

11.4 The Identity of Animals and People (b) (p. 291)

She's So Hard to See

ANOTHER ENTIRELY UNLIKELY PHENOMENON that some people manage to believe in is called Human Spontaneous Involuntary Invisibility. A leading researcher on this is Donna Higbee, CHT. (I don't know what those letters stand for.) On her website she gives several examples, including this one:

Melanie in Ventura, California, became invisible while sitting on her own living room sofa and staring at the wall, lost in her own thoughts. Her husband was walking around the house looking for her but could not see her sitting there, only several feet away from where he was walking. This lasted for approximately ten minutes, then she was suddenly visible again. Her husband was quite upset with her and thought she had been hiding from him. She assured him that she had been sitting there all along, but to this day, he does not believe her.¹

Woo! Don't that make the hairs stand up on the back of your neck? Twilight Zone or what??

“A common criticism of the Internet is that it is dominated by the crude, the uninformed, the immature, the smug, the untalented, the repetitious, the pathetic, the hostile, the deluded, the self-righteous, and the shrill. This criticism overlooks the fact that the Internet also offers—for the savvy individual who knows where to look—the tasteless and the borderline insane.”—Dave Barry²

Anyway, what's relevant about the story of Melanie for our purposes is again what is pre-supposed about human identity: what makes it possible for the same person to exist while undergoing some rather strange changes.

¹ <<http://rapunzi.dotshosting.com/GoodHigbee/invisibility.html>>.

² *Dave Barry in Cyberspace* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1996), p. 149.