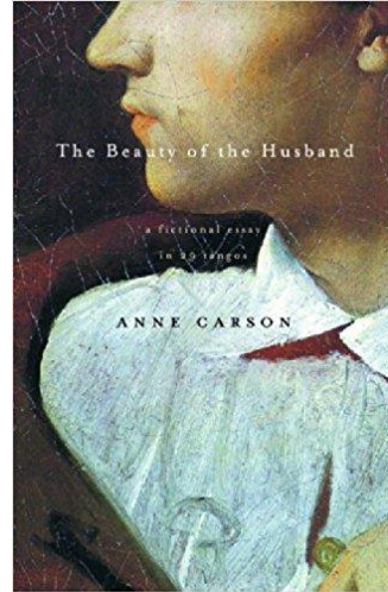


Spotlight

Friday, October 27

Anne Carson is a national treasure. A poet, scholar, translator, and essayist her work is confounding, shatteringly beautiful, and world expanding. She is notoriously private. During interviews she responds with cool and oblique answers. During talks, her partner Robert Currie disrupts the presentation by moving around chalk boards, chairs and other items while Carson reads from a script – sometimes with a small smile. But the impression you are left with is that of a playful philosopher rather than a pretentious professor. She combines intellect, humor, and beauty in a style that is uniquely hers.



Many of Carson's books have had a lasting impression on me including her 2001 offering, *The Beauty of the Husband: a fictional essay in 29 tangos*. This collection is the story of a marriage told in a series of poems, or tangos. At the beginning it is explained, "A tango (like a marriage) is something you have to dance to the end." As in her other work, *The Beauty of the Husband*, combines a variety of styles from drama to poetry to prose. Worked into the story are quotes demonstrating her wide ranging intellectual and literary interests. All of this gives her work an expansive feel where you are at once deep into the tiny intimacies of a failing marriage while also contemplating human relationships writ large across history and time. Any place is a good place to start with Carson's work but *The Beauty of the Husband* has a certain somber air that well suits the changing of the seasons.

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