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The Cabinet in the Far Corner

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The Cabinet in the Far Corner

By: Lisa Huston

Santa's charm is
his lack of commitment.

If Santa visited every day
bringing you Lincoln Logs, hair dryers
bathrobes and charm bracelets,
wouldn't you yawn and throw
another "Tickle Me Elmo" on the fire?

There's something wrong with a guy
who has been such a neglectful father.

Does he shower piles of expensive
objects on you
one night a year
because he wraps his guilt
in red and green foil paper
or because he wants you to be happy?

At least he doesn't stagger home drunk
every night, cursing your mother
for her petty indulgences
and waking up the little ones
with a baseball bat.

We keep Santa confined to one calendar square,
alongside Christ,
because we need to know when they're coming
so we can hide mother's heirloom china.