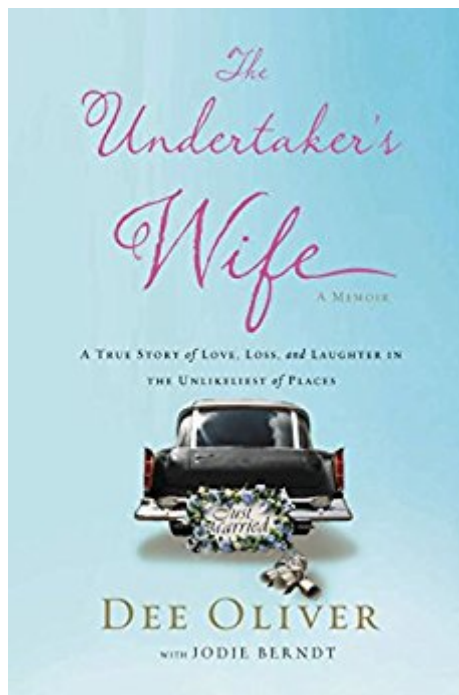




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# The Undertaker's Wife: A True Story Of Love, Loss, And Laughter In The Unlikeliest Of Places



## Synopsis

On *Dee Branch*'s first date with Johnnie Oliver, a fourth-generation funeral director, she knew she was in for a unique relationship when he had to leave "for just a minute" and he came back to the car with a corpse. Over twenty years later, Dee was still in love with her charming southern gentleman when he passed away suddenly in 2007. Determined to carry on Johnnie's work, Dee earned her mortuary science degree, only to find herself no longer needed in the family business. So Dee crossed the racial divide in the most segregated industry in America and joined the staff of an African-American funeral home as a single white woman. In *The Undertaker's Wife*, Oliver draws from her wealth of experience to provide candid and often hysterically funny advice on dying well and surviving the loss of those who have gone before. Her insights on the common ground of grief, survival, and the ever-present faithfulness of God (to all of us, regardless of our race, religious upbringing, or socio-economic background) will help readers prepare for one of life's only certainties and do it with wisdom, grace, and a healthy dose of joy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A delightful, endearing, and sometimes sad story about life after the loss of her husband as an undertaker's wife...Dee Oliver's candid and funny story made me laugh and cry. She reminded me to keep God close to my heart, write the important stuff down and the sad, simple fact that sometimes life IS short and to cherish those we love! Thanks, Dee Oliver for telling us the truth with a dab of humor on top!

I don't usually read "chick books"... but there was something about this book's description that attracted me and I am glad I read it. Dee Oliver is an amazing woman and I have to hand it to her...when you read her amazing story, you will want to have a glass of wine with this gal and just smile and talk. What an amazing journey she has had. She not only has a very fun, up-beat way of describing her life before, during and after (WHAT..you have to read to find out) but she is able to dispense some amazing and very practical advice for any couple (I am a gay man married to another man) without being preachy. She makes no bones about her Christian faith but is clearly able to distinguish the difference between "faith" and "religion". But that is no way what this book is about. This really is a great read especially if you care about family...yours. Great Job, Mrs. Oliver !!!

This was an easy, fast and entertaining book to read. What was kind of appealing was her laid back attitude about her situation. It wasn't a woe is me book. Part of me wanted to hear her deeper, "how can I survive this", darker days. But that's not the book she wanted to write. I too have suffered the great loss of a child and still have my sense of humor about my life. I really enjoyed her book.

This book brings you through the author's journey of the untimely death of her husband, the co-owner of a mortuary. She brings you into her affluent upbringing, and let's you see her perspective on the undeniable fact of a loved one's death. The author takes us through the full range of emotions with a great sense of humor. In the final phase of this book, she offers insightful information about planning for our own death ahead of time, things to help our survivors in a very difficult time. I really enjoyed this book and learned a lot from it. Would definitely read another book written by this author.

Her writing is real. Being a widow myself caused me to reflect how awesome God is and how he cares for me. Key to move on as God leads. He will not leave you in the tragedy but also you will never forget it as it is a part of you. Great story of encouragement with love.

I tried to make it through this book, finding the premise interesting and touching. But I could not read through the superficial socialite life drivel between the few nuggets of emotion and insight. I can see some of it being an attempt at absurdist humor, but the joke seems to still mostly be on the author. I appreciate the author's candor, but I couldn't really connect with her.

Surprise. The love story wonderful. I recently lost a beloved one. It was great to read about the whole love story the grief and overcoming of grief. The surprise for me was it was set in Norfolk Virginia my second home. I think I would refer this story to the recent widow . It would be good for her to see another who went through all the feelings of the death of a love. Kept me reading for more.

An enjoyable and enlightening portrayal of a serious and inevitable life event which ultimately comes to us all, the time, place, and moment unpredictable. This story is written with humor, depth, and pathos. It will make you think about your own life and the legacy you wish to leave plus inspire your faith in the guidance of God.

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