



PROJECT MUSE®

American Husband

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AMERICAN HUSBAND

O, Empty-of-Hours, the doctor's a clock. His hand
is a serrated knife. Heavy his books, his
medical meanings,

his pharmacological eyes.

Father Infallible, Doctor Indelible, Goat
you've got, my goad—You, and your mal-
practice suits, your wingtips and tuxedoes.

Doctor Parenthesis, Father
for emphasis, Stepmothers Must
and Because: Doctor dismiss
my dire diagnosis—my god's

a blot—of implausible pause.

Dear Doctor, Dear Proctor, ad-
Minister my test (Your office assigns
your affections.) Dear Doctor, Dear

Forceps, my Father, forget this—
I'll ration your attention.

I'll wait
and I'll wait. I'll compile
and I'll plate
an unending compendium of
juvenile complaints:

American make me, American take me
with you when you go. You do not do, you do not do—
Faster, Bastard! American
Fetch! *you do not do*—you don't.

American Father, My General Boss
I am your lather—and you
are my loss. Professor my lecture, mother
my tongue—I live
with a desk where nothing gets done.
Inhibit my habits and dress me in gauze—my god's
a clot. Of unsolvable cause.

American Husband, American Head, nobody
stopped me, nobody said *Surgeons*
must be very careful/ When they take the knife!

