

**Praise for the *New York Times* Bestseller**  
**WORKING STIFF**  
***Two Years, 262 Bodies, and the Making of a Medical Examiner***

By Judy Melinek, M.D. & T.J. Mitchell

Now Available in Trade Paperback  
(Scribner; June 16, 2015; \$25.00)

"Haunting and illuminating...the stories from [Dr. Melinek's] average workdays should also transfix the reader with their demonstration that medical science can diagnose and console long after the heartbeat stops." —*New York Times*

"In this **engrossing** tale of how Melinek became a forensic pathologist, she pulls back the sheet to show readers just what goes on after someone dies... Armchair detectives and would-be forensic pathologists will find Melinek's well-written account to be **inspiring and engaging**."  
—*Publishers Weekly*

"**Spellbinding**. . . . Melinek is movingly empathetic toward the families of victims. . . .  
**An unforgettable story.**" —*Booklist* (starred review)

"Melinek's enthusiasm for her calling is always apparent, and her writing is un-self-consciously bouncy, absorbed and mordant (though not caustic)... **A transfixing account of death**, from the mundane to the oddly hair-raising." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"***Working Stiff* is the grossest book you'll ever love**. But it is also so much more than that: **Seamlessly fusing memoir, science journalism, riveting whodunit mysteries, and light humor** about a dark topic, *Working Stiff* is a **relentlessly fascinating and informative book from the first page to the last**. Judy Melinek—whether she's re-enacting assaults in a courtroom while heavily pregnant, or fighting with lazy homicide detectives, or solving amazing forensic mysteries through the ghastly things she does with her corpses—is **an unfailingly charming and even inspiring guide** to the world of medical examiners. **A remarkable achievement by Mitchell and Melinek.**"  
—Scott Stossel, editor of *The Atlantic magazine*, and author of the *New York Times* Bestseller *My Age of Anxiety*

"**Far from the magic we see on TV, *Working Stiff* describes forensic pathology in the real world**. The book is a **compelling and absorbing read.**"  
—Kathy Reichs, author of the *Temperance Brennan "Bones"* series

"***Working Stiff* is an engrossing and revealing glimpse** into the making of a medical examiner with a **searing insider's view** into working at the New York Medical Examiner's Office during and just after 9/11. The story of how the author dealt with her father's suicide during childhood and later had to deal with suicides as part of her duties is **wrenching and compelling.**"  
—Jan Garavaglia, M.D. (Dr. G from the Discovery Channel Series) and author of *How Not to Die*

"**An insider's view of one of the most significant forensic investigations in American history... We see the idealism Melinek brings to the job, the sense of justice and closure that a competent autopsy can provide....full of smart science**. Fans of CSI — the real kind — will want to read it."  
—Douglas Starr, *Washington Post* and *House Chronicle*

"**Riveting...** Melinek's story unfolds gracefully and thoughtfully... **Describing horrific deaths with a scientific appreciation for human life, Melinek charms as she chronicles her job as 'the medical profession's eyewitness to death.'**"—Kate Tuttle, *The Boston Globe*

"*Working Stiff* is a **page-turning, engrossing** book that reveals a hidden world and shows that the work of understanding death is actually a labor of life." –*Sciencethrillers.com*

"Melinek chronicles her time at the city's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner – and it's **nothing like what you see on television.**" –Maureen Callahan, *New York Post*

"An **enthusiastic, readable chronicle** of decomposition and poison residues, homicide and rape kits, crime scenes and court testimony, and working on bodies from the terrorist attacks of 9/11."  
–Nancy Szokan, *Washington Post*

"**Vivid descriptions and narratives capture the sights, smells and textures** at death scenes; in the "pit," the nickname given the eight-table autopsy suite in the medical examiner's offices at 520 First Ave.; and the field morgue of tents where Melinek and her colleagues toiled after 9/11.... I've never witnessed an autopsy. *Working Stiff* has got to be the next best thing to being there."  
–Janice Habuda, *Buffalo News*

"The flamboyant disclosures—how to handle rotting flesh or use pruning shears to snap ribs—are balanced by her **soul-baring** account of identifying human remains in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York on 11 September 2001." –*Nature Magazine*

"*Working Stiff* is an account of Melinek's years in training, complete with gory details, heartfelt emotions and plenty of ripped-from-the-headlines case studies. This mixture of nonfiction and narrative makes for **compelling, informative** reading as Melinek works through cases of homicide, accidental death, medical error and suicide—and **becomes even more powerful** as the authors recount the harrowing weeks and months following the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks, which brought more bodies and death to Melinek's door than ever before." –*Shelf Awareness*

"**Both chilling and heart-warming** at the same time, Judy Melinek's account explains how empathy and humanity are as important working with the dead as they are with the living. She strikes the balance just right in helping us better understand what we most fear, yet still fear it all the same."  
–Suzanne Nossel, Executive Director, PEN America Center

"**Fascinating case studies and a refreshing irreverence** toward death and autopsies make *Working Stiff* a **funny and engrossing** read." –Sandeep Jauhar, author of *Intern: A Doctor's Initiation* and *Doctored: The Disillusionment of an American Physician*

"**A riveting read, at once compassionate and morbidly fascinating.**"  
–Todd Harra, author of *Over Our Dead Bodies*

"*Working Stiff* is an **eye-opening, gripping** account of the life of a forensic pathologist working in New York City. Whether dealing with routine autopsies, surviving relatives, or the catastrophe of September 11, **Dr. Judy Melinek reveals the dignity of being human in the face of death.**"  
–Leora Tanenbaum, author of *Taking Back God*