



6-15-2002

## The Uses of Enchantment

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### Recommended Citation

McCandless, Bruce III (2002) "The Uses of Enchantment," *Westview*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 2 , Article 19.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol21/iss2/19>

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# The Uses of Enchantment

by Bruce McCandless III

In December you finally get the divorce.  
The world is gray, maybe fifty degrees,  
not a single leaf to be found on the trees—  
a stone tableau of your own bland remorse.  
Through armored doors and an electronic screen  
you make your way to Judge Covington's court:  
today she'll preside over those of your sort.  
You worry mostly that you'll cause a scene.  
The judge asks questions. Who knows what they are.  
Your last several answers are meaningless sounds.  
The court reporter, embarrassed, looks down.  
The good judge offers to call you a car.  
There's really no way to soft-pedal the case  
or to wish yourself anywhere else but this place.

