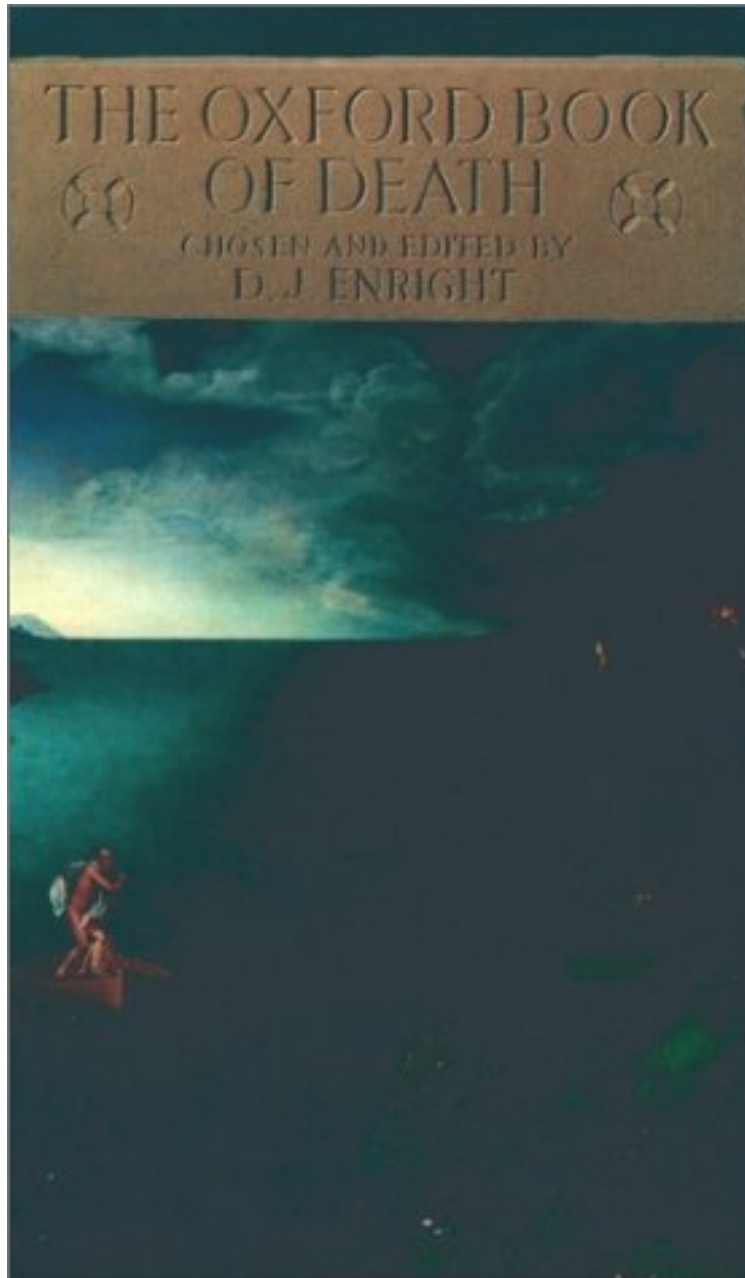


(Mobile library) The Oxford Book of Death

## The Oxford Book of Death

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**From Oxford University Press : The Oxford Book of Death** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Book of Death:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I very much enjoyed this, and still do. By Hank Hill I very much enjoyed this, and still do. It's an interesting concept, really, and I was very pleased with the inclusion of both Eastern and Western sources - in this text, you will find meditations on death taken from sources in the sciences, poetry, literature, philosophy, anthropology, theology, world religion, and so forth. It includes sources both well-known and obscure, and makes you want to hunt them down. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not for those seeking help in dealing with the loss of an intimate, probably. By ((Marco Buendia)) The selections include poetry and prose. There is a preponderance of English authors, but the passages, none of them much over a full page, are drawn from all over Europe (not many from outside it) and from all epochs. All extracts are in English, whatever the original language was. The book is divided into aspects of death: "definitions", "suicide", "graveyards", "revenants", "epitaphs, requiems, and last words" etc. They are mostly of a literary nature, with a small (perhaps appropriately so) number drawn from religious philosophical contexts. Very few from science. (Freud, Malthus, Darwin stick in my memory). 31 of 33 people found the following review helpful. Oxford's official contribution to our demise. By Daniel Myers Enright should be given some sort of award by that lot over the Atlantic lake whom we broke ties with a little over 200 years ago. For his book on death is simply...beautiful. How he managed to cull so many varied and poignant accounts of and perspectives on death from literary (and non-literary) sources is nothing short of astounding. Of course, Enright has already won the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. Is there also a gold medal for Death over there? If so, he is thoroughly entitled to it. It's rare that a literary work is such a page-turner as this one is. Everyone will have their favorite passages. My two are Bede's comparing life to the quick flight of the sparrow in through one end of the lord's hall and out the other in the twinkling of an eye, with ignorance as to its plight both before and after; and the Ashanti saying, "Every time an earth mother smiles over the birth of a child, a spirit mother weeps over the loss of a child." - But, as I say, these are but two drops in an ocean of fine thoughts and sentiments and imaginings. - Recommended reading for all mortals!

"Reading for this anthology," writes D.J. Enright, "I was moved to the thought that on no theme have writers shown themselves more lively." A survivor of Belsen voiced the same sentiment when, reflecting on the concentration camps, he wrote, "When in death we are in the midst of life." By turns poignant, tragic, comic, and inspiring, this anthology of thoughts about death ranges from ancient times to the present day--including almost 900 selections by poets, novelists, philosophers, scientists, and common people. Arranged under headings such as "Love," "War," "Last Words," and "Children," these selections show the varied, sometimes surprising, reactions of the dying and the bereaved to the final human act.

"Learned, original, serious, yet always enjoyable, as well as frequently surprising."--Geoffrey Grigson "Extensive and enjoyable.... first rate."--Anthony Powell, Daily Telegraph "A tonic as well as a wholesome draught of mortality."--John Carey, Sunday Times "Salutary, sometimes breathtaking, finally life-enhancing."--Times Educational Supplement "Excellent.... Enright has gathered a fine harvest and cleverly kept melancholy in check."--The Guardian About the Author About the Editor: D.J. Enright, a well-known poet and critic, has taught at universities in Egypt, England, Japan, Germany, Thailand, and Singapore. His books include Shakespeare and the Students, The Oxford Book of Contemporary Verse 1945-1980, and Collected Poems.