

## Reader's Discussion Guide for *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How did you feel when reading about the process of cremation? Did you find it upsetting or repulsive?
2. How did you react to Caitlin Doughty's use of humor when writing about death?
3. What do you think constitutes a good death?
4. What would you like done with your body after you die? Did reading this book change your answer to this?
5. Are you afraid of death? What could you do to lessen your fear of death?
6. Why do you think that society at large hides death and it is spoken of very little?
7. What kind of celebration/remembrance would you like there to be for you after you die?
8. Natural burial (being buried with embalming and without a casket) is presented as the most ecologically sound burial. What are your thoughts on this?
9. Should there be a manual on the "art of dying?"
10. Discuss some traditional ways of celebrating death honored by different eras and cultures.
11. How does our society's obsession with youth and "anti-aging" affect our conception of mortality?
12. Have you discussed your wishes about your manner of death and post-mortem handling with your family and loved ones?