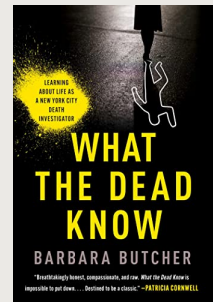


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What the Dead Know: Learning About Life as a New York City Death Investigator

Barbara Butcher

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What the Dead Know is Barbara Butcher's memoir about her career as a death investigator in Manhattan (she was the first woman to hold the job for longer than a few months). Homicide, suicide, accident or natural – it was her job to figure out how people died but also, as she writes in the book, how they lived. The story takes an emotional turn when, after 9/11, it became Butcher's job to identify the remains of people who died that day. While it may sound bleak, reading this memoir is like watching an episode of *CSI* with your dry, brassy best friend. And, yes, she has heard all the jokes about her last name.

— [Samantha Balaban](#), producer, *Weekend Edition*

- [NPR - Death investigator Barbara Butcher knows 'What the Dead Know'](#)
- [WNYC - All of It: Barbara Butcher on death \(and life\) in 'What the Dead Know'](#)