



PROJECT MUSE®

American Husband

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LETTER FROM ONE LESS DAUGHTER

I've been working hard at keeping the house clean,
books battened in the tall shelves,
letters in their order. I've been working hard at
working hard and the work gets done
in great shoves, each room tidied when I leave it.

You love more than me.
Maybe you love my father, his hand
on my shoulder, his high
family forehead: his eyes are like a sun.
Maybe you love my discomfort
standing on the tree stump.
My loneliness,
you must love it
as you must love everyone.

But tell me if I read this right:
when I slipped on the rock cliff above the river, I took a hawk
wheeling in yellow leaves as a sign reading
should I leave her?

I am so sick of myself.