Ultimately, modern death is embarrassing; death avoidance prevails, notably among doctors. This despite the fact that the first patient a medical student sees is a cadaver. Death is a doctor's failure and it is easier to blame the patient than to accept the death. Death in an American hospital is a "humanectomy", or physical removal of the individual's humanity as she/he is attached to IVs, monitors, feedings tubes, and other mechanical devices. Energized by lost love, she writes and documents and works her way toward death. Commentary. Gilbert, a poet and literary scholar, writes on a large scale in straightforward prose.
about her own experiences with death and about how Western historians, anthropologists, sociologists, and artists have viewed death.