



Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI

By Dana Kollmann

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Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI By Dana Kollmann

Step past the flashing lights into the true scene of the crime with *Never Suck a Dead Man's Hand*, a frank, unflinching, and unforgettable account of life as a crime scene investigator. Smart, sassy, and blessed--or cursed, depending on your point of view--with a stomach capable of working through the most horrific circumstances, Dana Kollmann details her true, unvarnished experiences as a CSI for the Baltimore County Police Department. Unlike the popular crime dramas proliferating on today's television networks, Kollmann's forensic tales forgo glitz for grit to show what really goes down once the yellow tape goes up.

With an informative, outspoken voice, Kollmann unveils the process and science of crime scene investigation in all its can't-take-your-eyes-away fascination. Whether explaining rigor mortis or the art of fingerprinting a stiff corpse on the side of the road, frantically brushing off a shower of roaches or pushing away a dead body, speeding to a horrific accident scene or cautiously entering a house of death, she shows what it's really like to work in the front lines as a forensics expert.

Vividly detailed and lightened by a disarming gallows humor, Dana Kollmann's true life-and-death experiences bring the sights, smells, and sounds of a crime scene alive as never before. She recounts stories that the cops and the CSI's usually leave on the field, far away from the delicate sensibilities of the average civilian--and forbidden from her family's dinner table. It's a strange world behind the yellow tape, and *Never Suck a Dead Man's Hand* offers a truly eye-opening perspective on the day-to-day life of a CSI.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Fans of CSI and Court TV, your book has arrived: a chronicle of the most unusual, macabre and malodorous experiences from 10-plus years of crime scene investigation. Baltimore Police Department CSI Kollman has the enthusiasm, wit (she dedicates the book "to all the bugs I've loved before") and natural storytelling ability to make this memoir sparkle-not easy for a text devoted largely to death and decay. Kollmann aims to educate those with "a Hollywood mentality about a Hell's Kitchen kind of job," and to that end she accentuates glamourless, largely drama-free case-solving. Thankfully, however, there's no lack of adventure: Kollman gets her title from a mishap she suffered while trying to get prints on a bitterly cold night, huffing on the fingers of an accident fatality. At another scene, a rotating ceiling fan flings down grisly bits of a suicide victim's head; at another, maggots are already devouring a body as Kollman tries to get photos. Amid consideration of office politics and her long-suffering family ("literally sickened by my job"), crime-scene anecdotes can get bogged down in details; luckily, Kollman's bright prose, which achieves an approachable, chick-lit tone without sounding flip, makes this squirm-inducing tale highly enjoyable. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Former Baltimore County Police Department CSI Kollmann tells her story in the perky manner of the *CSI* and *Law and Order* TV franchises, proudly delivering terse commentary and gory detail while puncturing common tube-inspired misconceptions about forensics. "You can't get fingerprints off of rocks," she imparts, and "crime scene investigators don't interview suspects." Furthermore, "luminol doesn't glow blue hours after it's sprayed," and "a miniskirt and heels" aren't the usual raiment of distaff CSIs. Kollmann eventually left the crime lab after realizing she "didn't want the cranberry sauce [at] Thanksgiving . . . to remind [her] of blood clots anymore." This informative, witty treatment of her work accessibly illuminates the reality of forensic science, making it a natural adjunct to true-crime collections. The title, by the way, refers to "the day a dead man's hand ended up in [Kollmann's] mouth"---- just one of the many true-life experiences unlikely to befall TV CSIs that she reports. *Mike Tribby*

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From the Publisher

Praise for Dana Kollmann and NEVER SUCK A DEAD MAN'S HAND

"Riveting and irreverently honest . . . Dana Kollmann entertainingly walks readers through her life on the front lines of one of the most misunderstood professions today... a candid, educational thrill ride true crime fans will devour."

--M. William Phelps, author of *Murder in the Heartland*

"Gritty, witty, and heartfelt . . . Dana Kollmann gives insight into her work as a highly trained CSI specialist who, unlike her 'TV perfect' counterparts, must deal with gruesome evidence, complete with blood, corpses, and maggots. Graphic and action-packed, it's a must-read for anyone curious about real crime scene investigation techniques."

--Aphrodite Jones, New York Times bestselling author of *Red Zone*

"Informative, hilarious, and impossible to put down . . . Kollmann breaks down stereotypes about forensic investigation fed to us by popular TV shows and reveals that the truth is stranger - and much funnier - than

fiction."

--Corinne Botz, author of The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death

"If you enjoy `Bones,' but want to know the truth behind the fiction, read this book. Dana Kollmann is the real deal!"

--Austin S. Camacho, author of the Hannibal Jones mystery series

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joshua Arwood:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider if those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI as your daily resource information.

Christopher Barry:

Do you have something that that suits you such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, short story and the biggest some may be novel. Now, why not trying Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI that give your fun preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the method for people to know world far better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to always be success person. So , for every you who want to start reading as your good habit, you may pick Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI become your own personal starter.

Pearl Norris:

Is it you actually who having spare time and then spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI can be the respond to, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Linda Soto:

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose typically the book Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI to make your reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading proficiency is

developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the feeling about book and reading especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to open a book and learn it. Beside that the book Never Suck A Dead Man's Hand: Curious Adventures of a CSI can to be a newly purchased friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of their time.

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