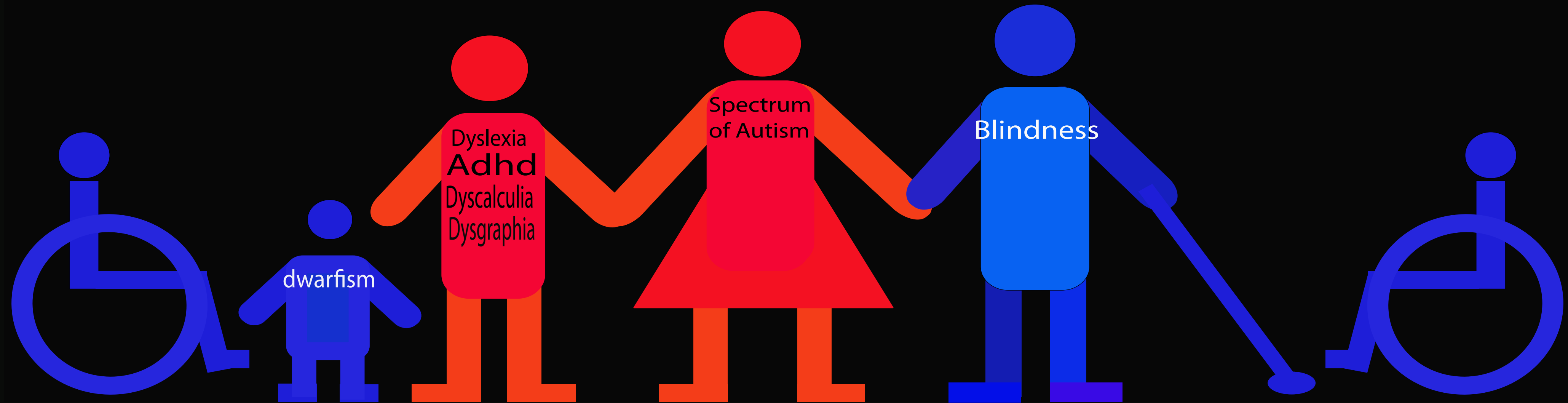


Watchmojo

Inspiration

Porn



Inspiration Porn and How Best to Depict Disabled Characters


By Damian Hoffman

I was there for depression. An old office, games scattered on the floor. The type of games where you put a circle into a hole that is a circle. On the other side of a long table sat the female psychologist: old, like the room. Overweight. We got on the topic of my 'difficulties.' She said they were "normal." She had a list—a list of everyone who I could aspire to be: Albert Einstein, Steven Spielberg...Daredevil. A blind man who can see with all his senses. Goals. She hoped that I would be inspired. I only felt tired.

A big problem in the media today is the depiction of disabilities in two strict ways. One treats a disability as something that must be cured—or, even worse as a joke—and the other as something special. The Good Doctor, Sherlock, Daredevil—in all these shows, the one with the disability, whether it be autism or blindness, is treated as a savant. Nuanced, yes, but as exceptional because of their differences. Stella Young, an Australian comedian and disability rights activist, calls this Inspiration Porn.

In her 2014 TED Talk, right before she died, Young says, "I am not here to inspire you. I am here to tell you that we have been lied to about disability. Yeah, we've been sold the lie that disability is a Bad Thing, capital B, capital T. It is a bad thing, and to live with a disability makes you exceptional. It is a bad thing, and to live with a disability makes you exceptional. It's not a bad thing, and it doesn't make you exceptional. Young was a disabled woman who had osteogenesis imperfecta (it was as if her bones were made of glass). She points out that when someone saw her dealing with her difficulties, they felt so inspired. This is the basis of Inspiration Porn. Disabled people are used to make other people feel better, instead of those people finding a solution to whatever their separate problem might be.

Representation is an internal debate within the disabled community and within the society at large. For instance, when it comes to the character The Penguin on the TV show Gotham, Yuan Yao, a fan of the show, says, "Penguin...has a disability that makes him walk like a penguin, but I like that he is smart and also very emotionally evil." However, despite this complexity, for me the issue is that Penguin's disability is used solely to define his role as a villain. Another, example of this, in world of movies are characters like "The Accountant" with Ben Affleck, Lucian Vezin, who has autism and a fan the movie say, "I think the most accurate depiction is probably The Accountant with Ben Affleck. Never feels exaggerated or over the top." However, for the main character depiction of disability for me is unrealistic because not only main character is savant, but he is also super attractive. The guy is pretty much superhero, after all is same the actor that plays batman. Maybe if they chose different actor with autism it will be better. That is one of problems with representation. Withe autism media normally focus in the 1 percent of the population of autistic people who has savant syndrome according to AppliedBehaviorAnalysisEdu.org. When majority autistic people have IQ average or less then 70 according to www.spectrumnews.org



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I am affected by learning disabilities. I have dyslexia and dysphasia, which makes it difficult to express myself. I also have dyscalculia (a difficulty with numbers) and difficulties of attention. When I am trying to write or speak, I feel tired, almost drunk, a soup of multiple voices speaking to me at once: my Spanish teacher is telling me I must write things this way, my English teacher telling me this way, my French teacher this way, and my Catalan teacher that way. In case of dyslexia” is the most common cause of reading, writing, and spelling difficulties. Of people with reading difficulties, 70-80% are likely to have dyslexia. It is estimated that between 5-10% of the population has dyslexia”. According to the university of Michigan. Dyslexia is learning disability that normally is genetic, meaning somebody in famille has dyslexia is possible you also have in cause my father, aunt and probably my grandfather.

Luciano Vezina say.” I am on the autism spectrum. At least the mild form. One of the common traits that I would have is that I would sometimes talk to people without looking at them in the face.” In case of according to the Canadian Medical Association Journal,” approximately 1 - 2% of the Canadian population is on the autism spectrum.”

David Tello Benites, who suspects he has a learning or mental disability, but has never been formally diagnosed, describes the feeling of being inside his own head like this: “I feel lost. I do not know who I am. I want to be friends with everybody, but people go away.” People with disabilities are more possible suffer from distress, depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal thoughts according to The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario.

Christiana Mundilfari a psychology and teacher at LaSalle college. have bachelor’s in psychology and psychologies children. I work with people who suffer from abuse. I got psychologies for working with AHD.I am teacher at LaSalle college.She gets feels that in media people with disabilities are portrayed:

“I get a sense that person has any type of disability are usually portray has victims of there disability and they are overcoming. However, this stick met of then being victims, sometimes it bothers me because we are seen then in lesser degree. They show that are victimisers. “

A good example of this is the movie “A Beautiful mind “that even if is inspired in real history of Mathematician who was dingoes with schizophrenia. The movie still portrays has victim and focus too much on his sickness or disability. Pascale Warmoes a psychology, teacher in special care in la salle college and fan movie. She says: “in I feel that they to much importance to his disability that his talent. They focus more on the disability and they focus less on the fact that he wins novel price. Even real person when he saw the movie. He said that focus to much in his disability that of him and his beautiful minds. “However, the movies still have beautiful picture and the performance is perfect portray of schizophrenia.

Christiana Mundilfari adds: “the media focus to much is on the disability of person then people strange or talents. Also, the problem is disability used as label. For example, in our job we do not say schizophrenic person. We say person diagnose schizophrenia because the disability is not part. Sadly, when we see person with disability see about his disability that makes then. It is like reviser pigsties mean that we take somebody by his disability that his strangers. People should see for there strangers and challenges but never petty about then that problem society and media. “



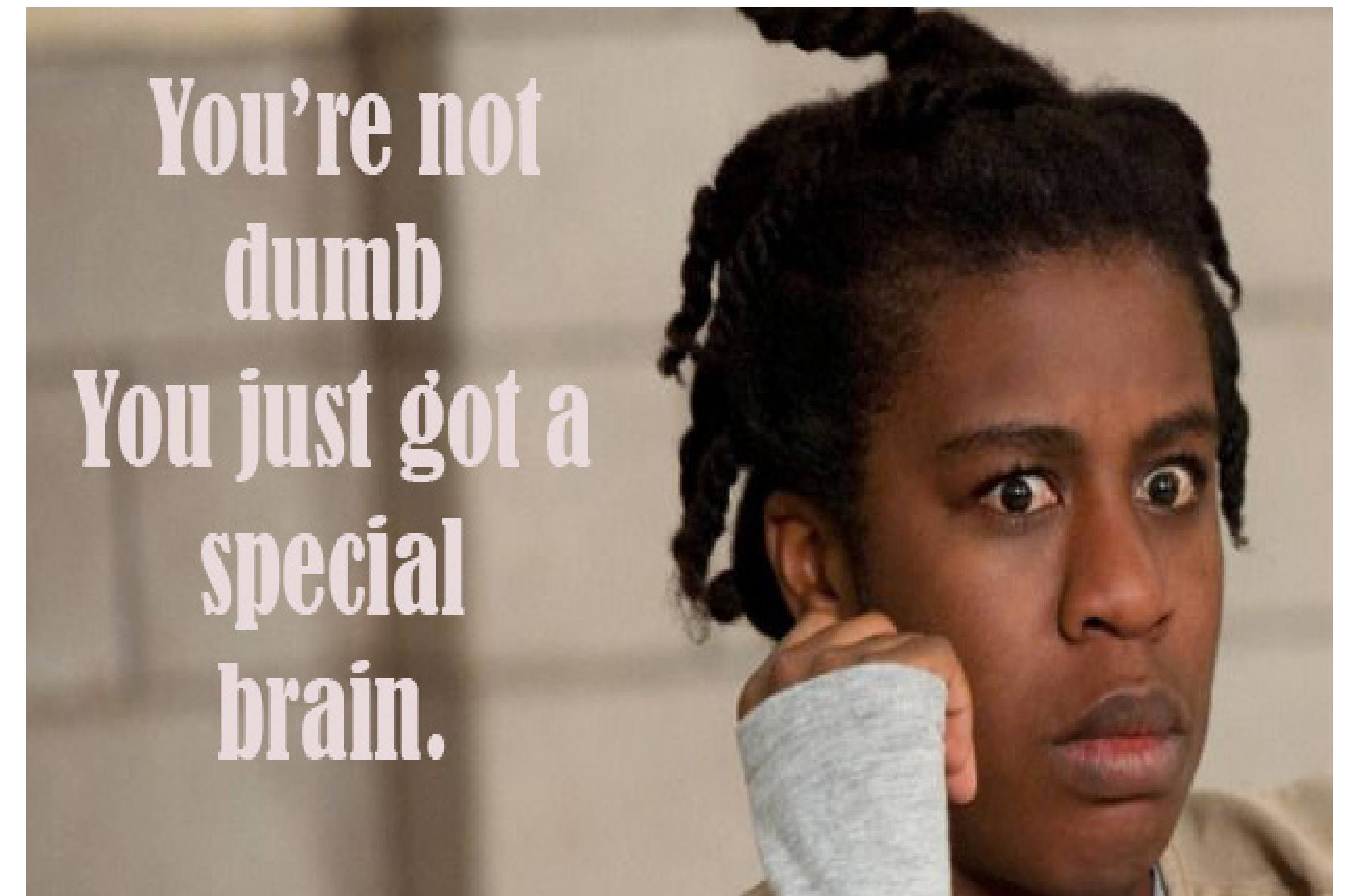


In Game of Thrones, Season 4, Episode 7, Oberyn Martell talks about how he sees Tyrion Lannister, who has dwarfism: “Your head was a bit large. Your arms and legs were a bit small, but no claw. No red eye. No tail between your legs... We didn’t try to hide our disappointment. ‘That’s not a monster,’ I told Cersei. ‘That’s just a baby.’ And she said, ‘He killed my mother.’” In this scene, Oberyn Martell sees Tyrion Lannister not as a monster, not as someone special.

He sees him for what he really is: human. Tyrion Lannister is an exception. A character with a physical disability treated with complex humanity and hard-earned intelligence, even when he is making awful choices and even when he is being mocked by a society that does not understand him. Pascale Warmoes is fan the show says: “In series his characters in multiples scene talk about how he is being miss treated by society in incorrectly and injustices way. “

Tiffany Doggett from the show Orange new black is best representation character with learning disability, dyslexia. Spoiler alert about season 3 to7, Tiffany Doggett start in series has extreme religious antagonist. However, in later seasons we get know more about her character and past. She comes broken famille his were drug abuser and rednecks. She abuses both physically and mentally by her mother and father.

Later in seasons 6 to 7, she discovers that she is exactly dyslexia. She is giving one second opportunity to finish his high school. This is big problem for people with learning disabilities. A lot who has learning disability are discover this when they already are adults from 18 to 60 years, and they are not with high school. In because I finished high school at age of 20. Dyslexia comes from famille in cause of Tiffany Doggett she gets from her father who call stupid even he is clearly dyslexia to. I problem that also had face when I was small. When finally, Tiffany Doggett gets a opportunity to show that she is not stupid by passing exams to get his school diploma. She does not get the extra time that she needs. This a problem I had to face my all life. I always have fight to get help I need for my disabilities. After Tiffany Doggett finishing the exam, she goes into depression because she thinks that she failed. She kills herself. After she is dead, we discover that she exactly past the exam.



In my point of view, a better way of handling representation, beyond stereotype, revolves around three core concepts: show the struggle, don't shy away from it; show the character's talents not directly linked with their disability; and don't compare the character with a person who doesn't have those disabilities, and also don't create a hierarchy of disabilities and make it seem like they are interchangeable, as everyone has their own specific experience.

Christiana Mundilfari say: "We should focus in the strange of that person and used that strange to overcome their challenges and this way we can help to motivated then because I lot of people with disabilities see themself as bad or weakness. "

Just recently, I watched a new commercial for Toyota in superbball 2021 about a woman who was born with a rare condition and her legs needed to be amputated. In the beginning, we learn she is from Siberia and is going to be adopted by an American family. They say that her life is going to be difficult, but her mother insists that it will be "amazing." In the future, she grows up to be a Paralympic and we watch her in a swimming competition.

Why are we only seeing her after she has become successful? Why aren't we seeing her everyday life—when she wakes up and has to stand and walk and swim—all with difficulty? Picture this scene: she gets up from the bed. She has no legs. She has to put on her fake legs. Her expression is a mix of happy and sad. Then we cut to her in the pool, getting to feel free. Her expression is not one of happiness or sadness. Only of freedom. This is her experience of being a disabled person in the water. Her experience. The world flowing away with the water.

Why can't we see a commercial like that?

I like TV. I want to see myself there. Not a savant—like Sheldon on Big Bang Theory. Not a superhuman—like Professor X. Not a joke—like Kevin Hart's dyslexic character in Night School. A disabled person. A human. Period.



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