

Book Review

TITLE: *Movie Stars and Sensuous Scars: Essays on the Journey from Disability Shame to Disability Pride*

AUTHOR: Steven E. Brown

PUBLISHER: iUniverse, Inc. People with Disabilities

COST: \$17.95 US

REVIEWER: Tanis Doe tdoe@uvic.ca

History buffs or disabled people interested in learning more about their community history will be interested in this book. Students of disability studies will also benefit from the mixed stories of individual and political, autobiographical and biographical, local and national narratives. While this very accessible, readable set of stories will be appealing to many readers, those who have a more advanced conception of disability studies may find that the book lacks a new level of analysis. However, it adds significantly to what we know about Ed and Zona Roberts and their role in disability history. It shares personal and intimate tales of dealing with disability and the organizations that serve people with disabilities.

The intimate stories are the most enticing. For example, when Steven Brown's partner Lillian cannot move temporarily, they both wait. He writes, "This dissonance impacts every arena of our lives. Sometimes, more often as we age, sexual contact presents difficulties. Which is unfortunate because Lillian is one of the sexiest people I know and easily the most compelling, desirable lover I've had." The book will not scare off novice disability scholars. From the beginning through the end there are short and medium length stories that vary from describing the author's experience with disability to his essays on social commentary and legal progress. He brings together many issues in his discussion of the progress of the disability rights model and the growth of disability culture. Students and history buffs will enjoy the details and discussion. There are a few chapters that address disability issues in other countries and that tie back to the ADA or the Independent Living movement in the US. It is reasonably priced and a positive contribution to the history of the disability rights movement and disability culture in the United States of America.

