



PROJECT MUSE®

American Husband

Wayson, Kary

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HARD FEELINGS

We have gone to bed like dark socks
and we have woken stiffly
like in-laws, like three English uncles
bunking in the basement of a house
that's been on the market for months now.
I act like my bathrobe is a regular sweater
while these three stand around in suits, looking
aimlessly about the basement,
faking their search for who
knows what in which language: three men
turned whither, turned west, and one
watching another face first into the dark drain
of an even darker door.
I might say that I am
in the basement, based on this basementy feeling.
Every morning, I drink
one cup of coffee while the same young couple
checks the kitchen for corners.
My men are pretending intently, without
any extra bending,
hoping for some nook or cranny to plumb, some
crook or nanny dumb enough to tell them what.