



# The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery

By Wendy Moore

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery

By Wendy Moore

When Robert Louis Stevenson wrote his gothic horror story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, he based the house of the genial doctor-turned-fiend on the home of John Hunter. The choice was understandable, for Hunter was both widely acclaimed and greatly feared.

From humble origins, John Hunter rose to become the most famous anatomist and surgeon of the eighteenth century. In an age when operations were crude, extremely painful, and often fatal, he rejected medieval traditions to forge a revolution in surgery founded on pioneering scientific experiments. Using the knowledge he gained from countless human dissections, Hunter worked to improve medical care for both the poorest and the best-known figures of the era—including Sir Joshua Reynolds and the young Lord Byron.

An insatiable student of all life-forms, Hunter was also an expert naturalist. He kept exotic creatures in his country menagerie and dissected the first animals brought back by Captain Cook from Australia. Ultimately his research led him to expound highly controversial views on the age of the earth, as well as equally heretical beliefs on the origins of life more than sixty years before Darwin published his famous theory.

Although a central figure of the Enlightenment, Hunter's tireless quest for human corpses immersed him deep in the sinister world of body snatching. He paid exorbitant sums for stolen cadavers and even plotted successfully to steal the body of Charles Byrne, famous in his day as the "Irish giant."

In *The Knife Man*, Wendy Moore unveils John Hunter's murky and macabre world—a world characterized by public hangings, secret expeditions to dank churchyards, and gruesome human dissections in pungent attic rooms. This is a fascinating portrait of a remarkable pioneer and his determined struggle to haul surgery out of the realms of meaningless superstitious ritual and into the dawn of modern medicine.

 [Download The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth ...pdf](#)

# **The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery**

*By Wendy Moore*

## **The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore**

When Robert Louis Stevenson wrote his gothic horror story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, he based the house of the genial doctor-turned-fiend on the home of John Hunter. The choice was understandable, for Hunter was both widely acclaimed and greatly feared.

From humble origins, John Hunter rose to become the most famous anatomist and surgeon of the eighteenth century. In an age when operations were crude, extremely painful, and often fatal, he rejected medieval traditions to forge a revolution in surgery founded on pioneering scientific experiments. Using the knowledge he gained from countless human dissections, Hunter worked to improve medical care for both the poorest and the best-known figures of the era—including Sir Joshua Reynolds and the young Lord Byron.

An insatiable student of all life-forms, Hunter was also an expert naturalist. He kept exotic creatures in his country menagerie and dissected the first animals brought back by Captain Cook from Australia. Ultimately his research led him to expound highly controversial views on the age of the earth, as well as equally heretical beliefs on the origins of life more than sixty years before Darwin published his famous theory.

Although a central figure of the Enlightenment, Hunter's tireless quest for human corpses immersed him deep in the sinister world of body snatching. He paid exorbitant sums for stolen cadavers and even plotted successfully to steal the body of Charles Byrne, famous in his day as the “Irish giant.”

In *The Knife Man*, Wendy Moore unveils John Hunter's murky and macabre world—a world characterized by public hangings, secret expeditions to dank churchyards, and gruesome human dissections in pungent attic rooms. This is a fascinating portrait of a remarkable pioneer and his determined struggle to haul surgery out of the realms of meaningless superstitious ritual and into the dawn of modern medicine.

## **The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore**

### **Bibliography**

- Rank: #335538 in eBooks
- Published on: 2007-12-18
- Released on: 2007-12-18
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore.pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore.pdf](#)



## Download and Read Free Online **The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery** By Wendy Moore

---

### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Brilliant anatomist, foul-mouthed and well met, avid empiricist and grave robber, John Hunter cut an astonishing figure in Georgian England. Born in Scotland in 1728, he followed his brother, a renowned physician, to London and into the intellectually grasping, fiercely competitive world of professional medicine. With ample servings of 18th-century filth and gore, Moore offers a vivid look at this remarkable period in science history, when many of the most impressive advances were made by relentless iconoclasts like Hunter. In an age when ancient notions of bodily humors still smothered medical thinking, Hunter challenged orthodoxy whenever facts were absent—which was usually the case. A prodigious experimenter—to the point of obsession—he dissected thousands of corpses and countless animals (many of them living) in his effort to define the nature of the human body. Yet he was also an early adherent of medical minimalism, shunning bloodletting by default and advocating physical therapy over invasive surgeries. This is a deftly written and informative tale that will please readers of science history, period buffs and everyone in between. (*Oct. 1*)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

#### From Booklist

Sometimes watershed achievements in science and medicine, such the Salk polio vaccine, are lastingly linked to a name, and sometimes not. Moore depicts John Hunter as a man to whom modern surgeons are hugely indebted, yet few outside of medicine have heard of him. The eighteenth-century English surgeon made his mark—though some of his contemporaries likely would have preferred the word *scar*—by departing radically from accepted surgical procedures of the day. In an era when practitioners relied upon the centuries-old knowledge of the second-century Greek physician Galen, Hunter was a revolutionary who "believed all surgery should be governed by scientific principles, which were based on reasoning, observation, and experimentation." Without setting tradition aside and dissecting and experimenting on human cadavers and live animals, which garnered Hunter much contempt from colleagues and neighbors alike, he would never have accomplished his goals. Moore's telling of his story is detailed and often grisly but engrossing throughout. *Donna Chavez*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

#### Review

#### Praise for *the Knife Man*:

"The surgeon John Hunter (1728–93) is not a well-known name outside specialist circles, although that scandalous situation should be corrected by Wendy Moore's marvelous biography." —*The Times Higher*

"Definitely not for the squeamish, Moore's visceral portrait of this complex and brilliant man offers a wonderful insight into sickness, suffering, and surgery in the 18th century." —*The Guardian (UK)*

"Moore's feel for pace and narrative is impeccable. Her book contains just the right amount of background scenery to bring Hunter alive without swamping him.... She is, at last, the biographer Hunter deserves." —*The Independent*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lauren Allison:**

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they get because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery.

#### **Tamela Campbell:**

In other case, little individuals like to read book The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important the book The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, because from book you can understand everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple point until wonderful thing you could know that. In this era, you can open a book or even searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's read.

#### **Hector Duggan:**

Hey guys, do you would like to finds a new book to learn? May be the book with the concept The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery suitable to you? Often the book was written by renowned writer in this era. The actual book untitled The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery is a single of several books which everyone read now. That book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their plan in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this e-book. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world within this book.

#### **Kathe Waller:**

The guide with title The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery includes a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This specific book exist new understanding the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you with new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

**Download and Read Online The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore  
#OFS8UHAY2BC**

# **Read The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore for online ebook**

The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore books to read online.

## **Online The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore ebook PDF download**

**The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore Doc**

**The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore MobiPocket**

**The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore EPub**

**OFS8UHAY2BC: The Knife Man: Blood, Body Snatching, and the Birth of Modern Surgery By Wendy Moore**