

## Influences of Women on Disability in Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*

Spenser's epic carries disabled characters that are oftentimes juxtaposed immediately with a female counterpart. From dwarves to wine-stain birthmarks, women are painted to be complicit in the altered form of the people around them. Whether it be a factor of circumstances pertaining to pregnancy or the ways that their noble upbringing has an affect on their dwarf counterparts, it is clear that the disability narrative in Spenser's epic is inherently tied up with the women that reside within the text.