

How are conjoined
twins typically viewed
by society according
to dreger, how do r...

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Conjoined Twins: A Critical Analysis The book written by Dreger end “ One of Us” proffered pertinent issues of conjoined twins from diverse perspectives: that of the twins’ views and those viewed by society. The author expounded on topics that presented the twins’ challenges and predicaments in terms of limiting their sense of individuality, making split decisions, the sacrifices made and experienced, as well as the stigma imposed by society that see them as an abnormality. Conjoined twins are typically viewed by society like a nursing mother or baby, a socially troubling individual, and a window opener of sympathy. Anatomical restrictions, such as being conjoined, influence assumptions of people on what is normal and perception of ability to live a meaningful and individual life (Dreger, 2). As expressed by one of the doctors who evaluated the possibility of separating conjoined twins, the separation was eminent and crucial for all conjoined twins “ for the well-being of the social body” (Dreger, 24).

Anatomical normalization dictates privilege, norms, standards, and rules to preserve order and protect those who are vulnerable; thus, society feels awkwardness when dealing with conjoined twins (Dreger, 2). Dreger stated that, “ it is the recognition of this awkwardness, the recognition of how comfortable it can be to considered normal, how uncomfortable it can be to be considered abnormal, that motivates adults to want to surgically normalize children born with unusual anatomies” (Dreger, 5).

Pity, the most prevalent reactions to conjoined twins, leads to actions that will not offend the conjoined twins. Based on the examples of Dreger, fears and anxieties about conjoined sexuality arise because people do not want to

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offend the less fortunate and vulnerable individuals (1). The perception and reaction of the society seem to prove to Dreger that anatomy matters a lot in building one's identity in the society. Societal pressure arises, particularly to individuals with anatomical deformity (conjoined twins) because they are not viewed as normal and their anatomical conditions limits their political and social privileges.

Work Cited

Dreger, Alice Domurat. *One Of Us: Conjoined Twins and the future of Normal*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004. Print.

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