

*While taking his father's ashes back home from the crematorium on his bike, Rob stopped for dinner with his father. He placed the urn in its white carrier box on the table and ordered a glass of wine.*

This book analyses the creative ways in which the Dutch perform and create death rituals. Through working in crematoriums and interviewing mourners in their homes, anthropologist Meike Heessels found that people talk to the ashes, stroke the urns or take them for dinner. By investigating people's practices with ashes from up-close, Heessels asks what the dead mean to the Dutch. Where do the dead reside in a modern secular society?