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Husbands

Joan Cusack Handler

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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.

