

Wilderness House Literary Review 10/1

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The protagonist

"Please write something," the chorus requests.

But the protagonist declines.

"Please sing something," the chorus requests.

But the protagonist declines.

"Please paint something," the chorus requests.

But again the protagonist declines.

"Please cook or bake something," the chorus requests.

But again the protagonist declines.

"Please knit or sew something," the chorus requests.

But again the protagonist declines.

"Why," asks the chorus, "are you refusing to do any of the tasks we request? Are you angry at us?"

The protagonist says, "Not angry. Just wary of failure"

"But, if you fail then you will have a second even third chance to try again to succeed," the chorus replies.

"I'd rather not fail at all, though," the protagonist says.

"What then are you successful at doing?" the chorus asks.

"Nothing. Doing nothing is what I'm good at," the protagonist says. And she sits down on a chair in her living room and closes her eyelids.

"But what type of story may be written if you the protagonist do nothing?" The chorus asks.

But the protagonist does not answer this time, just relaxes in the chair, with her hands folded on her slight stomach and her legs crossed at her ankles.

The chorus murmurs, "She does nothing, nothing at all. And she seems to enjoy it." So then they request, "Please do nothing."

And the protagonist again does not answer, simply remains silent in her chair, as if the chorus has left.

And soon the chorus does just that, leaves the protagonist alone with nothing, repeating as they exit, "Please do nothing."

And the protagonist again does not answer, simply remains silent in her chair.