

pivot
An Interdisciplinary Journal

The Invisible Woman

Deborah Herman

Pivot, Vol. 10, No. 1 (2023): Voyages: Traversing the White Space

Published by York University. *Pivot* is published through Open Journal Systems (OJS).

Deborah Herman

The Invisible Woman

“An ‘invisible,’ ‘non-visible,’ ‘hidden,’ ‘non-apparent,’ or ‘unseen’ disability is any physical, mental, or emotional impairment that goes largely unnoticed.”

—*The Invisible Disability Project*

What a useless power I’ve got. The ability
to render myself invisible.

Typical of my male creators, my character
is bombarded with cosmic rays
and mutates into
The Invisible Girl.

Sure, I can bend wavelengths of light
and disappear at will. I can’t eat,
food is visible until assimilated.

My role in the group is a maternal one.
I can throw force fields around my teammates
like a pair of fleshless arms and carry them to safety,
but I can’t articulate my inner rage
through random acts of violence.

I can’t even run away, my footprints
trace my steps
and betray my position in the snow.