

Narratives of Disability Visibility

Stories of voices, challenges, and resilience

"When You Are Waiting to Be Healed" by June Eric-Udorie

This piece captures the psychological toll of being told your pain isn't valid or real. It explores the identity-shaping experience of navigating invisible illness and dismissal by medical systems.



"How a Blind Astronomer Found a Way to Hear the Stars" by

Wanda Díaz-Merced

Díaz-Merced transforms her visual loss into innovation, using sonification to explore astronomy. Her story is one of adaptability and ingenuity in STEM fields.

"The Erasure of Indigenous People in Chronic Illness" by Jen Deerinwater

This narrative exposes how chronic illness is both medical and political, especially for Indigenous people. Deerinwater articulates the layers of erasure in health care and cultural recognition.



"Why My Novel is Dedicated to My Disabled Friend Maddy" by A.H. Reaume

Reaume reveals how interdependence and friendship are central to survival and creativity. The story illustrates disabled kinship and collective care outside of formal systems.

Being

What it means to exist and be recognized as a disabled person in a world that often overlooks or misrepresents disabled lives. The narratives focus on identity, presence, and personhood—challenging societal assumptions and asserting that disabled people are whole, valuable, and complex human beings. Being emphasizes the importance of visibility, dignity, and self-definition.

Becoming

Centers on the evolution of identity, especially how disabled people come to understand themselves and their place in the world. These stories often involve diagnosis, growing up, or coming into disability identity later in life. This section reflects change, self-discovery, and empowerment through personal and social experiences.

Doing

Highlights the actions disabled people take to live, survive, resist, and thrive. Whether through activism, navigating systems, or asserting their autonomy, these stories are about agency. Doing showcases how disabled people advocate for themselves and others, take political action, and participate fully in society despite barriers.

Connecting

Focuses on relationships, community, love, and belonging. It illustrates the deep need for and power of connection—whether through friendships, romance, language, culture, or collective identity. These stories reveal how disabled people build meaningful lives through shared understanding and interdependence.

"Unspeakable Conversations" by Harriet McBryde Johnson
Johnson challenges societal assumptions about quality of life and worth through her interaction with philosopher Peter Singer. Her narrative powerfully highlights the dignity of disabled life and questions ableist logic embedded in mainstream ethics.



The Isolation of Being Deaf in Prison" by Jeremy Woody

Woody's story is a raw portrayal of compounded marginalization—being both incarcerated and Deaf. His lack of access to interpreters and basic communication underscores systemic neglect.

"This Is Not a Love Story" – Nadine Vogel

This narrative challenges societal stereotypes about romance, sexuality, and disability. Vogel shares her personal experiences navigating dating and intimacy as a disabled woman, asserting that disabled people are just as deserving of love, desire, and connection. The story disrupts the narrative that disability and romance are incompatible.



"Living the Word" – Amanda Leduc

Leduc reflects on her relationship with language and storytelling as a disabled writer. She explores how disability shapes both the form and content of her work and how reclaiming voice and narrative is a powerful act of identity and connection.