

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Autoerotic Fatalities

REFERENCE: Hazelwood, R. R., Dietz, P. E., and Burgess, A. W., *Autoerotic Fatalities*, Lexington Books, D. C. Heath and Co., 125 Spring St., Lexington, MA 02173, 1983, 208 pp., \$24.95.

Written for medical, mental health, and law enforcement groups and medicolegal investigators this easy-to-read, well-documented book is an excellent addition to the medical examiner's bookshelf. Attorneys, insurance adjusters, and sex educators will also find this text beneficial.

Based on an accumulation of 150 cases, chapters include overviews of autoerotic behavior, erotic risk taking, and the historical development of knowledge of asphyxiation for sexual purposes. One of the most informative chapters is on the pathophysiology of asphyxiation. Evidence is provided linking autoerotic asphyxia with bondage behavior, masochism, sadism, fetishism, and transvestism. The relationship between autoerotic asphyxia, sexual orientation, psychosexual disorders, and other mental disorders is discussed. Unusual autoerotic fatalities are also examined. Judicial decisions are also briefly provided and some equivocal cases are discussed.

Although without a single photograph, this book is a valuable addition to the forensic and psychological literature.

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