

**Deborah Gottner**

59 lines

**The Dead**

I.  
shades and shadows cling to life  
as they prepare their resumes

II.  
Summary of Qualifications: Ability to animate  
human and animal carcasses. Can regenerate  
dead cells and activate motor skills  
up to eighty years no matter the quality of the subject.

Objective: To obtain physical form.

Education: graduated from Lifetime School of Geriatrics  
(with awards).

GPA: 4.2 (weighted life experiences)

List of courses:

- suffered child abuse and neglect since infancy
- entered the military at age eighteen,
- traveled to New Zealand as a young adult
- fought in the second World War
- first wife died of tuberculosis
- second wife died of heart failure
- followed the teachings of Jesus

Experience: 20 year volunteer at Salvation Army  
military service first as a soldier, then as an anti-war  
activist  
honorably discharged from military service before Korean  
Conflict  
appreciates the irony of serving the military then  
protesting it

Interests and Activities: soccer, quantum physics,  
philanthropy  
(wants to help other able spirits obtain élan)

III.  
Why me?  
why should this shade become flesh?  
Look here—Gandhi and Buddha don't care  
if they're in the realm of shadow  
but purgatory is not the place for me.  
I belong in sunlight

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Comment [dg2]: Change this.

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Comment [dg3]: Delete or modify  
this.

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Skateboarding my way to Paris Hilton's heart.  
I want to breathe sea salt  
And taste the cloud's foam.

IV.

I don't want to go  
Where the red fern grows  
But where tomatoes ripen instead.  
I will suck the marrow out of life  
eat the best foods  
listen to the Bee Gee's stayin' alive  
I can take over--take control  
of life.  
Don't dip me in the river Lethe  
to forget myself and troubles  
give me the air and the earth  
and all of her great baubles.

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**Comment [dg4]:** I need to figure out what I'm trying to say and then say it.

**Comment [dg5]:** Rework this section, too.

**Comment [dg6]:** © 2008

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