

# ***CRIPPED CRUSADERS!***

## ***PHYSICALLY DISABLED FEMALE SUPERHEROES IN AMERICAN COMIC BOOKS***

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“Up in the sky, it’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s Crippled Crusaders pushing the boundaries of deviant and intersectional bodies!” *Crippled Crusaders* inspects how superheroines with physical disabilities navigate their disabilities in a genre and a society that marginalizes female deviant bodies. While some tales embrace physical disability and the “super-capabilities” it can provide, other narratives paint an even more sinister representation of what it means to be female and disabled in American society. *Crippled Crusaders* inspects these approaches to determine the role physical disability and gender play in the genre and how superhero comics misrepresent the true nature of intersectional identities in America. Despite the problematic portrayals, physically disabled superheroines still manage to prove that “it’s not who they are underneath but what they do that defines them” ... especially with their disabilities.