



April 23 - April 29

## DISABILITY BOOK WEEK



[DisabilityBookWeek.org](http://DisabilityBookWeek.org)



[disabilitybookweek@gmail.com](mailto:disabilitybookweek@gmail.com)

# Submitting Your Book

Welcome!

Our team of panelists are looking forward to discovering new books that feature disabilities and we hope to include yours on our *Recommended Book List* for Disability Book Week. Please read these instructions carefully, as any books submitted incorrectly will not be processed. Here is how it works:

1. Review the panelists below to find the best fit for reviewing your book.
2. Fill out the short submission application (found after panelist bios).
3. Send copies of your book to the panelist along with the completed application. Please note that the panelists vary on what formats they accept. Put **Disability Book Week Submission** in the subject line.
4. Please allow 2-3 weeks for your book to be processed. We will give your book equal time and attention as we strive to thoroughly read and review each book.

Please note: Submitting your book does NOT guarantee a spot on our *Recommended Books List*.

Kind regards,

*Mary Mecham*

Disability Book Week Director



# DISABILITY BOOK WEEK



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## Disability Book Week Panelists



### Kirsten Rodning

Kirsten Rodning (she/her) holds a Master of Arts in Literature degree with a specialization in Medieval and Fantasy literature and ecocriticism. In her spare time she has been blogging about video games since 2012. Recently, Kirsten has started an additional blog that focuses more on her nature observations and the books she reads, called My Forest Library ([myforestlibrary.com](http://myforestlibrary.com)). Kirsten is neurodivergent and has several chronic illnesses including endometriosis, ME/CFS, and other comorbidities.

**Preferred Genre:** Non-Fiction, Memoir, SciFi/Fantasy, Nature Writing, History, Horror (preferably fantasy horror, not true crime), and Mysteries and Thrillers.

**Preferred Disability:** Autism, Chronic Illness, Chronic Pain, Heart Conditions, POTS, Partial Blindness, Allergies, and MCAS

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical, or Audio (NO ebooks)

**Contact Info:**

**Email:** [kirsten@myforestlibrary.com](mailto:kirsten@myforestlibrary.com)

**Mailing address:**

Email to request mailing address



### Rosalie Mastaler

Rosalie is on the board for Advocates for Disability Inclusion in Literature. She loves to find books where children can see themselves and say, "Hey! They look just like me!". She advocates for disability visibility through entertaining children's literature and ultimately hopes to help kids understand the meaning of inclusion and friendship. She has compiled "The Ultimate Book List" which contains a database of over 150 book titles that have characters with disabilities. She can be found on social media as a content creator at @Mastalertyof5 and also hosts Angel City Book Club where she interviews authors with disabilities and features books that have characters with disabilities.

**Preferred Genre:** Children's Books, picture books, graphic novels, middle grade novels, Non-Fiction

**Preferred Disability:** Any, with an emphasis on Limb difference, Hard of hearing/Deaf, Physical disabilities

**Preferred Submission Method:** Prefers Physical, but digital is okay

**Contact Info:**

**Email:** [Rosalie.mastaler@gmail.com](mailto:Rosalie.mastaler@gmail.com)

**Mailing address:**

Rosalie Mastaler  
Mastaler Party of 5  
PO Box 362  
Weir, TX 78674

**Instagram:**

@MastalerPartyof5



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### Britanie Sutton

Hey! My name is Britanie and I am honored to be chosen as a panelist for disability book week! I am disabled myself and enjoy reading and reviewing books with all types of disability representation. I have friedreich's ataxia or FA. FA is a neuromuscular disease that affects my heart, balance, coordination, and movement. I am a wheelchair user and have cardiomyopathy from FA.

**Preferred Genre:** Fantasy, Romance, Children's Books

**Preferred Disability:** All types

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical, but also accepts ebooks

#### Contact Info:

**Email:**  
britanie\_93@yahoo.com

**Kindle email:**  
britbehindabook@kindle.com

**Mailing address:**  
Britanie Sutton  
12595 Old Tullahoma Rd  
Tullahoma, TN 37388



### Wendy Moses

Wendy Moses is a 24-year-old disabled author who has a passion for dispelling the myth that joy is only found in a pain-free life. Chronically ill herself, Wendy loves sharing other stories of grit, endurance, and hope. Reading, tea, and dogs are among her favorite things. Though she grew up in southeast Michigan, Wendy currently resides in Florida's panhandle.

**Preferred Genre:** Fantasy, Romance, Children's Books, Memoirs, Poetry

**Preferred Disability:** Mental illness, Invisible illness, Genetic defects/abnormalities, Endocrine abnormalities

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical or ebooks

#### Contact Info:

**Mailing Address:**  
Wendy Moses  
4336 Pace Lane  
Milton, FL 32571

**Email:**  
wendymosesauthor@gmail.com



### Christine Bruce

My name is Christine. I'm an esl teacher, and museum studies student. I'm a native of New Orleans and love to travel. I live with adult onset still disease, an autoimmune disease that functions similar to Rheumatoid Arthritis. I also have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and ADHD. I am an auxiliary cane user, and chronic pain sufferer.

**Preferred Genre:** Horror/ Gothic, Fantasy, Sci-Fi, Historical Romance,

**Preferred Disability:** Cane use, Fibromyalgia, RA and joint related diseases

**Preferred Submission Method:** Prefers digital (epub format ONLY) or physical

#### Contact Info:

**Email:**  
cbruce0589@gmail.com

**Mailing address:**  
Email for mailing address



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## Disability Book Week Panelists



### Joan Conte

Joan Conte (they/them) is a trans disabled reader and small business owner of Trans Book Box. As the owner of Trans Book Box, Joan highlights, through book selections, the wide intersectionality that exists in the trans experience. They are also an educator, parent to 4 rescue guinea pigs and 2 foster birds, and a traveler. Joan runs a social media account @therabbithole\_joanlizluna where they talk about books, disability, and transness. Joan loves representation that features cane users or trans individuals.

**Preferred Genre:** Memoirs, Horror, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Queer Romance, Poetry  
**Preferred Disability:** CFS/ Chronic Pain, Mental Illness, Cane Users  
**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical and digital

#### Contact Info:

**Email:**  
jecinwv@gmail.com

**Mailing address:**  
14921 SW Millikan Way Apt 921  
Beaverton OR 97003



### Mollie Tinnin

Mollie Tinnin is an emergency manager focused on supporting the needs of the disability community throughout all cycles of natural and man made disasters. When she's not working with the disability community at-large, she advocates for better access to care and durable medical equipment for ostomy patients like herself having been to Capitol Hill three times with the United Ostomy Association of America.

**Preferred Genre:** Manga, Anime, Children's, Young Adult, Romance and Mystery  
**Preferred Disability:** Any  
**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical or digital

#### Contact Info:

**Mailing Address:**  
17550 Ashton Avenue, Greenwell  
Springs, LA 70739

**Email:**  
mollie.tinnin@gmail.com

**Instagram:** @ChronicallyConnected



### Haley Bradshaw

Haley Bradshaw is a 4th year medical student in Tennessee planning to become a pediatrician. This lifelong learner found booktok during quarantine and fell in love with using fiction as a means to advocate and spread disability love. Being born with a heart defect and having two open heart surgeries in childhood, Haley never saw anyone like herself portrayed in any kind of media. Her booktok has been a way to combine her loves of medicine and fiction to bring love and acceptance to the disability community.

**Preferred Genre:** Fantasy, Sci-Fi, Romcom  
**Preferred Disability:** Any, with soft spot for invisible illness/ disability  
**Preferred Submission Method:** ebooks or physical books

#### Contact Info:

**Email:** Haleyb333@gmail.com

**Mailing address:**  
Email for mailing address

**TikTok:** @the.page.sage



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## Disability Book Week Panelists



### Megan Higgins

Megan Marie Higgins is a children's author and disability advocate. She wrote the children's book "Super Special Magic Shoes" to help educate and normalize the wearing of leg braces. She is an advocate for her daughter who has a neuromuscular disorder and wears her own super special magic shoes. Megan has personal experience with autoimmune issues such as rheumatoid arthritis, hashimoto's disease and Sjogren's syndrome as well as traumatic brain injury.

**Preferred Genre:** ONLY accepting Children's books at this time

**Preferred Disability:** Any, but with special interest in RA, autoimmune conditions, brain injury, neuromuscular disorders, hypotonia, hypermobility and leg braces

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical or ebook

**Contact Info:**

**Email:**  
superspecialbooks@gmail.com

**Mailing address:**  
Email for mailing address



### Patty DeDurr

Patty DeDurr (she/ her) is neurodivergent and also a mom, healthcare worker, and a multi award winning author. She provides educational information and resources for individuals looking for guidance on her publisher's website Sensing Greatness. She is determined to help reduce stigma surrounding neurodivergency by increasing representation in literature.

**Preferred Genre:** Children's literature or Young Adult

**Preferred Disability:** Any, but especially enjoys neurodivergence

**Preferred Submission Method:** Either physical or ebooks (pdf only)

**Contact Info:**

**Email:**  
info@sensinggreatness.com

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 71491  
Clive, IA 50325



### Hillary Jorgensen

Hillary is an avid reader with a rare form of dwarfism. She runs the bookstagram account @whathillarygraceread where she reads, features and reviews a variety of genres through a disability lens. She is particularly excited when she gets to feature disabled authors. While Hillary has a particular love of mysteries, thrillers and non-fiction she is open to reading any genre that features well drawn disabled characters, disabled authors, and/or non-fiction by and for people with disabilities. When Hillary isn't reading, you can find her working at a statewide disability rights non-profit where she is the co-executive director or in Colorado's wonderful outdoors with her two pups.

**Preferred Genre:** Mystery, Thrillers, Non-Fiction

**Preferred Disability:** Any

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical or ebook (PDF only)

**Contact Info:**

**Email:**  
hillaryjorgensen5280@gmail.com

**Mailing address:**  
3560 Helena St.  
Aurora, CO 80011

**Instagram:**  
@whathillarygraceread





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### Temma Thomas

Temma Thomas is a neurodivergent speech-language pathologist with a PhD in stuttering research. Currently, she is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Michigan specializing in the neuroscience of speech disorders. She is dyslexic and has ADHD as well as anxiety. Temma prefers any novel with romantic plotlines, and primarily enjoys reading romance, fantasy, and YA romance and fantasy. She hopes to take this opportunity to highlight what is done well in disability representation and to support authors as they include neurodiversity in their stories.

**Preferred Genre:** Romance, Fantasy, YA Romance, YA Fantasy

**Preferred Disability:** Any

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical or ebooks

**Contact Info:**

**Email:** shanleybelletreleaven@gmail.com

**Mailing address:**

1835 Northbrook Drive,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



### Destiny Clarke

Destiny Clarke (she/ they) is a passionate educator and podcaster, known for her show *Closeted History: LGBTQ+ Stories of the Past*. As someone who identifies as having ADHD and fibromyalgia, Destiny is particularly interested in representing chronic illness in fiction, along with depictions of mental health issues. She is an avid reader of both science fiction and historical fiction, with a particular preference for stories that showcase marginalized voices.

**Preferred Genre:** Science Fiction, Historical Fiction

**Preferred Disability:** Chronic Illness, Mental Health Issues

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical only

**Contact Info:**

**Email:**

closetedhistorypodcast@gmail.com

**Mailing Address:**

Email to get mailing address



### Jessica Fortenberry

Jessica Fortenberry was born in Tennessee and grew up in Japan with an undiagnosed autistic brother. When her son was eight weeks old, Jessica had a stroke, and her experience with brain damage influences how she sees the world. Since her disability is invisible--and her autistic relatives don't "look autistic"--she most enjoys reading about people of all ages overcoming mental distress, whether that's accepting that they see the world differently and that's okay, or learning how to thrive in a world not built for them, or exploring how their differences make them stronger.

**Preferred Genre:** Children's, Middle Grade, Young Adult

**Preferred Disability:** Anything "Invisible"

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical or ebook (No Audio or PDF)

**Contact Info:**

**Email:**

jcoandwsf@yahoo.com

**Mailing Address:**

101 Grasonville Road  
Alabaster, AL 35007



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## Disability Book Week Panelists



### Ash Bell

Ash Bell (they/them) is a disabled, non-binary educator and parent. As the person behind The Rainbow Toolbox, they frequently consult with schools, nonprofits, and businesses about LGBTQ+ and disability inclusion. You can find out more about them and their work at [www.therainbowtoolbox.com](http://www.therainbowtoolbox.com) or @therainbowtoolbox on instagram.

**Preferred Genre:** Any and all books for young folks: board books, picture books, early readers, middle grade, and young adult, fiction and nonfiction are welcome!

**Preferred Disability:** Mobility issues, Inflammatory skin conditions, Arthritis, IBS, Anxiety, and Depression

**Preferred Submission Method:** Physical only

**Contact Info:**

**Email:** [ashbellconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:ashbellconsulting@gmail.com)

**Mailing address:**

196 Southworth St  
Williamstown, MA 01267



### Sophia de Arez Cintra

Sophia is a Portuguese/ British woman living in the UK. She is a lawyer teaching at a university who has Crohn's disease, anxiety and depression. She averages reading 150 books a year, largely by audiobook but enjoys collecting physical books and also has a kindle.

**Preferred Genre:** Fantasy, Romantic Fiction, Light sci-fi, but open to most genres other than historical fiction.

**Preferred Disability:** Crohn's disease, IBD, gastrointestinal conditions, mental health rep

**Preferred Submission Method:** Audio preferred, but open to physical or ebook

**Contact Info:**

**Email:** [sophiasthoughts.books@gmail.com](mailto:sophiasthoughts.books@gmail.com)

**Mailing address:**

5 Nowlan Court  
Rosenburg Road  
London  
W3 8GF



### Krishangi and Aryan Shroff

Krishangi and Aryan Shroff are a sister and brother pair who share a passion for reading along with their diagnosis of Usher Syndrome, which causes Deafness and Blindness. Aryan is a high school student aspiring to be a lawyer, and Krishangi advocates for disability rights and was one of only 5 finalists for the nationwide Global Genes RareVoice award.

**Preferred Genre:** Fantasy (Aryan) and Children's Books (Krishangi), Teen/Young Adult

**Preferred Disability:** Visual Impairment, Dyslexia, Deafness

**Preferred Submission Method:** Any format, but large print if submitting physical copy to Krishangi

**Contact Info:**

**Email:** [neelamshroff@gmail.com](mailto:neelamshroff@gmail.com)

**Mailing address:**

Email to request mailing address



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## Disability Book Week Submission Application

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

Disability Featured: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this book is a good fit for  
Disability Book Week?

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