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Discover a Chicago That Exists Just Beneath the Surface —
About Six Feet Under

Graveyards of Chicago

The People, History, Art and Lore of Cook County Cemeteries

By Matt Hucke and Ursula Bielski

Join photographer Matt Hucke and “ghostlorist” Ursula Bielski on this fact-packed and first-ever literary expedition through the quietist, and often quirkiest, neighborhoods of Metropolitan Chicago. From abandoned, acre-big burial grounds to lavishly-landscaped “cities of the dead,” Chicagoland cemeteries have captured the imagination of all who have visited them or, more often, passed them by. With this book, even those with graveyard jitters might venture a few steps into these foreign environs, drawn by the legends and lore of the treasures within.

• People

Discover a silent citizenry as diverse as they come. Stand over the graves of Chicago’s first settlers, like Chief Alexander Robinson and John Kinzie. Delve into the personal stories of financial freestylers like Marshall Field, Potter Palmer, Montgomery Ward, and Richard Sears. Watch the city grow under the influence of architects like Louis Sullivan, Mies van der Rohe, William Le Baron Jenney, John Root, and Fazlur Rahman Kahn, directed by the foresight of city visionaries Daniel Burnham and Charles Wacker. Track Chicago’s settlement by following ethnic populations to their communal burial grounds. Have a moment of silence at the graves of saints and shake your head at the headstones of sinners, including the spectrum of gangland ne’er-dowells. Mourn the victims of the city’s most affecting disasters. Then sing the blues with local legends like Muddy Waters, Dinah Washington, and Howlin’ Wolf.

• History

Follow Chicago’s funerary development, from the backyard boneyards of Fort Dearborn days through the establishment of early giants Graceland, Rosehill, and Oak Woods; from the heyday of Chicago City Cemetery to the founding of increasingly exclusive religious and ethnic ossuaries. Discover the rural origins of many of the area’s oldest burial grounds — and find out why there may still be bodies under your house!

• Art

Stroll through the city’s most colossal gallery: From the sculptural stylings of Lorado Taft and Leonard Volk to the largest collection of secular Tiffany glass to the spectacular personal shrines of Bohemian National’s columbarium, *Graveyards of Chicago* showcases enough art to lure even the most discriminating aficionados out of the museums!

• Lore

Graveyards are breeding grounds for local legends, and *Graveyards of Chicago* shares many of these tales — some true, some tall: from the famous entombment of railroad king George Pullman in a concrete box covered with railroad ties to the rumored suspension of coal magnate Francis Peabody in a glass casket filled with oil, from the theft of Al Capone’s gravemarker to the ashes of beloved songwriter Steve Goodman that lie beneath home plate at Wrigley Field.

See what’s happening under your neck of the woods in *Graveyards of Chicago*!

Now available at your local bookstore, through online booksellers, or by ordering direct from Lake Claremont Press.