



Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature

By Rosemarie Garland Thomson

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Inaugurates a new field of disability studies by framing disability as a minority discourse rather than a medical one, revising oppressive narratives and revealing liberatory ones. The book examines disabled figures in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Rebecca Harding Davis's *Life in the Iron Mills*, in African-American novels by Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde, and in the popular cultural ritual of the freak show.

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Editorial Review

Review

A well-written and provocative beginning to a conversation about disability that is long overdue among scholars in literary and cultural studies.

Review

Provides complex answers to the puzzle of American images of disabilities from the nineteenth century to the present. This is a solid, useful book which all readers interested in the relationship between society and culture must read.

(Sander L. Gilman, University of Chicago)

From the Back Cover

As the first major critical study to examine literary and cultural representations of physical disability, *Extraordinary Bodies* situates disability as a social construction, shifting it from a property of bodies to a product of cultural rules about what bodies should be or do. Rosemarie Garland Thomson examines disabled figures in sentimental novels such as Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Rebecca Harding Davis's *Life in the Iron Mills*, African-American novels by Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde, and the popular cultural ritual of the freak show.

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Ila Robinette:

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Rafael Perez:

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