

DISFIGURED. ON FAIRY TALES, DISABILITY, AND MAKING SPACE.

Amanda Leduc (Coach House, march 2020, 4 ed, 250 pp.)

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<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/45010932-disfigured>

- World English: Coach House (original)
- Germany (Nautilus Verlag)
- South Korea (Eulyoo)

In fairy tales, happy endings are the norm –as long as you're beautiful and walk on two legs. And since fairy tales are the foundational myths of our culture, how can a girl with a disability ever think she'll have a happy ending?

THE WASHINGTON POST – “Read this smart, tenacious book.”

THE STAR - “A deeply researched cultural critique of the ‘happily ever after’ model of storytelling.”

CBC.CA – “Leduc ruminates on the connections we make between fairy tale archetypes and tries to make sense of them through a 21st century disablist lens.”

TORONTO STAR - "Historically we have associated the disabled body image and disabled life with an unhappy ending.”

QUILL & QUIRE - "She [Leduc] argues that template is how society continues to treat the disabled: rather than making the world accessible for everyone, the disabled are often asked to adapt to inaccessible environments.”

LIBRARY JOURNAL - "Leduc persuasively illustrates the power of stories to affect reality in this painstakingly researched and provocative study that invites us to consider our favorite folktales from another angle.”

***Disfigured* will point the way toward a new world where disability is no longer a punishment or impediment but operates, instead, as a way of centering a protagonist and helping them to cement their own place in a story, and from there, the world.**

From examinations of disability in tales from the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen through to modern interpretations ranging from Disney to Angela Carter, and the fight for disabled representation in today's media, Leduc connects the fight for disability justice to the growth of modern, magical stories, and argues for increased awareness and acceptance of that which is other – helping us to see and celebrate the magic inherent in different bodies.

AMANDA LEDUC is the author of the novels *The Miracles of Ordinary Men* and the forthcoming *The Centaur's Wife*. She has cerebral palsy and lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

