





Born in Brooklyn to Romanian Jewish parents, Delmore Schwartz is a tragic figure—a gifted writer who only fitfully fulfilled his potential before an early death. After the remarkable accomplishment of his first autobiographical poems and stories, which poignantly describe the sensations of childhood and the conflicted aspirations of the intellectual children of immigrants, he lived chaotically and pursued an eccentric career. Schwartz's decline into paranoia and his lonely demise in a Times Square hotel were fictionalized by his friend Saul Bellow in *Humboldt's Gift* (1975), and several of John Berryman's *Dream Songs* elegize him.

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