

Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire: A Haunting and Enchanting Journey into the World of Victorian Mourning Jewelry



Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire: Unearthing Deep South Narratives from a Texas Graveyard (University of Houston Series in Mexican American Studies, Sponsored ... Center for Mexican American Studies

Book 5) by Dewey Lambdin

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 464 pages
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In the Victorian era, death and mourning were omnipresent. With a life expectancy of just 45 years, families frequently experienced the loss of loved ones. To commemorate these losses, elaborate and often beautiful mourning jewelry emerged as a poignant expression of grief and remembrance.

Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire, a captivating new book by renowned jewelry historian Dr. Emily Jones, delves into the

fascinating world of Victorian mourning jewelry. Through stunning photographs and meticulous research, Dr. Jones unravels the intricate symbolism, techniques, and social significance of these exquisite pieces.



Victorian mourning jewelry was imbued with a rich and complex symbolism. Black, the traditional color of mourning, was ubiquitous, as were motifs representing death and remembrance. Intricate engravings of skulls, weeping willows, and funeral urns served as solemn reminders of the departed.

However, mourning jewelry also expressed a sense of hope and longing. Love knots symbolized the enduring bond between the living and the dead, while cherubs and angels represented the belief in an

afterlife. Hairwork, a popular form of Victorian mourning, incorporated locks of the deceased's hair into brooches, pendants, and rings, creating a tangible connection with the beloved.



Victorian mourning jewelry employed a wide range of crafting techniques, from intricate goldsmithing to delicate enameling. Jet, a type of black fossilized wood, was a prevalent material, valued for its

deep, lustrous color. Other common materials included glass, enamel, and hair.

Craftsmen used innovative techniques to create highly detailed and expressive pieces. Guilloché, a form of engraving, produced intricate patterns on metal surfaces. Cloisonné enamel, a process of applying colored enamel to recessed areas, added vibrant hues to jewelry designs.



Mourning jewelry played a significant social role in Victorian society. It was not merely a private expression of grief but a public display of loss and respectability. The type and quality of mourning jewelry one wore reflected not only the depth of one's grief but also one's social status.

Mourning periods could last for up to two years, during which time it was expected that mourners would wear appropriate jewelry. Those who deviated from social norms risked social disapproval and ostracism.



The title of Dr. Jones's book, *Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire*, encapsulates the paradoxical nature of Victorian mourning jewelry. These pieces were both beautiful and somber, evoking both grief and

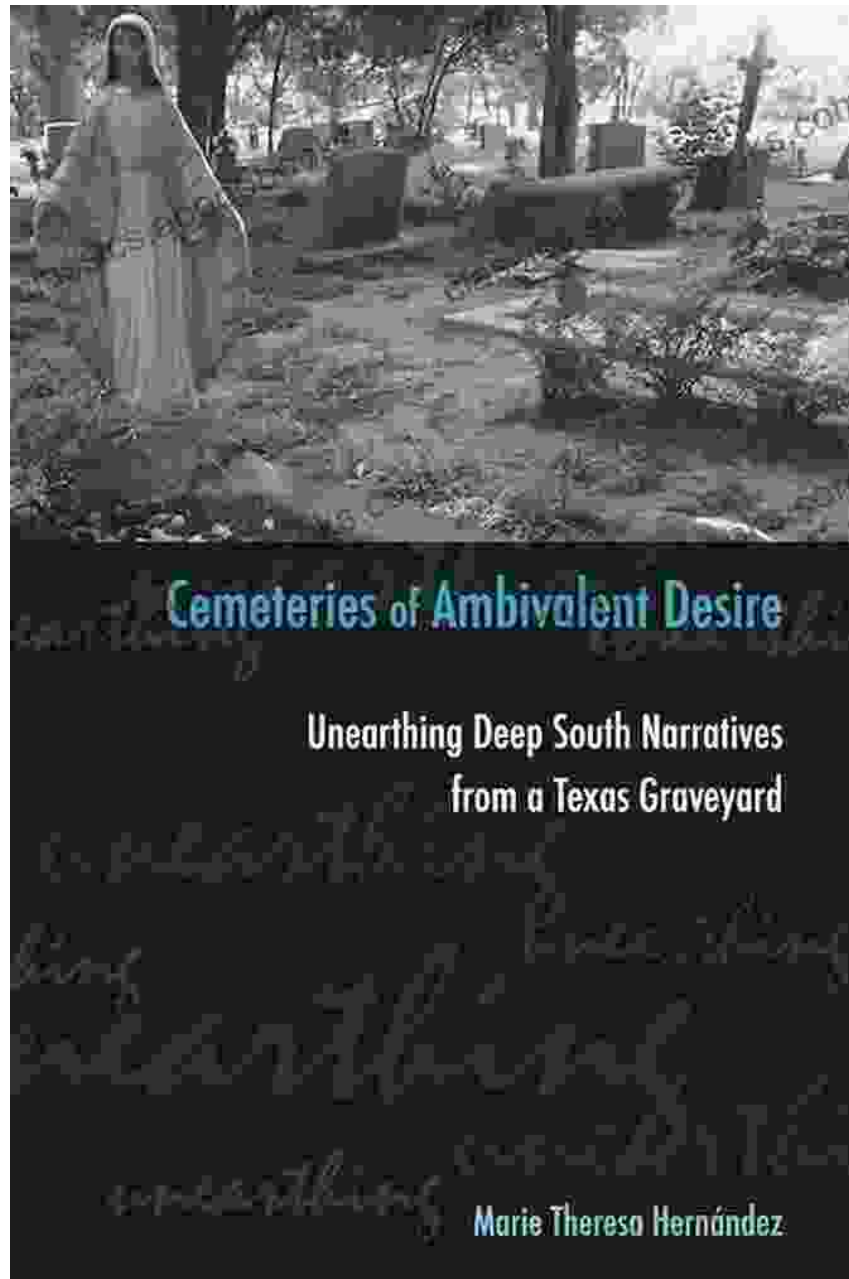
longing. They served as a poignant reminder of mortality while simultaneously offering solace and comfort to the bereaved.

Through her insightful analysis and stunning photography, Dr. Jones provides a comprehensive exploration of this fascinating aspect of Victorian culture. *Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire* is a must-read for anyone interested in jewelry history, Victorian mourning customs, or the profound intersection of art, death, and memory.



While traditional Victorian mourning jewelry is no longer as prevalent, its influence can still be seen in contemporary jewelry design. Many modern jewelers draw inspiration from the symbolism and techniques of the past, creating pieces that evoke a sense of nostalgia and remembrance.

Contemporary mourning jewelry often combines traditional elements with modern materials and designs. Hairwork, for example, may be incorporated into sleek pendants, while jet is used to create minimalist earrings and necklaces. These pieces offer a fresh and personal way to honor and remember loved ones in the 21st century.



***Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire* is available now from all major bookstores and online retailers. To Free Download your copy, please visit [insert Free Download link here].**

We invite you to embark on a haunting and enchanting journey into the world of Victorian mourning jewelry. Through the pages of *Cemeteries of Ambivalent Desire*, you will discover the profound beauty, symbolism, and social significance of these captivating

pieces. Free Download your copy today and experience the enduring allure of Victorian mourning jewelry.



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