

# On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space: Exploded Views—A Transformative Literary Journey

Fairy tales, with their enchanting worlds and timeless characters, have captivated imaginations for centuries. However, beneath the surface of these beloved stories lie hidden narratives and complex representations of disability that have often been overlooked. In her groundbreaking work, *On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space: Exploded Views*, renowned disability studies expert Rosemarie Garland-Thomson embarks on an illuminating journey to uncover these narratives and challenge the traditional portrayal of disability in these iconic tales.

## Disability in Fairy Tales: Unveiling Hidden Narratives

Garland-Thomson meticulously examines a wide array of fairy tales, from the well-known classics to lesser-known gems. She uncovers a rich tapestry of characters with disabilities, from the physically impaired to the mentally challenged. Through her insightful analysis, she reveals the subtle and overt ways in which these characters have been marginalized, caricatured, or even erased from the narrative.



## Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space (Exploded Views) by Amanda Leduc

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1929 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 255 pages

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Garland-Thomson argues that these representations reflect the societal biases and prejudices that have historically surrounded disability. She challenges the notion that disability is inherently negative or undesirable, instead highlighting the strengths and resiliencies of these characters.

### **Making Space for Inclusivity: Reconstructing the Fairy Tale**

Beyond merely analyzing the existing narratives, Garland-Thomson proposes a transformative approach to fairy tales. She calls for a "disability aesthetic," one that embraces the diverse experiences and perspectives of people with disabilities and challenges the traditional norms of beauty and normalcy.

She envisions fairy tales that are inclusive and representative of the full spectrum of human experience. These stories would feature characters with disabilities who are not mere objects of pity or fear but complex and relatable individuals with their own agency and desires.



Garland-Thomson emphasizes the importance of "making space" for these stories, both in literature and in the broader cultural landscape. She

encourages writers, educators, and readers to actively seek out and support inclusive narratives that challenge the status quo and promote a more just and equitable society.

### **Exploded Views: Seeing Disability in a New Light**

Throughout the book, Garland-Thomson uses the concept of "exploded views" to examine fairy tales. This technique involves breaking down complex objects or systems into their individual components to reveal their underlying structure and relationships.

Applying this approach to fairy tales, she reveals the intricate layers of meaning and representation that often go unnoticed. She invites readers to "explode" their own preconceptions about disability and to see these stories in a new and transformative light.

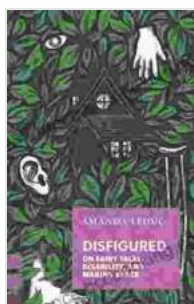


By exploring the hidden narratives and challenging the traditional portrayals of disability, Garland-Thomson's work not only enriches our understanding of fairy tales but also has profound implications for the way we view disability in society. It sparks a crucial conversation about inclusivity, diversity, and the need for a more representative world.

*On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space: Exploded Views* is a groundbreaking work that redefines the boundaries of fairy tale analysis

and challenges the way we think about disability.

Through her meticulous research and transformative approach, Rosemarie Garland-Thomson opens up new possibilities for inclusivity and representation in literature and beyond. Her book is a powerful testament to the power of storytelling to reflect and shape our understanding of the world and to create a more just and equitable society for all.



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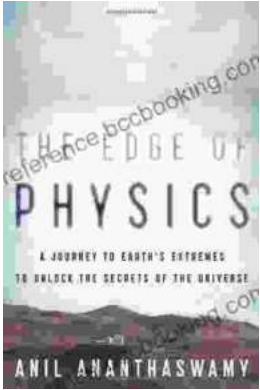
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