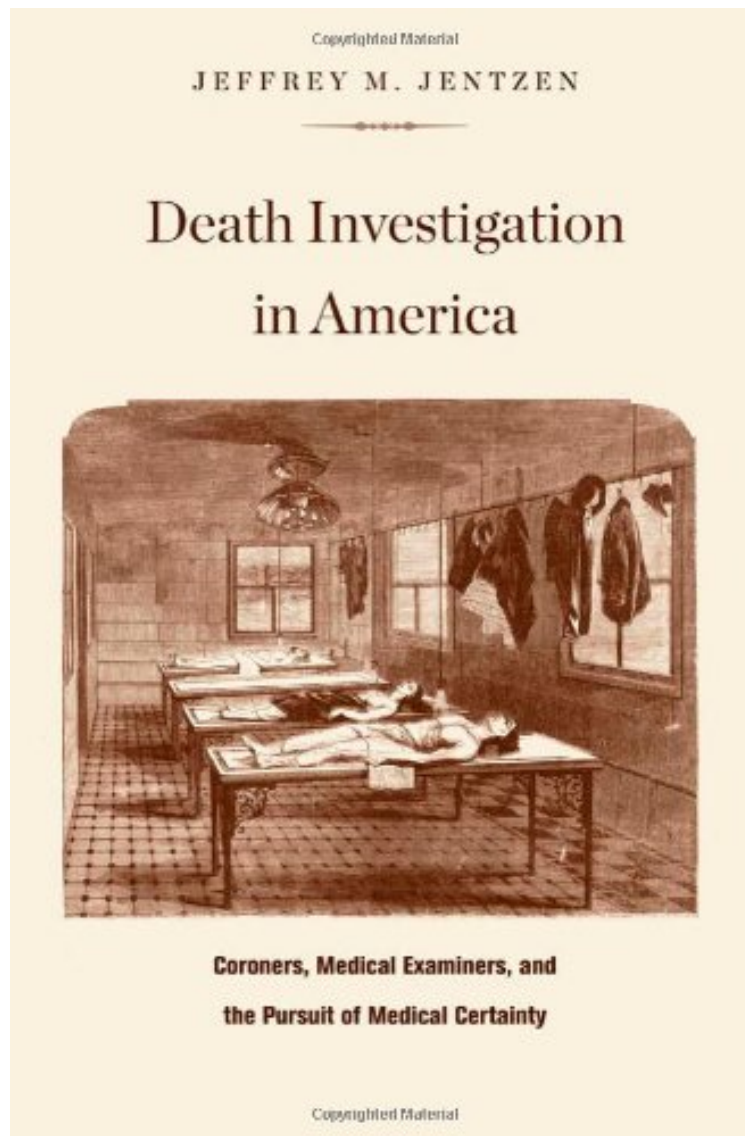


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# Death Investigation in America: Coroners, Medical Examiners, and the Pursuit of Medical Certainty

*Jeffrey M. Jentzen*

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**Jeffrey M. Jentzen : Death Investigation in America: Coroners, Medical Examiners, and the Pursuit of Medical Certainty** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death Investigation in America: Coroners, Medical Examiners, and the Pursuit of Medical Certainty:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read Book for A Pathology ResidentBy R. ShiThis is a

must read book for Pathology residents going into or thinking about entering the field of Forensic Pathology. I found it hard to stop in the middle, and read from cover to cover within two days. Let alone Forensic Pathology itself, the county level politics a Medical Examiner had to deal with is shockingly intricate. Are you ready for it, my dear Pathology resident? 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A bit dry By Lynette Luria I got this book because I was doing a comparison of the US and Scottish death investigation systems. It's a great resource with a lot of history in it but it was a bit dry and I had a hard time focusing while trying to read it. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Unique and fascinating overview of a fascinating profession By heilita Forensic medicine is a fascinating field, but one that is often shielded from the public. Most people know nothing about it other than what they see on television. This book gives the reader a real insider's perspective on this very unique and sometimes mysterious profession. As a lawyer, I often work with medical examiners on legal issues. However, I knew very little of the development of their field or their craft. I found this book very informative and surprisingly entertaining. Dr. Jentzen went one step further - he made me realize what an extremely humane profession forensic medicine really is.

A death occurs at home, in a hospital, on a street: why? As Jeffrey Jentzen reveals, we often never know. Why is the American system of death investigation so inconsistent and inadequate? What can the events of the assassination of President Kennedy, killing of Bobby Kennedy, and Chappaquiddick reveal about the state of death investigation? If communities in early America had a coroner at all, he was politically appointed and poorly trained. As medicine became more sophisticated and the medical profession more confident, physicians struggled to establish a professionalized, physician-led system of death investigation. The conflict between them and the coroners, as well as politicians and law enforcement agencies, led to the patchwork of local laws and practices that persist to this day. In this unique political and cultural history, Jentzen draws on archives, interviews, and his own career as a medical examiner to look at the way that a long-standing professional and political rivalry controls public medical knowledge and public health.

Jentzen's book stands alone and defines a field. It is full of ironic twists and the grim comedy of the often bizarre stories of famous death investigations in the past. Jentzen has an eye for the right anecdote to illustrate a large idea, and has found wonderful quotations to drive home his points. The United States deserves a better system of death investigation; Jentzen helps us understand why we never got one. (James Mohr, University of Oregon) About the Author Jeffrey M. Jentzen is the Director of Autopsy and Forensic Services at the University of Michigan, and former Medical Examiner in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.