

Educational materials were developed through the Teaching American History in Baltimore City Program, a partnership between the Baltimore City Public School System and the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Resource Sheet #7

RESURGAM

YES, yes, dear love! I am dead!

Dead to you!

Dead to the world!

Dead for ever!

It was one young night in May.

The stars were strangled, and the moon was blind with the flying clouds of a black despair.

Years and years the songless soul waited to drift out beyond the sea of pain where the shapeless life was wrecked.

The red mouth closed down the breath that was hard and fierce.

The mad pulse beat back the baffled life with a low sob.

And so the stark and naked soul unfolded its wings to the dimness of Death!

A lonely, unknown Death.

A Death that left this dumb, living body as his endless mark.

Adah Isaacs Menken, 1835-1868

Courtesy of the *New York Public Library*:

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