



# A Duty to Look Beautiful

by Patty Holloway

Yes, armless is harmless. That's how we want our women to be. No attachments, free from holding a job or babies they'll flaunt, free for only this life of luxury. They're really quite bright; they soon come to know their only duty's to look beautiful. We take care of everything they need. So they have no stress. We keep them moveable—we put them in their place, and there they stay. This one's very fond of the blue glass bowl: two vessels cracked though not in the same way, but both denied the prize they long to hold: Sweet water slips away from the basin. No hand to hold for the lovely maiden.

Image: "Blue Bowl" by Liz Magee. "A Duty to Look Beautiful" was written by Patty Holloway for *Rattle's* Ekphrastic Challenge, August 2020, and selected as the Editor's Choice.