

5-1-2010

Shedding My Skin

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Recommended Citation

Dryk, Josh (2010) "Shedding My Skin," *Forces*: Vol. 2010 , Article 121.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol2010/iss1/121>

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Moonwalking on a June Thursday

Jessica Gonsoulin

The heat cooked the moon like an omelet.
Bernie Madoff stood trial.
Farah Fawcett died in the morning—
Resulting in surprise, but not mayhem;
Dispelling rumors she would live forever.
The news spread quickly by text and Twitter.
What was I doing when I heard?
Watching Headline News, of course.
Next Michael Jackson died.
His doctor disappeared and was located.
The police declared him a material witness.
The autopsy concluded cardiac arrest—
but wait four weeks until
the toxicology test results: Demerol?
Election riots in Iran were
forgotten as were the further deaths
of Ed McMahon and Billy Mays.
Old albums flew off the shelves,
putting an incidental dent
in Michael's mounting pile of bills.
A choir of questions and answers ascended.
Who is the mother of Prince II?
Who will get custody of the kids?
Will Michael and Farah meet in heaven?
Spontaneous memorial services took place
around the world. Fans gathered
together to celebrate, dancing
at the death of Michael Jackson and themselves.



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