

LAURA WAGNER

When She Didn't Have the Energy

When Kate didn't have time, she brought her '60s back-up singers. Kate could go to the grocery store in sweatpants, no shower because everyone gazed at the girls' sequined dresses and bouffants. Discount pinkish ground beef never sounded so good as when the girls would "ooh wah ooh wah" as she set it in the cart. Washing dishes became choreography as they "shoobie doo wahhed" for each wine glass emerging from soapy water.

Even with the day-to-day help, Kate still didn't have the energy. One Friday when her husband surprised her with a sitter, Kate stood yawning in front of her closet, despite the "sha na na's." Her next yawn ended with a hum. She continued humming, shifting her weight from left to right. Then she backed up and let Donna take lead.

LAURA WAGNER is a graduate of Northwestern and DePaul and a current graduate student at Northeastern Illinois University. She teaches high school English at her alma mater, Wheeling High School. She lives in the Northwest Chicago suburbs with her husband and two sons, who love stories and have great imaginations (yes!). This is her first publication.

