

# *Bride and Groom*

CHARLES HARPER WEBB

Piece by piece, the china slips from soapy hands.  
Friends drop the crystal wine-glasses; they crack

with concert-quality pings. Bath towels de-fluff  
and fray. The Kama Sutra oil runs dry.

The Bread Master, after three loaves fail to rise,  
is exiled from the kitchen counter to the cupboard,

then Good Will. The His & Hers black leather  
jackets rev, unheard, deep in the storage room.

The negligees and Bad Boy Briefs become big-  
screens featuring the flop series: Fat.

Stains roil the comforter; its feathers lose their lift.  
The Lladro ceramic bride and groom—useless

500-dollar gifts—survive three earthquakes  
to be knocked off the mantle by the cat.