



11-15-1998

## Husbands

Joan Cusack Handler

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### Recommended Citation

Handler, Joan Cusack (1998) "Husbands," *Westview*: Vol. 18 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol18/iss1/11>

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# Husbands

by Joan Cusack Handler

Sometimes he is Christ reassuring me  
that I am loved  
but flawed. And like Christ,  
he has his biases. But  
unlike Christ who loves only  
the soul, requiring that I sacrifice  
my body and all earthly pleasures  
just as the caterpillar must offer  
itself as prologue and gateway  
to the fuller life of butterfly,  
my husband doesn't attend to my soul.  
He concentrates on the body  
and what the body carries.  
Since it is all we can know,  
he says, it's the *only* thing  
we can count on; it must then  
provide its own reward.

