The Madwoman and the Blindman

Bolt, David, Rodas, Julia Miele, Donaldson, Elizabeth J.

Published by The Ohio State University Press

Bolt, David, et al.
The Madwoman and the Blindman: Jayne Eyre, Discourse, Disability.
The Ohio State University Press, 2013.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/23963.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/23963

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=897189
A BOOK OF THIS SORT is as much the outgrowth of community as it is the product of individual effort. Without the larger discourses of disability studies, literary studies, and Victorian studies, such a book would simply have been unimaginable. In recognition of this fact, we, the editors, acknowledge an extraordinary debt to the communities that have nourished, supported, and inspired our contributions to this project: all our colleagues on the editorial board of the Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies; the International Network of Literary & Cultural Disability Scholars (especially Tom Coogan and Irene Rose); the thoughtful and opinionated scholars who comprise the membership of the DS-Hum listserv (especially tireless moderator, Mike Gill); the organizers and attendees of the Victorian Seminar at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY); Joseph Straus of the CUNY Graduate Center and William Ebenstein of CUNY’s School of Professional Studies (SPS), who recently organized and hosted an open disability studies lecture series; three important groups promoting disability studies thinking at Columbia University (the members of the Future of Disability Studies working group at the Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference, the participants in the Seminar on Disability Studies associated with Teachers College, and the organizers
of and presenters at the Narrative Medicine Rounds); Marisa Parham and John Drabinski of Amherst College and the SAWG writers; Stuart Murray and the Leeds Centre for Medical Humanities; and Dan Goodley and the Research Institute for Health and Social Change at Manchester Metropolitan University. The work of these and other such groups and the coming together of scholars—in both actual and virtual environments—to question, challenge, and support one another is vital to the scholarly innovation that we hope is represented by this volume.

Many thanks are due, of course, to Heather Cunningham, Ria Cheyne, and the rest of our colleagues in the Centre for Culture & Disability Studies at Liverpool Hope University (especially Claire Penketh, Laura Waite, and Alan Hodkinson), and in the English departments at New York Institute of Technology and CUNY’s Bronx Community College.

More immediately, we are grateful for the intelligence, dedication, patience, and fine writing of Chris Gabbard, Essaka Joshua, Susannah Mintz, Martha Stoddard Holmes, and Margaret Rose Torrell, whose contributions, without question, provide the main strengths of this book.

To Lennard J. Davis, who contributed the foreword and has so energetically forwarded the ideas and values of disability studies, we are also greatly indebted.

In addition, thanks are due to the editors and publishers of Textual Practice, NWSA Journal, and Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies for permission to include revised versions of previously published articles—“The Blindman in the Classic: Feminisms, Ocularcentrism and Charlotte Brontë’s Jane Eyre” (Textual Practice 22.2 [2008]); “The Corpus of the Madwoman: Toward a Feminist Disability Studies Theory of Embodiment and Mental Illness” (NWSA Journal 14.3 [2002]); and “‘On the Spectrum’: Rereading Contact and Affect in Jane Eyre” (Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies 4.2 [2008]).

We are grateful, as well, to the effort and generosity of the anonymous readers who read our typescript with such critical acumen and to all those involved at The Ohio State University Press, especially our editor and advocate, Sandy Crooms.

Finally, to our family and friends beyond the web of academic life, those who sometimes listened to and helped us argue through the details of our work, who sometimes left us to write and to edit in peace, and who sometimes hounded us out of our solitude for much-needed time at the beach, the pub, or the playground, thank you. Without your measure of wisdom, this book could not have become a reality.