Dear Dr. Tom B. Graves,

            I recently encountered a colleague of yours, a Professor D. Ceasee, and after speaking with him about my interests in embalming, he recommended you to me. The professor mentioned that you have an opening on your team, since one member died recently. I would like to apply for this newly opened position. Two years ago I finished my training in mortuary science, earning an Associate of Applied Science in Funeral Science from DIG University (Death Is Good). I graduated top in my class, earning a 97.9 percent in Egyptian embalming, a 96.8 percent in Physiology, and a 99.6 percent in Anatomy (my strongest subject). I believe that I would be a great help to you because of several attributes I display: my calm spirit, my attention to detail, and my empathy.

            My calm spirit would be an asset to you because dead bodies and creepy graveyards at dusk do not scare me. If corpses did scare me, why would I be applying for this job in the first place? I actually first became interested in this job when I was 10 years old and my grandmother died. We were camping in the hills, far from civilization, just the two of us, and she was killed by an angry bear seeking food. I had no idea what to do with the body, until I remembered from my 4th grade history course how the Egyptians had embalmed and mummified people. I set out at once to do the same to my grandmother’s remains, pulling her brains out through her nose with a fishing hook and putting them into a peanut butter jar that I had handy. Then I cut open her side, removing the vital organs and placing them in my backpack (I still keep them to this day). Next, after I had poured salt onto her body to dry it, I wrapped the corpse in a sleeping bag and buried her in a small cave. It may have been a rather shabby job, since I only had about one day to embalm her, unlike the Egyptians who had several months, but it still got me interested in embalming. So you can see that without my calm spirit I would never have been able to mummify my grandmother. I think that this calmness will really help in the type of job I would be doing.

            Next, my attention to detail will certainly prove valuable in this career. Planning a funeral, embalming the body, digging the grave, making the coffin, and planting the flowers on the grave will all need that attention to detail. When I was 12, my other grandmother died, and since I was the only close relative she had, I was called upon to plan the funeral, even at my young age. To this day, whenever I am at a family reunion, some distant relative always brings up how amazing that funeral was, how beautiful, how organized, etc. That attention to detail is very important to have as a mortician and is something I display.

             Empathy is probably one of the most vital things you need as a funeral director. When angry, sad, grieving families visit both the funeral home and the gravesite, empathy is needed to relate with them. Morticians must be able to see needs and meet them, and I believe I am well qualified to do both. My grandfather, the husband of the grandmother who had been killed by the bear, had a very hard time dealing with the tragic loss of his loved one. I was able to talk to him and comfort him through such a rough time. I often know what others are feeling and can relate to them, so having this quality will help me as I seek to become a professional undertaker.

            Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter and perhaps consider me for this job. I really do hold you in the highest regards, especially as I have had to experience many of the things that you do on a daily basis, and that has really made me see the value of good morticians. If you do wish to speak with me more about this career opening, you can contact me at 456 Pushing Up Daisies Rd., 6 Feet Underville, SC 29650 or email me at R.I.P.@kickedthebucket.org.

Cordially Yours,

Anna Grace Casillas