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## 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!*

