



PROJECT MUSE®

---

## American Husband

Wayson, Kary

Published by The Ohio State University Press

Wayson, Kary.

American Husband.

Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2009.

Project MUSE., <https://muse.jhu.edu/>.



➔ For additional information about this book

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/27772>

## SNARCISSUS

Pretty thing, to have gotten you by the bulb collar  
tonight, in limp lamp light—to demonstrate your neck  
with my thumbs.

Any transparency tries what light there is this late.

Tries it like you try my patience. Wears it  
like you wear a dress: skinny skirt  
stitched to your skinny hips, the frill  
to the bodice of the bloom.

Silly thing, to feel  
disheveled in front of a flower.

The sun set you up on the west-most crest  
of a city divided by two hills.

I am embarrassed here, dirty  
in a clean chair, my hair  
like someone took a steak knife to the piano. Still,  
I can say I've known you well and I will.

My hindsight possesses the sense  
of your smell. A wedding dress in a cedar chest so  
there—you happy?