



DISABLING SCIENCE FICTION

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ABSTRACT

Representation of marginalized identities has broad implications for the lived realities of those identified and identifying as such. I argue that science fiction's representation of disability—both physical and mental—is of particular importance because of the genre's role in utopia-building, where lack and presence are clearly demarcated as “not wanted” or “wanted.” For my honors thesis, as part of my honors degree, I underwent study of this tendency. Through this study, I have found that science fiction typically argues for the eradication of disability. In response I have engaged in two simultaneous projects: The first a scholarly analysis of texts on disability, disability representation, and disability representation within science fiction, in addition to a close read of science fiction text *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* for its attempt to better incorporate disability; the second a syllabus comprised of the research my paper required.