



Manoeuvring through A World in Ruins as a Person with Disabilities: A Study of Select Stories from *Rebuilding Tomorrow*

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Abstract

Regarded as the largest minority group, with over 10% of the world's population, disabled individuals have long been silenced and marginalised. The collective effort of these individuals to voice out for their rights resulted in the Disability Civil Rights Movement, which gained momentum in the late twentieth century, marking a shift in the way people with disabilities were perceived and treated across countries. Taking on the ideologies of the movement emerged literary disability studies, a field of study aimed at authentic representations of disability and disabled individuals in literature. There has been a significant increase in disability representation in contemporary literature since, but these individuals are often sidelined in apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction, as the narrative primarily depicts disability either as a burden or as a weakness to be overcome. Breaking free from these traditional tropes is *Rebuilding Tomorrow*, a groundbreaking short story anthology in this genre, featuring protagonists with varied disabilities facing a world that has been severely devastated. Published in 2020 and written by authors with disabilities, these characters power through the odds of survival. Embracing their true self, they begin building communities. By analysing particular stories from the anthology, this paper aims to explore the realistic portrayal of disabled characters and their experience of living in the post-apocalyptic world. Challenging existing stereotypes of pity and supercrip, the paper highlights the humanising representation of disabled individuals and examines how disability is never a barrier but a distinct way of navigating through life.

Keywords: Apocalyptic fiction, Disability, Representation, Resilience, Communal living.