The Body Variations

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THE BODY VARIATIONS

1. The body is a motel named “The Temple”

2. It is a friend whose changes pain you
   You decide you were wrong about him

3. A cardsharp with the longest career in the west
   Nobody wants him arrested
   Everybody loves him
   Everybody loses
   Everybody always wants a new deck

4. It is the trip you planned too long
   They tell you the weather has never been this bad

5. The body is a temple where Shriners and other conventioneers with hats besot themselves
   They do not know what or when they worship
   But they do
   Amen

Robert Hahn
6.
The body is the very famous person
you would love to meet

It turns out he lives on the floor below

But you never meet him

7.
A town of wine and cheese
not far from the spot
where a lost party stopped to sing its last hymns

8.
It is a writers' conference drowsy with advice

9.
A friend
who has lied about his past

Now you don't know what to believe

You realize
how alike you are

10.
The body is that extraordinary thing
you find at the dump
and take home
excited

Your wife
snorts at your folly
Your family and friends think you're a fool

When you lug it back
the dump has become an antique store
The owner
buys it for a staggering sum

They love you at home
because you are rich