ANIL AGGRAWAL'S

Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology

The world's first online journal devoted entirely to forensic medicine and toxicology · Published 1 January and 1 July

VOL. 7, NO. 2

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Featured Books

(Review 4 - by P.K.Chattopadhyay, India, Asia)

FEATURED BOOK : QUIZ SECTION

AN INTRIGUING MURDER MYSTERY



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[Interview with Sylvia Tomlinson] [Quiz based on *Plucked and Burned*]

Rating : 9/10
★★★★★★★★★
(9/5)

Plucked and Burned *by* Sylvia Tomlinson. Paperback, 8" x 6".
Redbud Publishing Co., P.O. Box 4402, Victoria, TX 77903-4402, USA. E-mail: info@redbudpublishing.com Publication Date 2003. x + 237 pages. ISBN 0-9720293-2-X. Price $19.95

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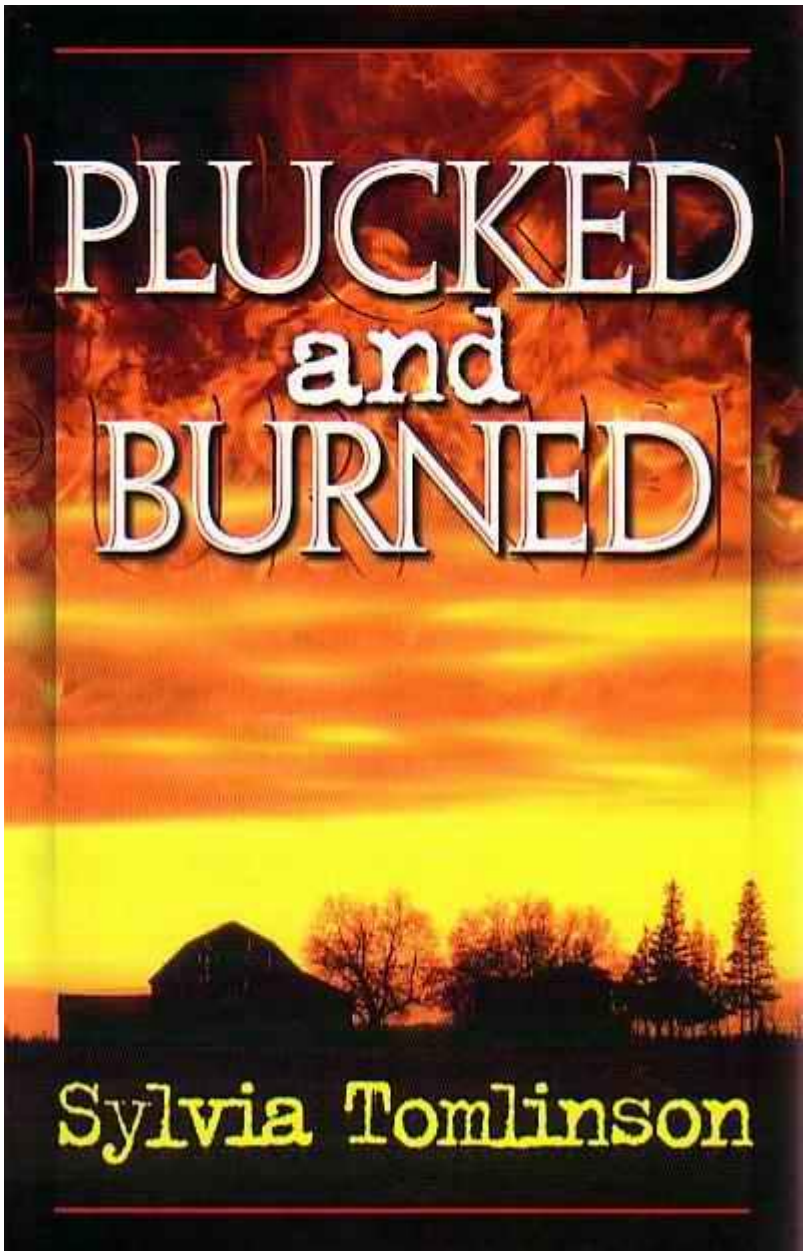

TPlucked and Burned by Sylvia Tomlinson is a fiction based on the life of the Poultry Farmers of America, their life and aspirations., their struggle against the powerful and organized Poultry Unlimited Farms Management and Staffs. It portrays how the officials of the P.U. exploit the simple farmers, how the rosy picture of a better life and bright future painted by the union staffers and the banks in collusion with each other, turns into a nightmare for the farmers. The false rosy picture of a better and affluent life drags the farmers into mortgaging their farms and other earthly belongings, and are ultimately trapped for life. Should they make an attempt to wriggle out of the situation or protest , the prospect of forfeiture of any further chicks, non supply of feed in time or threat to life and property looms large on them. The book also depicts how the greed for money, and authority can make people selfish and insensitive to human values and finer qualities of life, how one can even be so casual and careless about the environment in which we live.

The various characters portrayed in the book looks so very real and familiar, exploitation of the poor and the downtrodden seems to be universal. The portrayal of the character of Blackwelder whom the farmers elected their President, a man who is calm even in the worst crisis, who is soft at the same time firm, and is amiable and sympathetic even towards his enemies, a perfect friend and

husband while his wife Dena, soft, supportive and caring possessing all the womanly charm to comfort her man in crisis, their mutual love, respect and admiration for each other, qualities which are essential for a successful and enduring marriage, her love for children and keenness to help every one are simply superb.

The book is an account of eternal struggle of the good over the evil in which at the end the good prevails, the triumph of the growers with Doug Blackwelder as their leader is a testimony to this The authoress Sylvia Tomlinson has done her homework very well before penning the book, an account of painstaking research and close interaction with the growers and the administrators.

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The book has something special for the forensic scientists and the law enforcing agencies - something like the case of electrocution of the Mexican kid, the problem of illegal immigrants , a murder made to look like a suicide, death due to arsine gas poisoning, a case of leukemia due to exposure to insecticides over a period of time, depression and self-guilt leading to a suicide and murder for revenge - all the ingredients of a thriller and suspense woven in a sequence in such a way that it never seems monotonous or boring.

The authoress Sylvia Tomlinson has done her homework very well before penning the book, an account of painstaking research and close interaction with the growers and the administrators. She has shown tremendous mastery and craftsmanship in writing this wonderful fact based fiction of great universal appeal which is bound to charm its readers. Congratulations Sylvia, you deserve all the praise and accolades for penning this fascinating book; we will certainly be looking forward to reading many more from you in future.



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Dr. P.K.Chattopadhyay, born on 02.01.1942 did his M.Sc. and Ph.D in Anthropology with specialization in Physical Anthropology from the University of Delhi. Since July 1968 he has been teaching Forensic Science and Applied Anthropology to Post-Graduate students in the University of Delhi as a Lecturer in Forensic Science till March 31, 1975 and the Punjabi University, Patiala as Reader in Forensic Science (from April 1, 1975 to May 1987) and as Professor of Forensic Science thereafter till January 31, 2002. A number of students have received their Ph.D (18) and

M.D. (2) Degrees under his supervision. Dr. Chattopadhyay is a member of several learned societies in India and abroad and has been a Secretary and Vice-President of the Indian Academy of Forensic Sciences (he is also a fellow of the Academy). Dr. Chattopadhyay is the only Indian so far to Chair a Session at the International Meeting of Forensic Sciences (he Chaired the session on Anthropology at the 6th IAFS Meeting at Zurich, Switzerland in 1975), the Session on Forensic Anthropology at the International Congress on Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in 1978 and a session at the World Congress on Medical Law at Gent, Belgium in 1991. Besides these, he also Chaired Sessions on Forensic Medicine and Biology at several Congresses in India and abroad. Dr. Chattopadhyay has more than 100 research papers published so far including the ones on Blood Groups and Enzyme Types from Teeth, Bones, Hair, stains of Blood, Semen, Muscles. Pattern of Suicides in Delhi, Calculation of Stature from Foot and Hand Measurements, Personal Identification from the Dermal Ridges, Human Autosomal and Y-chromosomal STR Types from Blood Strains, etc.

Dr. Chattopadhyay is one of the three scientists who were honoured with a Special Award for his indispensable services and outstanding contribution in the subject in the region. He has been associated with this journal since its inception.

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