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The Cultural and Political Monster: Body Horror as Disability Representation and Identity Crisis

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The Cultural and Political Monster: Body Horror as Disability Representation and Identity Crisis

I see my disabled body in the monster film. A body that does not cooperate, does not look right, and is not accepted. This project seeks to identify disability in popular film through monstrous bodies, seeking to understand the impact that those bodies have on the culture that created them. This work is not simply looking for the implicit "disability in the text;" it is interrogating the dynamics of power and normalization that hierarchize certain kinds of bodies or livelihoods as "able, normal, better" and others as "disabled, abnormal, worse." Rather than advocating for "better" disability representation, this project demands we rethink the stories told and the politics of access and representation. It is not about seeking out new narratives, but about reconstituting and resituating the narratives that already exist. It is about listening to ignored voices and engaging in new political struggles over power and privilege.