

# Gregor Samsa's Sister

by [Cristina Nehring](#) (September 2024)



Woman with Violin (Henri Matisse, 1921)

"I am not hungry for the food  
That you have," says Gregor

To his sister, says she  
To the men at her door.

If ever she thought  
Love was just the livery  
Of desire, the silver  
One puts around a meal

To dignify one's greed,  
Now she knows different.  
The plates tower  
With sweetmeats but

The girl has no appetite.  
How gaunt is the angel  
Of passion, how spartan;  
She'd rather starve,

This dreaming waif,  
Than defile her  
Fierce hunger  
With *snacking*..

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**Cristina Nehring's** most recent book is *The Child Who Never Spoke: 23 1/2 Lessons in Fragility*. She is also the author of *A Vindication of Love* which made the front page of the *New York Times Book Review* as well as two books in French. She writes for *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She lives in Paris with her daughter.

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