

THE FUTURE IS DISABLED

Prophecies, Love Notes, and Mourning Songs

LEAH LAKSHMI PIEPZNA-SAMARASINHA



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PRAISE FOR *CARE WORK*:

“*Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice* is a collection profoundly necessary at this moment ... the essays share a fundamental hypothesis: to achieve social justice, ableism must be destroyed. Personal narratives and accounts of organizing are voiced from Black and brown and queer disabled people, radically reimagining the ways our society is structured, uplifting visions and models for care webs that create collective access.”

—BROADLY, “Best Books of the Year”



An essay collection that expands on Leah’s bestselling book *Care Work*, centring and uplifting disability justice and care in the pandemic era.

In *The Future Is Disabled*, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha asks some provocative questions: What if, in the near future, the majority of people will be disabled—and what if that’s not a bad thing? And what if disability justice and disabled wisdom are crucial to creating a future in which it’s possible to survive fascism, climate change, and pandemics and to bring about liberation?

Building on the work of their game-changing book *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*, Piepzna-Samarasinha writes about disability justice at the end of the world, documenting the many ways disabled people kept and are keeping each other—and the rest of the world—alive during Trump, fascism, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Other subjects include crip interdependence, care and mutual aid in real life, disabled community building, and disabled art practice as survival and joy.

Written over the course of two years of disabled isolation during the pandemic, this is a book of love letters to other disabled QTBIPOC (and those concerned about disability justice, the care crisis, and surviving the apocalypse); honor songs for kin who are gone; recipes for survival; questions and real talk about care, organizing, disabled families, and kin networks and communities; and wild brown disabled femme joy in the face of death. With passion and power, *The Future Is Disabled* remembers our dead and insists on our future.



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Leah Laksmi Piepzna-Samarasinha

(she/they) is a nonbinary femme autistic disabled writer, space creator and disability and transformative justice movement worker of Burgher and Tamil Sri Lankan, Irish and Galician/Roma ascent. They are the author or co-editor of ten books, including *The Future Is Disabled: Prophecies, Love Notes and Mourning Songs*, (co-edited with Ejeris Dixon) *Beyond Survival; Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement*, *Tonguebreaker*, *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*, and *Bodymap*. A Lambda Award winner who has been shortlisted for the Publishing Triangle five times, she is winner of Lambda's 2020 Jeanne Córdova Award "honoring a lifetime of work documenting the complexities of queer of color/femme/disabled experience" and a 2020 Disability Futures Fellow. Since 2009, they have been a lead performer with disability justice performance collective Sins Invalid. Raised in rust belt central Massachusetts and shaped by T'karonto and Oakland, they are currently at work building Living Altars/The Stacey Park Milbern Liberation Arts Center, a home for disabled QTBIPOC writers. They are a hot, haggard porch and couch witch and a very unprofessional adaptive trike rider. brownstargirl.org



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Praise for *Care Work*

SHORT-LISTED, JUDY GRAHN AWARD FOR LESBIAN NONFICTION 2019

“Leah knows that the world we deserve is a world shaped by the honest, messy, skillful genius of disabled queer femmes of color. Reading this book allows you to live inside the gorgeous, uncomfortable, emergent, compassionate world that disabled femmes of color have been making all along. Leah cares for us all with this work, but not in the apologetic, default, mommy mode you may be trained to expect. This care is the survivor-sourced, survivor-accountable, saltsweet truth-telling we need to (guess what?) SURVIVE.”

—ALEXIS PAULINE GUMBS, author of *M Archive* and *Spill*, co-editor of *Revolutionary Mothering*

“Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha has written a brave and brilliant book that captures the messy gestation and wildly liberating vision of disability justice. With passionate integrity, she tells the collective story of a movement that transforms the idea of care into a force capable of unraveling all the braided injustices of our lives.”

—AURORA LEVINS MORALES, author of *Medicine Stories* and *Kindling: Writings On the Body*

“Page after page, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha documents the necessity, power, and sheer brilliance of disability justice. Be prepared for her words, stories, and political thinking to shake up what you know about care and access, revolutionary dreaming, and present-day resilience.”

—ELI CLARE, author of *Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure and Exile*

“Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha has written a brave and brilliant book that captures the messy gestation and wildly liberating vision of disability justice. With passionate integrity, she tells the collective story of a movement that transforms the idea of care into a force capable of unraveling all the braided injustices of our lives.”

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“We have mad crip dreams. In those dreams there exists a decolonized, liberated future in which none of our bodies and lives are disposable. With *Care Work*, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha reminds us that turning these dreams into radical practices have already been done, are happening right now within disability justice movements, and will continue to build a future where we are all free. This book is a touchstone for our journey.”

—QWO-LI DRISKILL, author of *Asegi Stories: Cherokee Queer and Two-Spirit Memory*

“[...] As one of the original thinkers of Disability Justice, I’m overjoyed that artists and activists like Leah are writing books like this one that helps water the roots of Disability Justice. This book is coming from the bed, the streets and on stages that Leah has spoke, taught, performed and struggled on—thats why it’s so accessible and brings lived knowledge into our outdated, stiff institutions and activist movements. In this era of hyper capitalism, toxic hypermasculinity, and White supremacy, we desperately need *Care Work*.”

—LEROY F MOORE JR, co-founder of *Sins Invalid*, co-founder of *National Black Disability Coalition*

“An instant classic, *Care Work* is equal parts on-the-ground dispatch from the disability justice movement and practical field guide to liberatory access. Rather than something to be begrudgingly tacked on, accessibility, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha shows us, might be joyous and collective.”

—SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

