

A More Inclusive Community: Donate to our Community Copies Program

March 30, 2023



At Wyrmsworks Publishing, we believe that everyone deserves to be represented in the games they play. That's why we created [Limitless Heroics](#), a comprehensive disability compendium for tabletop roleplaying games. We're proud of the work we've done, but we know that not everyone can afford to buy a copy of the book.

That's where our Community Copies program comes in. For every copy someone donates, we match the donation and make two copies available for free. It's a way for us to give back to the community and make sure that everyone who wants to use Limitless Heroics can do so, regardless of their financial situation. And as we publish more books, we will add them to this program.

When you donate a Community Copy, you're not just helping someone else get access to the book. You're also showing your support for disability representation in tabletop gaming. You're helping us spread the word about this important resource and making sure that people with disabilities are included in the games we play.

More Donations via Patreon

We also have a [Patreon program](#), and at the beginning of each month, we donate additional copies of Limitless Heroics based on the number and tiers of our patrons.

If you're in a position to help, we encourage you to consider making a donation to our Community Copies program. By doing so, you'll be helping us ensure that everyone has access to our resources, regardless of their financial situation.

To donate, simply click on the "Purchase Community Copies" button. You can then choose the number of copies you'd like to donate, and complete your purchase. We'll take care of the rest, ensuring that your donation goes directly to providing free copies of our products to those who need them.

Thank you for your support. Together, we can build a more inclusive and welcoming community for all tabletop role-playing game enthusiasts.

Disabled D&D5e Heroes Coloring Book

March 30, 2023



Tabletop Roleplaying Games like Dungeons & Dragons are great equalizers: people of all ages and abilities can play together, cooperatively. What else can do that? Coloring books! So we used the amazing art from Limitless Heroics to create a coloring book for all ages!

48 images include fantasy characters, assistive devices, and service animals.

How does a coloring book make lives better?

- People like me with ADHD may benefit from coloring to help keep focused during games and other times, and D&D-related coloring books are rare.
- Put this in a child's hands, and you instantly normalize disabled heroes in their lives.
- D&D is for everyone, and so is artistic expression!
- The pages include quotes from disabled, neurodiverse, and mentally & chronically ill people to teach about their experiences and accessibility.
- [Service Owlbears] are adorable.

The book also includes a local site license for copying, so schools, clinics, local game groups, and FLGSs can print or copy coloring pages for their local events, clients, and fellow players.

Attention Deficit (ADHD) for D&D 5e

March 30, 2023



How can you represent Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in 5e that reflects real world experiences? Here's a free sample from Limitless Heroics to implement them in your game.

Content Warning: [Cyberbullying](#)

Last year, I posted an early draft version of this preview to promote Limitless Heroics as I prepared for the Kickstarter campaign. In December, it, and consequently I, became the target of a Twitter [hater cyberbullying](#) attack by hundreds of people throughout the TTRPG community.

As a result of that, I pulled it down and wanted to hide. I seriously considered canceling the campaign altogether and closing up shop completely, but too many people were counting on me, and I was encouraged by some well-respected people in the industry to carry on, so with much trepidation, I continued with the campaign, avoiding Twitter and literally getting nauseated every time my phone made the new email chime for fear of the subsequent hate that flowed from that attack, and it has taken me this long to work up the courage to make this revised sample

live again, reminding myself that, as big as the Twitter mob was, I've received nearly as many heartfelt notes of thanks and support, and *ten times as many* have already backed or preordered it. And with help from a licensed counselor, I'm learning to manage the subsequent anxiety and depression I've developed.

Ironically, I was recently diagnosed with ADHD myself, so I post this revision with confidence as it also reflects my own lived experience and that of *many* more who also have given input and affirm this as a reflection of their own experiences, plus it has been discussed and revised based on feedback from five sensitivity readers from multiple fields.

Because ADHD is a complex condition with a variety of expressions, we broke it into at least 3 separate traits with options for more, depending on your experience, but here are the three most common associated traits. (I personally have several more.)

You can use this sample by itself for free or [purchase a copy of Limitless Heroics](#) for a more comprehensive guide to disability, neurodiversity, and mental illness representation in fifth edition. Thanks for your interest in making the D&D and broader TTRPG space more inclusive and representative. (If you use it alone, IE = Impact Extent. [See the tables for an explanation.](#))

LAYOUT NOTE: The format of this preview does not reflect the final format of Limitless Heroics, which we designed for maximum accessibility, including dyslexia-friendly.



[Download the Preview at DriveThruRPG](#)

Horror of the Shade



1-shot 5e adventure for level 5/6 characters. Guard a diverse caravan, trapped in a prison dimension by an undead witch-queen. To escape, defeat the witch or help her defeat stone guardians.

[Continue reading →](#)

Community Copies



We're partnering with you to improve even more lives by making free electronic community copies available for those who can't afford to buy them. #DnD #TTRPG #DestigmatizePoverty

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Purchase Community Copies



For every Community Copy you purchase, we will match your donation, giving away an additional copy for every 1 purchased.
#DnD #TTRPG

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Limitless Heroics: Including Characters with Disabilities, Mental Illness, and Neurodivergence in Fifth Edition



Limitless Heroics is the most comprehensive disability compendium ever created for a Tabletop Role-Playing Game.

[Continue reading →](#)

Limitless Heroics: The Coloring Book (PDF)



Explore inclusive fantasy art with diverse characters, assistive tools & service animals. Normalize disability, support focus, and foster creativity!

[Continue reading →](#)

Limitless Heroics: The Coloring Book



We used the amazing art from Limitless Heroics to create a coloring book for all ages!

[Continue reading →](#)

The Kickstarter is done. Sort of. Now what?

March 30, 2023



Hi, wonderful patrons! I know I've been quiet lately here on Patreon, and before that, I've been talking a lot about the *Limitless Heroics* Kickstarter, and now that it's done, what's next?

Of course, first of all, it's far from done! If you've been watching the conversations in the Discord (Feel free to jump into the conversations!), everyone is busy creating characters, making artwork, writing additional pieces – over 200 magic items and so much more! We set July as the target date and are on track for that, and here's a Patreon-exclusive teaser draft just for you that I just finished based on a backer submission! (Note: it hasn't gone through our *extensive* editorial process yet, so expect it to change.)

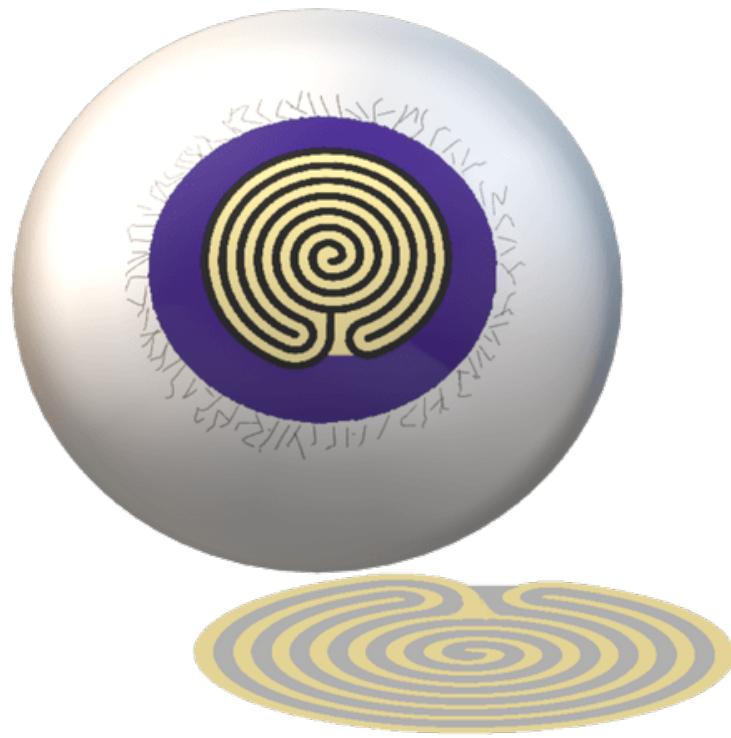
GleamForth Wayfinder

Wondrous Item, Legendary

Follow the Gleam, and find your way. Hold me leftward lest you stumble. Let the third eye guide your path. Look to your heart

to find your Truths. Center me, and I will bring you home though the darkness envelop you.

This labyrinthine eye provides protection and direction to those who would be lost without it. Unlike most prosthetic eyes, you hold this one instead of inserting it. When held in the left hand, it provides 5' blindsight. When so held, you cannot use that hand for any other purpose. As an action, you can hold it mid-forehead and cast the *find the path* spell once per day. Once per day, as your action, you touch the heart of a creature you can reach that is charmed, frightened, or possessed by a celestial, an elemental, a fey, a fiend, or an undead. The creature you touch is no longer charmed, frightened, or possessed by such creatures. When held at the solar plexus, once every seven days, you can cast either *plane shift* or *teleportation circle* to your home. Your home need not have a teleportation circle inscribed, but when you acquire this eye, you must declare your home location as the destination of this function.



Pre-Orders Open

If anyone missed the Kickstarter (or knows someone who did – feel free to pass on this link), you can [get the pre-order here](#), and use the coupon code **LHPATREON** to get \$2 off! (Yes, you can share this coupon code along with the link!)

But *then what?*

We have a long to-do list that keeps getting longer, but picture this: imagine the **city version of *Limitless Heroics***: a campaign city that explores concepts of accessibility where characters can have all the typical urban adventures while encountering what accessibility in its various forms would look like in a high fantasy setting! I've already received interested notes

from accessibility advocates and universal design firms interested in helping with this and several writers and artists eager to work on future Wyrmsworks Publishing projects, and if it's well received, we can keep adding pieces to create a campaign world with different locations that explore and teach about all kinds of issues, all while having grand 5e adventures! Add in some miniatures based on some of the 50+ characters being designed for *Limitless Heroics*, and you have something truly unique that helps you improve others' lives!

Tied to that big project, I have a collaborative project in the works that I can't discuss yet, but it's a partnership with at least one well known figure in the D&D space whose name is attached to some official D&D adventures. That one is just in the idea stage right now (We're both pretty busy at the moment but hoping to get started on it later this year), but when I can say more, you'll be the first to know! (OK, besides my wife. She hears these things first.)

And, I have some great guests lined up for future Gaining Advantage episodes, so expect more of those soon!

Thanks so much for your support! You're helping make all this happen!

All the best!

Dale

Phobias

March 30, 2023



How can you represent phobias in 5e that reflect real world experiences? [Grab this free D100 table of phobias and resources](#) to implement them in your game.

Or use the [one click generator](#) in the Lair.

First name or full name

Email

Let's do this!



Download at DriveThruRPG

Braces of Blades

March 30, 2023



[Get a free sample](#) from the [Limitless Heroics](#) project: [Braces of Blades](#), an assistive device for those with leg weakness, designed for use with crutches.

First name or full name

Email

Let's do this!



Download at DriveThruRPG

Limitless Heroics Tables: Using Disability in DnD

March 30, 2023



Free Preview Explanation

Welcome to the free preview of [Limitless Heroics](#). This page provides tables and instructions for adding traits.

Players & GMs may [use this form to communicate their preferences](#) as to which of these to include and avoid in their game.

[Download an illustrated PDF with these tables and a guide how to implement it at your table free at DriveThruRPG](#). Check back here soon for a random generator that turns these tables into a single click.

The [full book](#) includes descriptions and full game mechanics for each trait. Each trait also includes assistive options, magical assistance, and real world examples.



[Missed the Kickstarter? Order now!](#)

100% of content creators hired for this book are disabled, neurodivergent, and/or have mental or chronic illness, and the variety of art styles intentionally reflects the diversity of experiences and expressions of these conditions.

Roll for Traits

Players can either roll for a random disability or discuss disability as part of their character concept with their GM, choosing specific traits, Frequencies, and IEs, keeping tropes to avoid in mind.

Game Masters especially who want to include a realistic percentage of disability in a game world's population may find these random generators useful to provide a varied population. Fantasy worlds don't need to have the same clusters of traits that we see in real-world experiences, but it's also beneficial

to use real-world clusters (diagnoses, both common and rare, and which vary by region or get organized differently by different cultures) to better understand the experiences of those around us, which again is why the tables allow you to “choose or roll.” Maybe you’ll do a little of both, or maybe you’ll use your first roll to find a real-world experience that includes that trait and learn more about it.

This suggestion also applies to the traits’ IEs and Frequencies. Instead of using tables to determine these, you may choose a frequency that ties into the narrative that you’re telling together, deciding in advance instead of leaving it to dice rolls.

Many people are afraid to represent these experiences in their games for fear of inaccuracy, but absence isn’t necessarily better, so we designed this book to get you started, to provide guidelines so you could feel free to add this inclusion creatively and respectfully.

Chance of Traits

15–20 percent of people worldwide in real life have some form of disability. In a world with less medical, therapeutic, and nutritional science but additional magic threats, the rate of disability is likely higher. GMs should decide the rate in the campaign world, but consider 20 percent to be the base rate. Roll 1d20, 1–4 indicating a disability. Any given population within that world should expect roughly the same percentage with possible variations based on environment and any number of other factors.

Number and Category of Traits

Many disabilities have multiple traits. Choose or roll on the

following table to determine the number of traits your character has. If replicating a real-world cluster or more than one in the same character, you can increase or decrease the quantity.

d20	Traits
1-7	1
8-12	2
13-15	3
16-17	4
18-19	5
20	6

Next, determine whether those traits are physical or mental. The first trait is equally likely to be physical or mental. (Roll d20: 1-10 = physical, 11-20 = mental) Subsequent traits are more likely to be in the same category, so add or subtract 2 cumulatively to the roll for the category of each additional trait. (e.g. 4 traits: First roll = 18 (mental), so the next roll would be 1-8 physical and 9-20 mental. Next roll = 10 (mental), so the next roll would be 1-6 physical and 7-20 mental. Next roll = 4 (physical), so the final roll would be 1-8 physical and 9-20 mental.) No matter how the range adjusts, a roll of 1 is always physical, and a 20 is always mental.

Impact Extent (IE)

Each trait can vary in the impact of its expression. Roll on the following table to determine the impact of each trait. See the individual trait descriptions for impact explanations. Unless otherwise stated in the description, any saving throws required by the adverse effects are DC 8 + (IE). Note that the term

“impact” and the Extent labels are used for mechanical shorthand to cover a wide variety of traits, but these terms aren’t always appropriate descriptors for their real-world counterparts. Players are encouraged to use more accurate descriptors or just the mechanical number. (e.g. Many neurodiverse traits are not appropriately described as “Acute” or with negative connotations; sensory disabilities, such as visual impairment, may be better described as “Complete” at IE 4.) If a trait causes an additional experience without a listed IE, choose or roll on this table for the new experience’s IE.

Pushing Through and Masking

You can use significant effort and concentration to force yourself overcome the challenges associated with many traits, temporarily reducing the IE penalties of a trait by expending one Hit Die per IE until the end of the encounter or for 1 minute, whichever is longer. This only affects ability checks, not saving throws, and all rolls to maintain concentration while pushing through are made with disadvantage. You also have advantage on Charisma (Deception) checks to conceal your trait.

D20	IE
1–9	Mild (1)
10–15	Moderate (2)
16–18	Substantial (3)
19–20	Total (4)

Frequency

Traits can come and go, sometimes appearing instantly and

disappearing as quickly. Others appear and disappear gradually over the course of days. Some can disappear for months or years and suddenly manifest again, and some never go away. Choose or roll on the following table to determine the duration of each trait. (Note: This may not be applicable to many traits. e.g. missing limbs don't generally come and go without magic. Players and GMs should use discretion for this table and see the trait description.)

All trait descriptions assume the effects only occur while the trait is active, unless otherwise noted.

Variant Rule: Plot Arc-Based Timing

For traits with Periodic Frequency or those that change over extended periods of time, instead of rolling for a number of days between changes or saving throws, depending on the trait description, make the change or roll based on the story arcs in your campaign, such as a climactic moment or after a major event when everyone is recovering. The players should decide how trait timing will be handled when implementing this system.

d20	Time	Frequency
1	Roll Twice	A trait may not fit one of these patterns exactly. Roll twice, and decide how they might combine, such as a trait that is Triggered but fluctuates in IE like Chronic or Frequent but only Periodic throughout a given day.

d20	Time	Frequency
2	Remission	<p>The trait begins absent. It will recur in 1d100 days, taking 1d4 days to reach full effect. On a roll of 95–100, roll again and add the rolls together, repeating for each roll of 95–100. At the end of the time period, the trait gradually disappears over 1d4 days, then roll the same way for the duration of remission.</p>
3–7	Periodic	<p>The trait fluctuates. It will recur in 1d20 days, rerolling cumulatively on a 20, taking 1d100 hours to reach full effect. On a roll of 95–100, roll again and add the rolls together, repeating for each roll of 95–100. At the end of the traits, they gradually disappear over 1d100 hours.</p>
8–13	Triggered	<p>The trait is triggered randomly or by one or more stimuli (or absence of a stimulus, like withdrawal) as determined by a discussion between the player and GM. The trait lasts as long as the stimulus is present plus 1d100 minutes, extended as above unless otherwise noted. (For absence of stimulus, the trait begins after 1d100 minutes and lasts until the stimulus is restored.) Note that some stimuli may be unknown to the character and seem random until discovering the triggering stimulus.</p>
14–17	Frequent	<p>The trait occurs more often than not but has periods of inactivity. Roll 1d20 every morning. The trait is present all day unless rolling a 19 or 20.</p>

d20	Time	Frequency
18-19	Chronic	<p>The trait is always present, but if the Extent is more severe than mild, roll 1d20 each morning. The trait for the day is 1 Extent less on a roll of 15-19 and 2 Extents less on a roll of 20 with a minimum of mild.</p>
20	Degenerative	<p>The trait starts out Mild and gradually becomes Acute in 300d100 days. Once a degenerative trait becomes Acute, the character must succeed on seven daily DC 10 Constitution saving throws or gain a permanent level of exhaustion. Note: Degenerative conditions even in a fictional character, can be emotionally taxing. This RPG is a game, and such a bleak prognosis may take the fun out of the game, and this would work counter to the goal of this book, so the GM should always give a player the choice to reroll this result for the player's own mental health. That said, the author's own father struggled with a degenerative disease for decades and lived with its accompanying disabilities, and he lived a heroic life in service to others. Many a tale can be told of heroes who finish their quest and ride off into the sunset, knowing their days are numbered, but that lives are meaningful however long they last.</p>

Variant Rule: Good and Bad Days

In addition to overall trends in Frequency, many Traits have a fluctuating IE. Roll 1d20 after a long rest for each applicable

trait.

d20	Effect
1-7	Good Day: All IE-related penalties are reduced by 1 (Minimum 0)
8-17	No change
18-20	Bad Day: All IE-related penalties are increased by 1 (Maximum 4)

Trait Descriptions

Physical Traits

For each physical trait, choose or roll to determine appendage or organ system (50/50 chance for each). Then roll on the appropriate table.

Appendage

d20	Appendage
1-2	Face
3-5	Ears (Roll again: 1-12 = 1 ear; 13-20 = 2 ears)
6-8	Eyes (Roll again: 1-12 = 1 eye; 13-20 = 2 eyes)
9	Nose
10-12	Mouth
13	Neck & Back
14-16	Arms & Hands (Roll again: 1-12 = 1; 13-20 = 2)

d20	Appendage
17-19	Legs & Feet (Roll again: 1-12 = 1; 13-20 = 2)
20	Teeth

Face

d100	Trait
1-10	Diverse Face Shape
11-25	Face Cleft
26-45	Face Color Difference
46-60	Face Paralysis
61-80	Face Rash
81-85	Tumor
86-100	Face Tremor

Ear(s)

d20	Trait
1	Diverse Ear Shape
2	Hyperacusis (sound sensitivity)
3	Diplacusis (double hearing)
4-5	Ear Discharge
6-7	Dizziness
8-12	Hearing Loss
13-15	Ear Pain
16-20	Tinnitus

Diverse Ear Shape

One or both of your ears has a shape that's unusual for your ancestry. Choose or use the following table to determine the unusual shape and effects. This is a permanent condition.

d20	Trait
1	Diverse Ear Shape
2	Hyperacusis (sound sensitivity)
3	Diplacusis (double hearing)
4-5	Ear Discharge
6-7	Dizziness
8-12	Hearing Loss
13-15	Ear Pain
16-20	Tinnitus

d20	Ear Shape
1-10	Miniature or Missing
11-12	Dangling Earlobes
13-14	Aquatic
15-16	Musoid
17-18	Fennec
19-20	Forked

Discharge

A substance leaks out of your ears. Roll on the table below for the nature and effects of the substance.

d20	Discharge
1	Acid
2-6	Blood
7	Light
8-14	Pus
15-16	Smoke
17-19	Sweat
20	Venom

Eye(s)

d100	Trait
01	Akinetopsia
02	Aquatic Vision
03-10	Blindness
11-17	Cataract
18	Clairvoyance
19-24	Colorblindness
25-29	Discharge
30-32	Eye Color Difference
33-34	Ocular Diversity
35-39	Eyelid Spasms
40	Microvision
41-43	Missing Eye
44-48	Moisture Deficiency
49-54	Night Blindness

d100	Trait
55–59	Eye Pain
60–62	Partial Field Blindness/Agnosia
63–64	Palinopsia
65	Periscopic Vision
66–71	Photosensitivity
72–93	Refractive Difference
94–99	Involuntary Eye Movement
00	Thermal Vision

Discharge

A substance leaks out of your eyes. Roll on the table below for the nature and effects of the substance.

d20	Discharge
1	Acid
2–6	Blood
7	Ink
8–9	Oil
10–15	Pus
16–19	Tears
20	Venom

Eye Color Difference

Your eyes are colored outside the usual range of hues typical for your people according to the following table.

d20	Eye Region
1-3	Pupil
4-10	Iris
11-17	Sclera (Whites)
18-20	Entire eye

Ocular Diversity

One or both of your eyes are shaped or located outside the range typical for your ancestry. Choose or roll on the following table. Note that this is usually a permanent condition and does not fluctuate, but the player and GM are welcome to determine a magical version that fluctuates based on the Frequency table above. Example stimuli include sunrise/sunset, seasons, or stress.

d20	Ocular Diversity
1-3	Location
4-5	Eyelid Difference
6-8	Bulging
9-10	Sunken
11-13	Oversized
14-15	Undersized
16-19	Pupil Difference
20	Side Placement

Partial Field Blindness/Agnosia

You're unable to see or recognize certain areas or features.

Choose or roll on the following table.

d20	Visual Difference
1-8	Closed Angle Vision
9-14	Open Angle Vision
15-16	Humanoid Agnosia
17-18	Animal Agnosia
19-20	Topographical Agnosia

Humanoid Agnosia

You are unable to recognize a specific part of a humanoid body or distinguish it from others according to the following table.

d20	Feature
1-8	Face
9-10	Fingers/hands/claws
11-13	Hair
14-16	Clothing
17-20	Voice

Nose

d20	Trait
1-8	Anosmia
9-12	Discharge

d20	Trait
13–16	Difference
17	Horn Growth
18	Hypersensitive Smell
19–20	Nasal Echo

Nose Discharge

A substance leaks out of your nose. Roll on the table below for the nature and effects of the substance.

d20	Discharge
1–3	Blood
4	Honey
5–10	Mucus
11–13	Pus
14	Smoke
15–20	Tears

Nose Difference

d100	Difference
1–15	Bulbous
16–26	Enlarged
27–34	Elongated
35–39	Hanging
40–49	Hooked

d100	Difference
50–54	Inverted nostrils
55–67	Fissures
68–75	Porcine
76–85	Recessed
86–100	Warped

Mouth Traits

d100	Trait
01–05	Dysgeusia
06–24	Mouth Discharge
25–26	Mouth Color Difference
27–31	Mouth Difference
32–51	Moisture Imbalance
54–55	Mouth Deterioration
56–65	Mouth Pain
66–95	Speech Impediment
96–100	Tongue Difference

Dysgeusia

d20	Taste Alteration
1–5	Amplification
6–10	Disruption
11–13	Discrimination Modification

d20	Taste Alteration
14–20	Sensitivity

Sensitivity

d6	Taste
1	Sweet
2	Sour
3	Bitter
4	Salty
5–6	Spicy

Mouth Discharge

d20	Discharge
1–4	Blood
5	Cold
6	Fire
7	Gas
8–11	Mucus
12–19	Saliva
20	Smoke

Mouth Difference

d100	<u>Mouth Difference</u>
1-15	Chin Shape Difference
16-27	Jaw Dislocation
28-37	Lip Absence
38-42	Minimal Opening
43-48	Mouth Location Difference
49-63	Misaligned Jaw
64-78	Oversized Mouth
79-100	Tooth Difference

Chin Shape Difference

d20	Chin Shape
1-4	Bulbous
5-6	Curled
7-8	Forked
9-13	Missing
14-18	Oversized
19-20	Pointed

Tongue Difference

d20	Difference
1-6	Extended
7-9	Forked
10-16	Minimal

d20	Difference
17	Prehensile
18	Proboscis
19	Symbiotic
20	Vampiric

Neck & Back

d100	Trait
01–15	Spine Difference
16–30	Growth
31–32	Neck Length Difference
33–57	Pain
58–60	Ridges
61–62	Spina Bifida
63–89	Neck/Back Stiffness
90–94	Swallowing Difficulty
95–96	Tail Difference
97–100	Vocal Cord Difference

Vocal Cord Differences

d20	Vocal Cord Difference
1–4	Noisy Breathing
5	Pitch Irregularity
6	Reverberation

d20	Vocal Cord Difference
7-10	Silent
11-16	Uncontrolled Volume
17-20	Wheezing

Uncontrolled Volume

IE	Loud Voice	Quiet Voice
1	Conversational volume; can't talk quieter	Conversational volume; can't talk louder
2	Always project your voice	Always mumble
3	Always yell as loud as possible	Always whisper
4	Always talk louder than humanly possible	Always whisper so quietly that enhanced hearing or very close proximity is needed to hear

Arm(s) & Hand(s)

d100	Trait
1-8	Finger Difference
9-12	Hypersensitivity
13-22	Missing Arm or Hand
23-32	Muscle Control
33-42	Pain
43-52	Arm/Hand Paralysis & Numbness
53-72	Arm/Hand Stiffness

d100	Trait
73–77	Strength Control
78–92	Hand Tremor
93–100	Weakness

Finger Difference

d20	Finger Difference
1–4	Shape Diversity
5–8	Missing Fingers
9–10	Overgrowth
11–13	Polydactyly
14–15	Syndactyly
16	Talons
17–18	Undergrowth
19–20	Webbed

Leg(s) & Foot (/Feet)

d100	Trait
01–10	Atypical Toes
11–20	Difference
21	Hypersensitivity
22–31	Missing
32–41	Muscle Control & Gait Difference
42–60	Leg/Foot Pain

d100	Trait
61–70	Leg/Foot Paralysis & Numbness
71–85	Lower Body Stiffness
86–95	Leg Tremor
96–100	Leg Weakness

Toe Difference

d20	Toe Difference
1–3	Atypically-shaped
4–10	Missing toes
11–12	Overgrowth
13–14	Polydactyly
15–16	Syndactyly
17	Talons
18–19	Undergrowth
20	Webbed

Foot Difference

d20	Foot Difference
1–7	Arch Irregularity
8–9	Claw Heel
10–13	Clubfoot
14	Hooves
15	Prehensile Feet

d20	Foot Difference
16–20	Toe Walking

Teeth

d20	Trait
1–2	Discoloration
3–6	Difference
7–13	Missing
14–20	Pain

Tooth Difference

d20	Tooth Difference
1–6	Buck Teeth
7–8	Fangs
9–14	Oversized
15	Sabertooth
16	Shark Teeth
17	Tusks
18–20	Undersized

Organ System

d100	<u>Organ System</u>
01-10	<u>Skeletal</u>
11-25	Nervous
26-35	<u>Muscular</u>
36-47	<u>Endocrine</u>
48-62	<u>Immune</u>
63-77	Cardiovascular/Circulatory
78-91	<u>Integumentary</u>
92-100	<u>Digestive</u>

Skeletal

d20	Trait
1-4	<u>Altered Growth</u>
5-7	<u>Calcification</u>
8-10	<u>Skeletal Difference</u>
11-16	<u>Dislocation</u>
17-19	<u>Disproportionate Growth</u>
20	Flexibility

Skeletal Difference

d10	Area
1-2	Ribs
3-6	Arm
7-10	Leg

Dislocation

d10	Joint Dislocation
1	Finger
2-3	Shoulder
4-5	Ribs
6	Knee
7	Elbow
8-9	Hip
10	Jaw

Disproportionate Growth

d20	Shortened Area
1-4	Trunk
5-7	Arms & Hands
8-10	Legs & Feet
11-13	Arms
14-16	Legs
17-20	Head

Head. The reduced size of your head causes (IE) other traits according to the following table, each with its own IE.

d6	Trait
1	Seizures

d6	Trait
2	Intellectual Disability
3	-(IE) on Dexterity checks to balance
4	Swallowing Difficulties
5	Hearing Loss
6	Refractory Issues

Neurological Differences

d100	Trait
01	Anosognosia
02	Aphantasia
03-04	Apraxia
05	Asomatognosia
06-08	Brain Fog
09-15	Fainting
16-29	Fatigue
30-32	Fever
33-34	Language Processing
35-40	Memory Loss
41-51	Pain
52-58	Seizures
59-61	Sensory Processing Difference
62-74	Sleep Disruptions
75-77	Slow Movement
78-87	Social Communication Disability

d100	Trait
88–89	Spatial Neglect
90–91	Special Interest
92–93	Stimulus Processing Disability
94–95	Synesthesia
96–100	Unrelated Stimulus Reflex

Apraxia

d10	Apraxia
1	Conceptual
2–3	Buccofacial
4	Limb-Kinetic (Arm)
5	Limb-Kinetic (Leg)
6	Ideomotor
7	Ideational
8	Verbal
9	Constructional
10	Oculomotor

Language Processing

You have trouble communicating using language, including speaking, understanding, and writing. Choose or roll on the following table. You have 1d6 of the following patterns.

d20	Language Processing Expression
1–5	Dysgraphia
6	Reiterative Agraphia
7	Specialist Agraphia
8	Dysexecutive Agraphia
9	Apraxic Agraphia
10	Lexical Agraphia
11	Semantic Agraphia
12	Phonological Agraphia
13	Visuospatial Agraphia
14	Alexia
15–16	Expressive Aphasia
17	Receptive Aphasia
18	Anomic Aphasia
19–20	Global Aphasia

Memory Loss

d10	Symptom
1–2	Anterograde Amnesia
3–6	Retrograde Amnesia
7	Dissociative Fugue
8–0	Traumatic Amnesia

Pain

d10	Pain Experience
1–5	Chronic Pain
6–9	Hyperalgesia
10	Hypoalgesia

Seizures

d100	Seizure Type
1–40	Focal Aware Seizures
41–60	Focal Impaired Awareness Seizures
61–67	Absence Seizures
68–77	Myoclonic Seizures
78–82	Clonic Seizures
83–88	Tonic Seizures
89–93	Atonic Seizures
94–100	Tonic Clonic Seizures

- **Focal Aware Seizures.** You have a strange feeling for (IE)d20 seconds resulting in one of the following experiences.

d8	Experience
1	Nausea

d8	Experience
2	Unusual smell or taste: You smell or taste something with no known source. You have a -(IE) penalty on all Wisdom (Perception) checks related to smell and taste for the duration.
3	Amplified Emotion (equally likely enjoyable or uncomfortable)
4	Myoclonic Seizure in one random arm
5	Numbness in one random limb
6	Feeling like one random limb is larger or smaller than it actually is: you have a -(IE) penalty on all Dexterity attack rolls; ability checks; and saving throws with that limb for the duration.
7	Perception of colored or flashing lights: You have a -(IE) penalty on all Wisdom (Perception) checks involving vision
8	Hallucination

Sensory Processing Difference

d6	Sensory Processing Pattern
1	Sensory Over-Responsivity
2	Sensory Under-Responsivity
3	Sensory Craving
4	Vestibular Difference
5	Dyspraxia
6	Sensory Discrimination Difference

Sensory Discrimination Difference. You have trouble determining variation in 1d4 subtypes of sensory input. Choose or roll on

the following table.

d8	SDD Subtype
1	Auditory
2	Visual
3	Tactile
4	Vestibular
5	Olfactory
6	Gustatory
7	Proprioception
8	Interoception

Sleep Disruptions

d100	Sleep Disruption
1–6	Confusional Arousals
7	Exploding Head
8–17	Hypersomnolence
18–40	Insomnia
41–44	Night Terrors
45–50	Nightmares
51–52	Sleep Aggression
53–55	Sleep Behaviors
56–60	Sleep Enuresis
61–62	Sleep Paralysis
63	Sleep Sorcery

d100	Sleep Disruption
64–86	Sleep-Related Breathing Disruption
87–88	Sleep-Related Hallucinations
89–93	Sleep-Related Movements
94–97	Sleep-Wake Disruptions
98–100	Sleepwalking

- **Sleep-Wake Disruption** Your internal sleep clock does not correspond to your intended pattern. If you cannot follow your internal pattern, follow the rules for Insomnia accordingly.

d10	1d10 if you have IE 4 Blindness	Sleep-Wake Disruption
1–4	1–3	Irregular Rhythm
5–9	4–7	Delayed Phase
10	8–10	Non-synchronized Circadian Rhythm

Spatial Neglect

- **Axis** you neglect half of your perceptive field, according to the following table.

1d10	Neglected Half
1–4	Left

1d10	Neglected Half
5–8	Right
9	Top
10	Bottom

Sense Processing Difference

d10	Sense
1–3	Sight
4–7	Hearing
8–9	Touch
10	Smell & Taste

Synesthesia

d6	Sense
1	Vision
2	Hearing
3	Touch
4	Smell/Taste
5	Proprioception (movement)
6	Mirror

Muscular

d20	Trait
01-10	Cramps
11-14	Fine Motor Control Loss
15-17	Gross Motor Control Loss
18-19	Hiccups
20	Paradoxical Myotonia

Endocrine Differences

d20	Trait
1-3	Agitation
4-5	Delayed puberty
6-8	Diabetes
9	Infertility
10	Intersex
11-14	Temperature Intolerance
15-16	Vertigo
17-20	Weight Difference

Diabetes

d10	Effect
1-4	Hyperglycemia
5-6	Hypoglycemia
7-10	Both

Immune System

d20	Trait
1-10	Allergies
11-12	Atraitatic Disease Carrier
13-20	Immunocompromised
20	Paradoxical Reaction

Allergies

d4	Allergy			
1	Food Allergy			
2	Venom Allergy			
3	Airborne Allergy			
4	Contact Allergy			

IE	Ingested	Injected	Contact	Inhaled
1	Rash	+10% Damage	Rash	Eye Discharge or Nose Discharge
2	Nausea	+20% Damage	Rash + Eye Discharge or Nose Discharge	Rash + Eye Discharge or Nose Discharge
3	Fatigue + Nausea	+20% Damage + Fainting	Rash + Nausea	Shortness of Breath

IE	Ingested	Injected	Contact	Inhaled
4	Gain 1 level of exhaustion per round	Gain 1 level of exhaustion per round	Gain 1 level of exhaustion per round	Gain 1 level of exhaustion per round

Paradoxical Reaction

d20	Effect
1	Double Desired Effect
2–3	Opposite Effect
4	Random Physical (Appendage) Trait
5–7	Random Nervous System Trait
8–9	Random Muscular System Trait
10–11	Random Endocrine System Trait
12	Random Immune System Trait
13–15	Random Cardiovascular/Circulatory System Trait
16	Random Integumentary System Trait
17–18	Random Digestive System Trait
19–20	Random Complication

Cardiovascular / Circulatory

d20	Trait
1	Unique Blood Content
2	Hemophilia
3–11	Hypertension

d20	Trait
12-17	Shortness of Breath
18-20	Vasospasm

Unique Blood Content

d20	Unique Blood Content
1-3	Acid
4-5	Chlorocruorin
6-7	Coboglobin
8	Combustible
9-12	Erythrocrurorin
13-14	Hemerythrin
15-17	Hemocyanin
18-20	Vanabins
20	Volatile Liquid

Integumentary

d100	Trait
01-04	Chronic Acne
05-10	Discoloration
11-13	Keratin Distribution Difference
14-16	Nails Difference
17-21	Sweat Difference
22-28	Blistering

d100	Trait
29–43	Hair Growth Differences
44–45	Hair Material Difference
46–60	Fissures
61–67	Hyperelasticity
68–74	Paresthesia & Phantom Pain
75–100	Rash

Chronic Acne

1d20	Discharge
1	Acid
2–8	Blood
9	Honey
10–12	Oil
13–19	Pus
20	Venom

Sweat Difference

1d20	Discharge
1	Acid
2–8	Blood
9	Honey
10–12	Oil
13–19	Pus

1d20	Discharge
20	Venom

Hair Growth Differences

You have reduced (70%) or excessive (30%) hair growth relative to your ancestry. Choose or roll on the following table.

IE	Reduced	Additional (Cumulative)
1	Missing 50%+ of hair on top of head	Body hair noticeably thicker than average
2	Bald head	Noticeable hair growth in unusual places
3	No hair on face & head	Thick fast-growing facial hair
4	No hair on body	Body; including face; covered in thick hair except nose; palms; & soles

Hair Material Difference

d20	Hair Material
1-4	Bone
5-6	Crystal
7	Fire
8-10	Moss
11-12	Smoke
13-14	Spores
15	Tendrils

d20	Hair Material
16–18	Vines
19–20	Webs

Digestive

d100	Trait
01–15	Acid Reflux
16–30	Constipation
31–47	Diarrhea
48–80	Food Intolerance
81–87	Incontinence
98–100	Pervasive Hunger

Food Intolerance

Your body is unable to digest certain foods or ingredients, causing (IE) of the following traits. This trait time is always Triggered.

d10	Trait
1	Abdominal Cramps
2	Acid Reflux
3	Baseless Emotion
4	Constipation
5	Diarrhea
6	Fatigue

d10	Trait
7	Nausea
8	Rash
9	Shortness of Breath
10	Lower Body Stiffness

Examples of foods causing this reaction include (but are not limited to) the following.

d10	Food
1	Caffeine
2	Dairy
3	Egg whites
4	Fermentable Oligosaccharides; Disaccharides and Monosaccharides and Polyols (FODMAPs)
5	Fructose
6	Gluten
7	Histamine
8	Salicylates
9	Sulfites
10	Yeast

Mental Traits

d100	Trait
01	Animated Hand

d100	Trait
02–04	<u>Alleviation Behavior</u>
05–07	<u>Amplified Emotion</u>
08	<u>Anhedonia</u>
09–11	<u>Attention Difference</u>
12–14	<u>Baseless Emotion</u>
15–16	<u>Confusion</u>
17–18	<u>Delusions</u>
19	<u>Depersonalization</u>
20	<u>Derealization</u>
21–25	<u>Diminished Motivation</u>
26–30	<u>Disinhibited Social Engagement</u>
31–34	<u>Eating Disruption</u>
35–37	<u>Emotion Fluctuation</u>
38	<u>Plurality</u>
39–42	Executive Dysfunction
43–44	<u>Hallucinations</u>
45–46	<u>Intellectual Disability</u>
47	<u>Intrusive Thoughts</u>
48–59	<u>Learning Difference</u>
60	<u>Obsessive Thoughts</u>
61	<u>Personality Difference</u>
62–78	<u>Phobia</u>
79–83	<u>Repetitive Movement</u>
84–90	<u>Startle Amplification</u>
91–95	<u>Stimulus Avoidance</u>
96–100	<u>Traumatic Flashbacks</u>

Alleviation Behavior

d100	Stimulus
1-6	Aggression
7-10	Body-Focused Repetitive Behavior
11-18	Cleanliness
19-26	Exercising
27-31	Gambling
32-33	Harm
34-36	Hoarding
37-38	Hyperawareness
39	Kleptomania
40	Magic
41-44	Material Order
45-47	Moral Scrupulosity
48-51	Perfectionism
52	Pyromania
53-54	Real Event
55-57	Reassurance Seeking
58-61	Ritual Order
62-64	Sensory Stimulation
65	Shapeshifting
66-71	Shopping
72-73	Spiritual Obsession
74-90	Substance
91-00	Workaholism

Baseless Emotion

d10	Feeling
1	Dread
2	Guilt
3	Hopelessness
4	Irritability
5	Loss of Interest
6	Panic/Nervousness
7	Restlessness
8	Suspicion
9	Worrying
10	Worthlessness

Delusions

d100	Delusion
1-6	Atmosphere
7-11	Awareness
12-17	Control
18-22	Dysmorphopsia
23-29	Erotomantic
30-37	Grandiose
38-44	Ideas
45-48	Imposter
49-55	Intensity

d100	Delusion
56–63	Jealousy
64	Macropsia
65	Macrosomatognosia
66–71	Memory
72	Micropsia
73	Microsomatognosia
74–75	Pelopsia
76–82	Persecutory
83–88	Reference
89–96	Somatic
97–98	Teleopsia
99–00	Quick-motion phenomenon

Eating Disruption

d20	Trait
1–4	Anorexia
5–7	Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake
8–11	Binge Eating
12–14	Bulimia
15–16	Night Eating
17–18	Orthorexia
19	Pica
20	Rumination

Emotion Fluctuation

IE	Frequency	Duration
1	Every 18d20 days	2d8 + 5 days
2	Every 9d20 days	3d8 + 5 days
3	Every 2d20 days	4d8 + 5 days
4	Every 1d20 days	5d8 + 5 days

Hallucinations

d20	Sense
1-6	Auditory
7-8	Gustatory
9-11	Olfactory
12-15	Tactile
16-20	Visual

Learning Difference

1d20	Learning Difference
1-5	Dyscalculia
6-17	Dyslexia
18	Dysorientia
19-20	Visual Processing

Personality Difference

d100	Trait
1-4	Anhedonia
5-11	Anxiousness
12-14	Attention Seeking
15-19	Callousness
20-22	Cognitive and Perceptual Dysregulation
23-27	Deceitfulness
28-31	Depressivity
32-34	Distractibility
35-37	Eccentricity
38-44	Grandiosity
45-49	Hostility
50-52	Impulsivity
53-55	Intimacy Avoidance
56-60	Irresponsibility
61-65	Manipulativeness
66-68	Perseveration
69-72	Restricted Affectivity
73-81	Rigid Perfectionism
82-84	Risk Taking
85-86	Separation Insecurity
87-88	Submissiveness
89-94	Suspiciousness
95-97	Unusual Beliefs and Experiences
98-00	Withdrawal

Phobia

Generate Random Phobia

d100	Phobia	Stimulus
1	Biomophobia	a specific biome
2	Topophobia	a specific location or places like it
3	Numerophobia	a specific number
4	Ektrophobia	aberrations
5	Batrachophobia	amphibians and frog-like creatures
6	Thymomenophobia	angry people
7	Kallitechnophobia	aristocrats and royalty
8	Panoplophobia	armor
9	Anthropozoophobia	beast-like humanoids
10	Zoophobia	beasts
11	Autophobia	being alone
12	Catagelophobia	being ridiculed
13	Scotophobia	being stared at
14	Aphenphosmophobia	being touched
15	Ornithophobia	birds
16	Hemophobia	blood
17	Bibliophobia	books and scrolls
18	Toxophobia	bows and other stringed weapons
19	Gephyrophobia	bridges
20	Zootrypono	burrowing creatures

d100	Phobia	Stimulus
21	Koumpounophobia	buttons
22	Wiccaphobia	casters
23	Ailurophobia	cats
24	Angelophobia	celestials
25	Pedophobia	children
26	Politophobia	cities
27	Ierotikophobia	clerics and clergy
28	Kibotophobia	closed containers
29	Coulrophobia	clowns
30	Trypophobia	clusters of small holes
31	Claustrophobia	confined spaces
32	Kataskeniphobia	constructs
33	Chromozoophobia	creatures of a certain color
34	Cornophobia	creatures with horns or antlers
35	Pterophobia	creatures with quills and spikes
36	Plokamophobia	creatures with tentacles
37	Pterugophobia	creatures with wings
38	Achluophobia	darkness
39	Necrophobia	death or dead things
40	Dinosaurophobia	dinosaurs
41	Cynophobia	dogs
42	Draconophobia	dragons
43	Pogonophobia	dwarves
44	Stoicheiodiphobia	elementals
45	Xotikophobia	elves
46	Basophobia	falling

d100	Phobia	Stimulus
47	Neraidophobia	fey creatures
48	Daemonophobia	fiends
49	Pyrophobia	fire
50	Anthophobia	flowers
51	Pteromerhanophobia	flying
52	Megalophobia	giants
53	Nanophobia	gnomes
54	Misophobia	halflings
55	Acrophobia	heights
56	Domatophobia	houses
57	Automatonophobia	human-like figures
58	Entomophobia	insects
59	Astynomiophobia	law enforcement officers
60	Technourgimophobia	magic items
61	Stratiotophobia	martial classes
62	Androphobia	men
63	Catoptrophobia	mirrors
64	Pithikophobia	monkeys and ape-like creatures
65	Teratourgimophobia	monstrosities
66	Aichmophobia	needles or pointed objects
67	Trypanophobia	needles/injections
68	Arithmophobia	numbers
69	Chromophobia	one or more colors
70	Kalikantzarophobia	one or more monstrous humanoid races such as orcs or goblinoids
71	Laspophobia	oozes

d100	Phobia	Stimulus
72	Agoraphobia	open spaces or crowds
73	Algophobia	pain
74	Anthropophobia	people or society
75	Botanophobia	plants
76	Herpetophobia	reptiles
77	Amaxophobia	riding in a cart or carriage
78	Pontikiphobia	rodents
79	Katergarophobia	rogues
80	Metamorphophobia	shapeshifters
81	Microphobia	small animals
82	Ophidiophobia	snakes
83	Chionophobia	snow and ice
84	Glossophobia	speaking in public
85	Arachnophobia	spiders
86	Bathmophobia	stairs or steep slopes
87	Xenophobia	strangers or foreigners
88	Sminophobia	swarms
89	Noctiphobia	the night
90	Tonitrophobia	thunder
91	Astraphobia	thunder and lightning
92	Chronophobia	time (deadlines and schedules)
93	Lilapsophobia	tornadoes and hurricanes
94	Haphephobia	touch
95	Dendrophobia	trees
96	Cacophobia	ugliness
97	Apethanatophobia	undead

d100	Phobia	Stimulus
98	Hydrophobia	water
99	Aerophobia	wind
100	Gynophobia	women

Limitless Heroics for 5e (Disability, Neurodiversity, Mental illness Mechanics for DnD)

March 30, 2023



When you play a tabletop role-playing game like 5e, you want to be the hero. The world is different for you having been there, better. **What if you could make the real world better by playing an RPG?!** That's what Limitless Heroics is all about. Limitless Heroics is the **most comprehensive disability compendium ever created for a Tabletop Role-Playing Game. For Fifth Edition, it provides:**

- **640 Pages of content!**
- **450+ Traits:** Game mechanics for nearly every condition or trait in existence (plus some fantasy traits, because that's what you should expect in a world with magic) with 4 Impact Extents, and 6 Frequencies. With 1–6 traits per character (or more), that's **64,800+ combinations with the option to add more.** (Free Sample Trait: [Blindness](#))
- **78 Random tables** to choose or generate the traits, their Impact Extent, and their frequency ([Get a free ashcan sample with all the tables from the book.](#))
- **200+ New Magic Items and an online random generator for thousands more!** Nearly every trait includes mundane and magic assistive options. ([Free Sample Assistive Magic Item: Braces of Blades](#))
- **4 New Monster Stat Blocks** because sometimes, the disability or assistive device is a creature.
- **6 New Spells** because sometimes, assistance comes from a spellbook
- **Service animals** designed as classes (similar to sidekicks)
- **50 Example NPCs**, fully illustrated, ready to use
- **A [one-shot adventure](#)**
- **Thousands of real world examples** so players can learn more and better represent the traits
- **Tutorials:** Opening articles discuss how and why to implement these options, how to discuss it with your players, and common tropes to avoid. **You have all the tools here to run an inclusive campaign.**

Our website will have a [free random generator](#) to simplify determining character traits, but you'll need the book for the descriptions and mechanics, or you can use the included tables to choose or roll manually.

We talked to dozens of people with diverse conditions to make

sure our game mechanics represented their experiences before writing it, and over 900 people looked at the manuscript draft, and we got 90 pages of feedback from their experiences!

All writers, editors, and artists hired for this book are disabled, neurodivergent, and/or have mental or chronic illness.



Book Accessibility

- Dyslexia-friendly layout
- PDF, txt/csv, and ePub versions
- Fully screen reader accessible
- Indexed audio version included with every purchase

Real World Benefits

We believe that this resource will help you normalize disabilities in your life and the lives of other players. Non-disabled people can sometimes feel uncomfortable around disabled people or don't know how to talk or act. This resource allows you to practice in an imaginary world to equip you with empathy and skills to feel increasingly comfortable doing that in the real world. And those with disabilities now have a way to represent their experience in-game to feel empowered and to help others see them more clearly. Imagine what we could communicate to the world when all those actual play Twitch streams include disabled characters!



This is a movement.

Limitless Heroics is more than an RPG book. It's a petition. By supporting this project, you communicate to every game publisher on earth that disabled people exist and can easily be included in their games, that the customers want that representation, and that accessibility and representation are necessary core features for future products. Imagine companies and organizations seeing the success of this movement beyond the RPG community and how that would affect their decisions in the future. Imagine how you as RPG players who work in every industry can work for change to overcome ableism because of what you and your players learned while rolling dice at the RPG table. Imagining is what we do best, but we can use fantasy to change reality. Maybe RPGs have some real world magic after all. Support this project with the 2,287 backers and others who ordered it since, and mark this day on your calendar and social media as the day you helped change the world.

About the Players Edition

The Players Edition of Limitless Heroics includes everything in the full book except the adventure, magic items, and NPCs, reducing the size and associated costs by 346 pages. If you plan to use these resources in settings where you need multiple copies (e.g. schools, clinics, community organizations, etc.), this will save you some money.



We met these stretch goals, all of which are included.



\$25,000: Complications & Prostheses

Once we hit the \$25,000 goal, we added additional complications and magical prosthetics. Some experiences are not traits of various conditions, but complications that result from them, such as infections, concussions, secondary depression, and intoxication. Once we hit this goal, we added 20 complications to the book and 20 Magical Prostheses.



\$30,000: 10 NPCs

Similar to our previously published [Disabled NPC of the Week](#) but with more details, our character team added 10 NPCs (Non-Player Characters) with full backgrounds, personality details, disabilities, and artwork to the book. These are in addition to the characters created for the **Create a Character** and **DELUXE Create a Character** rewards and add-ons, which will be included automatically.



\$40,000: One-Shot Adventure: Horror of the Shade by Theo Kogod

When a caravan makes camp in the shadow of crumbling ruins, they awaken an ancient revenant and are transported to a dark eldritch dimension. To escape back to the physical world, they will need to fight their way past the undead shade or risk being trapped forever.



\$50,000: Service Animals

We included a chapter to implement service animals into your game, both real world and fantasy animals, including rules for training and how to use them. This section is written by Brittney Hay with service animal trainer and user consultation.

Content Warning

This book contains descriptions and game mechanics for nearly every physical, mental, and emotional condition in existence and a few that don't exist, including physical, mental, and emotional trauma and all manner of illnesses, including an entry on phobias and mention or illustrations of possible phobic triggers. If it can happen to your mind and/or body, it's probably here. For those who would have difficulty with any of that, please be aware of that likelihood. Use the table of contents to avoid difficult sections, or give this book to a trusted friend, and let them comb through it for the details you need to build your character while skipping past the traumatic entries.

Creators



Dale Critchley (Owner, Wyrmsworks Publishing) Primary author of Limitless Heroics, [Dale Critchley](#) is the owner, lead writer, and chief tea drinker at [Wyrmsworks Publishing](#). He's been playing tabletop role-playing games since 1982 and launched Wyrmsworks Publishing as a hobby in 2000 to share his homebrew resources with the world. In 2021, after seeing the power that a TTRPG group can have to change the lives of the participants for the better, [he rededicated Wyrmsworks Publishing](#) to focus on using TTRPGs to intentionally improve the lives of others and turned a

hobby into a full time pursuit.



Beth the Bard, Layout Editor is the author of “[She is the Ancient: A Genderbent Curse of Strahd](#)” guidebook, now a Platinum best-seller on DMs Guild. She’s also a general TTRPG writer, graphic designer, and professional dungeon master.



Joie Martin, Cover Layout & Layout Contributor owns Drowning Moon Studios, a roleplaying game publisher that has produced over a dozen titles and two anthologies since being founded in 2017. They have been writing, developing, editing, and doing layout and graphic design for tabletop and live action roleplaying games since 1996. Beyond roleplaying games, Joie has produced content for a variety of markets, including ARGs, interactive theater, and immersive experiences. They have been a key speaker on panels about roleplaying game design at events such as [DragonCon](#), [MomoCon](#), and [Metatopia](#), and was Head Judge for the [2020 IDGN Indie Groundbreaker Awards](#).



Naomi Hazlett: Copy Editor, Sensitivity Consultant **Naomi Hazlett, Bsc., MScOT, OT Reg. (Ont.)** is a writer, editor, and occupational therapist with chronic pain. She is neurodiverse, queer, and lives with chronic pain and mental illness. Her work has most recently focused on social accountability, diversity, and inclusion in occupational therapy and gaming, including the adoption of a critical disability lens. Naomi has played and run TTRPGs for over 20 years; she has worked with organizations including Level Up Gaming, BALANCE for Blind Adults, and LOFT Community Services to run accessible TTRPGs, and consults for D&D Beyond. Naomi has multiple publications in academic journals, magazines, blogs, and poetry collections, and is currently the Managing Editor of the Canadian Association of

Occupational Therapists' national magazine, Occupational Therapy Now. She can be found online at [@naomi_hazlett](#) or can be reached [via email](#).



Melissa Critchley, Sensitivity Consultant, lives with multiple disabilities. She has worked in the disability field for over 15 years and holds a graduate level certificate in Disability Policy and Services from the University of Minnesota in addition to her interdisciplinary master's degree. She also recently completed an advanced certificate in Equity and Diversity and is an advocate for social justice and equitable societal change. Melissa has played quite a few tabletop RPG games through the decades which include Shadowrun, BESM, D20 Modern, Mutants and Masterminds, and Star Wars. However until we were confined to our homes during Covid quarantines, Melissa hated D&D. A good friend invited her to play over Discord, and despite her objections, convinced her that she "never had him as a DM." It didn't take long before she changed her mind about D&D, and it's now her favorite game.



Simone Arnold, Sensitivity Consultant, Character Creation Team
Simone Arnold MA, Certified Geek Therapist, is a neurodivergent, queer clinical mental health counselor in the state of Vermont. They have been working in the mental health field since 2013 across a variety of settings including as a crisis clinician and currently as a counselor at a designated agency. Through this they've had the opportunity to work with people across the disability spectrum. They are also establishing their own private practice that is queer friendly with a special focus on ADHD and Autism. Simone has been gaming since 2012 and has had the opportunity to play across an array of systems including D&D 5e, Pathfinder, Dread, Thirsty Sword Lesbians, Call of Cthulhu and more.



Matthew Rickmon, Sensitivity Consultant, Character Creation Team, Certified Therapeutic Game Master, owns Tabletop For Growth ([IG](#), [Twitter](#)), a business dedicated to helping people learn interpersonal skills and develop core values through interactive tabletop games. Matthew has a Bachelor of Science in psychology and a Master of Divinity with a focus in pastoral counseling. He is a Certified Therapeutic Game Master and Certified Geek Specialist through Geek Therapeutics. He lives with multiple chronic illnesses: Crohn's Disease, Irritable Bowel, and Psoriasis. He also strongly suspects he is neurodivergent. Matthew has been writing stories and running in-person and live-streamed tabletop roleplaying games from his home in California since 2019. Beyond running roleplaying games, he maintains a strong partnership with The Erika Legacy Foundation, a mental health awareness and suicide prevention non-profit in Canada. Painting and writing tend to take up his free time when he's not being yelled at by his cat, Mr. Fox, for more pets.



Theo Kogod is a genderfluid writer, editor, educator, and activist. Diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD, Theo learned to read at the age of ten, then attempted writing their first novel a year later. They have written for numerous publications, including the websites CBR, Screen Rant, The Gamer, and The Comics Vault, as well as the podcast Enter the Fanboy. In 2014, Theo helped found the magazine *3 Feet Left* as its Resident Writer. Their fiction has been published in *Diabolical Plots*, *Starward Shadows*, and the cli-fi anthology *A Flash of Silver Green: Stories of the Nature of Cities 2099*, among other places. They are a lifelong storyteller and nerd who has been running *D&D* and other tabletop RPGs for over 15 years. You can find them at [@TKogod](#).



[Brittney Hay](#) is a non-binary ENNIE-nominated [bestselling TTRPG writer and creator](#). They are a full-time geeky nerd mom who enjoys reading, cooking and all things nerdy.

Amy Weisner

Amy Weisner is a second year occupational therapy student at the University of Toronto. She has been playing TTRPGs for the past five years, including D&D 5e, Call of Cthulhu, and most recently the Avatar TTRPG. She has a degree in Child and Youth Care, and has worked in many settings and roles including community outreach and within the school systems. Through her experience, she has worked with individuals from all walks of life, including people from across the spectrum of disability and mental health. Amy is a passionate advocate, with experience presenting on social justice issues and advocating for clients. She has most recently begun a fieldwork placement with OT Naomi Hazlett at Level Up Gaming, assisting with running therapeutic TTRPGs for neurodiverse young adults and working on projects to make TTRPGs more accessible.

Artists

We intentionally assembled an eclectic team of artists to reflect the diversity of experiences and expressions of these conditions:



[Kalman Andrasofszky](#) ([Insta](#)) is a freelance illustrator, comic book artist, writer, and educator in Toronto, a longtime member of the R.A.I.D. Studio, and newly diagnosed with ADHD. In 20+ years as a creative professional, Kalman has worked with many clients such as Marvel Entertainment, DC Comics, Wizards of the Coast, Shaftesbury Films, UNESCO, Portfolio Entertainment, and

TekSavvy, among others, creating content for such brands as X-Men, Avengers, Batman, Star Wars, Dungeons & Dragons, Murdoch Mysteries, and PG: Psycho Goreman. Kalman reinvigorated the classic Canadian superhero property Captain Canuck by both rebooting and adding many new concepts and characters to significantly expand the scope of the brand into a dynamic sci-fi shared universe. When not writing and drawing too many things at once, Kalman can be found retro-gaming on his vintage SEGA Genesis system.

Additional Artists

- [Dana Braga](#) (Cover Artist)
- ArtificialJealousy
- [Dot Valledor](#)
- [Erin Z. Anderson](#)
- Four-Horns
- [Hekellion](#)
- Jason Sherlin
- [Joseph Bielenberg](#)
- [Lucy Smart](#)
- [Luca Ippoliti](#) (IG)
- Pepoq

Additional Sensitivity Consultants

In addition to our primary sensitivity consultants, we discussed traits and game mechanics with hundreds of others as part of the research for this book to reflect their lived experiences as closely as possible. That list is too long to include here, but many of their names are included in the book's credits, and we can't express enough how grateful we are for their help.

Press

We appreciate all who have helped us get the word out about this project on podcasts and in the press.

- [It's a Mimic](#)
- [Crit Academy](#)
- [Geek Native \(and again\)](#)
- [Dicebreaker](#)
- [Nerd Immersion](#)
- [ComicBook.com](#)
- [Sly Flourish](#)
- [Disabled&Dragons](#) (Interview)
- [EN World](#)
- [Tabletop Journeys Podcast](#) (Interview)
- [Nerdarchy Daily Live Chat](#) (Interview)
- [Tabletop Gaming News](#)

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Should you have disabled PCs in your TTRPG? (Part 2 of 2)

March 30, 2023



In my [previous post](#), I discussed whether you should have disabled characters in your Dungeons & Dragons or other tabletop role-playing game. I won't rehash that discussion, so if you haven't, [read it first](#).

So people have said, "Sure, disabled (non-player) characters make sense, but adventurers?" Let's take a look at the most common arguments against disabled PCs.

Again, it's not a question of what you should do, but whether this is harmful or beneficial. It's a question of whether it will benefit your players and you as the DM. It's a question of whether having disabled PCs in your party will make a difference in the real world. It may seem like a fantasy game wouldn't make a difference in the real world, but when we play in interactive fantasy worlds, it affects our real world minds – players are affected by their characters.

Why would a disabled character choose to be an adventurer?

"Why would they choose a lifestyle that's likely to get them killed?" This question has two erroneous assumptions:

1. Adventurers usually choose to be adventurers as a career path.
2. Disabled characters are more likely to get killed adventuring than non-disabled people.

We'll address #2 below, but look at your characters' backgrounds. How many of them *chose* to be adventurers? How many of them *were chosen*, either by desperation or some other external event or circumstance?

In most fantasy worlds, adventurers are relatively rare. Most people never travel farther than a few miles from home their entire lives, needing to stay close to the family home, farm, or business, where multiple generations have lived. While fame and fortune are appealing, until the invention of the internal combustion engine, people didn't usually travel unless compelled to by catastrophe, persecution, governmental obligation (i.e. military or diplomatic), or religious pilgrimage unless they had a lot of money.

A character beginning their adventuring career disabled might do so for multiple reasons related to their disability, such as the catastrophe that caused their disability or rejection by their ableist village or family. But they also might do so for any of the other reasons that lead people to think their chances in life are better staring down the smoking maw of a dragon, like rescuing a loved one, growing in their understanding of the arcane, the "cause of righteousness," or revenge. Because they are persons, they begin with all the potential reasons for a person to become an adventurer. Because they have disabilities, they have even more potential reasons. A complex character would have multiple reasons that culminated in their decision.

Why would a party put up with a disabled character?

People with disabilities are people, not burdens. Any suggestion to the contrary indicates more about you than about disabled people. People are to be valued, not tolerated, regardless of any of their characteristics.

But are disabled adventurers a liability to the party? Everyone has strengths and challenges. Often, our challenges strengthen us. Other times, they're just extra challenges. In Dungeons & Dragons fifth edition, characters have opportunities to add depth to their characters with characteristics like bonds and flaws, and a character with a loose tongue or short temper is more likely to cause a problem for a party than a character with a disability.

How could a disabled adventurer survive?

Everyone has strengths and challenges, so everyone learns to use their strengths to compensate for their challenges. If you live in poverty, you learn to stretch your funds. If you work far from home, you get a vehicle that helps you get back and forth efficiently. If you're blind, you learn to use your other senses to navigate the world using cues from your other senses.

We use tools like swords to compensate for a lack of natural weapons, mail for a lack of natural armor, or a walking stick for lack of vision, wheelchair for a lack of being able to stand or walk a long time, or ear plugs for a lack of tolerance for loud noises.

And we depend on each other. Most adventuring parties have a

wide range of abilities, whether martial prowess, skill specialties, or spell casting. A dragonborn may consider lack of natural armor as any physical, mental, or emotional disability, and to the average dungeon-delver, that same sighted dragonborn without Darkvision is at a much greater disadvantage than a totally blind human, but both need help from the rest of the party.

Why wouldn't a disabled PC cure themselves?

In a world full of healing magic, while a player who is disabled in real life may want to play a character like themselves who overcomes obstacles, what in-game reason would a character have for eschewing healing magic to fix them?

Aside from the general rarity of high level clerics who can cast *greater restoration*, which still doesn't work on congenital disabilities, this question fails to recognize the perspective of many people with disabilities. When a person has had a disability for many years, they get used to navigating the world with it. Many deaf people who could get a cochlear implant choose not to and feel perfectly whole without it. Many people with autism are terrified of having a hypothetical cure forced on them. While a non-disabled person can't imagine choosing to keep a disability or neurodivergence, that stems more from our fear of the unknown or needing to adapt in new ways than the overall change in quality of life.

It's difficult for the DM

Accessibility is inherent in good adventure design, adapting the campaign for the Player Characters. If a ranger has fiends as a preferred enemy, the Dungeon Master needs to make sure to

include fiends as enemies. If a warlock has The Fathomless as a patron, the Dungeon Master needs to make sure to include some seafaring adventures. Depending on the trait, disabilities are even easier than class features. Disabilities put more responsibility on the rest of the party than on the DM, as the party needs to work together to support each other just as the barbarian usually takes the lead in battle, and the wizard typically stays back.

So is it beneficial?

Having established that playing a disabled or neurodivergent character isn't detrimental to a party, so there's no reason *not* to include them, do players have a good reason to play them? Is it beneficial?

Given that disability is the largest minority in the world, every player will encounter members of that demographic and likely become part of it eventually. By playing that role and learning firsthand how people navigate the world with disabilities, they will develop empathy and respect, they will learn firsthand to dispel rumors, and they will be more welcoming to a wider variety of people.

If you'd like help introducing disabled characters into your game, I encourage you to check out [Limitless Heroics!](#)

Should you have disabled

characters in your Dungeons & Dragons game? (Part 1 of 2)

March 30, 2023



On the release of our first [Accessible Adventure of the Week](#), the question arose, as it always seems to, “Why would I play a disabled character? They wouldn’t last 10 minutes in a dungeon!” While this led to some interesting discussions, it’s a question people will ask, whether openly or in their minds. So as we prepare for not only many more of these adventures and [NPCs](#), but also the [Limitless Heroics](#) book that will provide fifth edition game mechanics for nearly every trait in existence, the question is worth asking and exploring.

Personally, I’m not a fan of “should” or any sense of moral superiority (not that I’m innocent of it – it’s a tempting trap), but I’ve come to see the world and decisions in terms of “harmful” and “beneficial” (and certainly some decisions are neutral as they’re neither of the former). (Maybe this paradigm could help with all the hand-wringing about alignment in D&D – probably not.)

So then are disabled characters in D&D beneficial? (For brevity, when I say, “Disabled,” I’m referring to all matters of disability and illness, whether physical, mental, or emotional, and all varieties of neurodiversity.) My bias is obvious, but then *why* is it beneficial?

- **Representation.** People want to be able to play someone like them and have characters appear in the game that communicate, “You are welcome here. You belong.”
- **Encountering the Other.** Role-play is a powerful teaching tool that allows us to experience and walk through various life situations with minimal consequences that will allow us to avoid negative consequences when we encounter an analogous situation in real life. So when we learn to interact with a disabled character in-game, we’re learning to interact with a disabled person in real life and become more comfortable around them, but if we accidentally say or do something harmful, we can learn from the mistake without actually harming someone (or at least less so – players are real people).
- **Experiencing the Other.** By playing a disabled character, we can get a small taste of the challenges someone with those traits experiences (a very small taste, since we can turn it on and off at will and only imagine the experience), but if we play them with complexity as we would any other character, we learn to see disabled people as complex people, not cardboard stereotypes or [inspiration porn](#).
- **Cooperation.** One of the most important lessons I’ve personally learned in the writing of *Disabilities & Depth* is the benefit that I as a non-disabled person can be to disabled people. We all need each other – independence is a harmful lie. Shorter people ask me (6’3”) to get items off top shelves at stores. Blind people may ask you to describe something for them. Having a slight hearing impairment, I often ask, when the TV captions are unreliable, “What did they say?” D&D is an inherently cooperative game, and learning how best to cooperate with disabled people in-game will help us be more sensitive and helpful in real life.

- **Acknowledging the reality.** It's easy for non-disabled people to wish away disabilities, and when it's not part of every moment of every day or a significant amount of any given day, it's easy to forget that disability exists – it's not something non-disabled people think about. And when we're not considering the *existence* of disabled people, we're not considering the *needs* of disabled people, which leads to ableism through ignorance. The more we recognize that disabled people are part of our world, the more we expect to see them in all representations of existence without it seeming odd, just as a world lacking women would seem odd (and probably the main point of the narrative or campaign world). Think about that – a fantasy world without disabled people should have, “Where are all the disabled people?” as a primary narrative. If that's not the point of the story, ask yourself why you chose to alter that aspect of reality and what that decision means.

But then we need to consider the converse: is excluding disabled characters from D&D beneficial, harmful, or neutral?

I just showed how, at the very least, it's odd. It doesn't make sense. Even in a world with healing spells, at the very least, even [greater restoration](#) can't restore a limb that was never there in the first place. Plus, clerics and other healers are rare. Not every cleric is a cleric. And not every cleric is high enough level to cast more than a daily [cure wounds](#) or two. There's simply not enough healing magic for every injury and illness, especially when plagues sweep through. And then there's socio-economic factors. (The king doesn't want people camping outside the castle so the high priestess can come through and select some for healing each day – she should save those spell slots for ~~him~~ emergencies!)

Is it beneficial in the sense of escapism? When you play D&D,

you're going to a fantasy world that doesn't have real world problems, right? Because that green dragon is nothing like your conniving boss? That bullying ogre is nothing like your obnoxious coworker or classmate? If you play D&D for the power fantasy, how does the presence of disabled people interrupt that? These questions are not accusations – they're questions for self-reflection.

Is it harmful to exclude disabled people from your game world? What about excluding people with dark skin? What about excluding women from adventuring roles? Like any other people group, it's beneficial for your own self-awareness to ask yourself, "Why does my fantasy world include the kinds of people that it does and exclude the kinds that it does? Why did I make that decision, even if it wasn't a conscious decision? What have I learned about myself?" It also begs the question, "When I have the opportunity to be beneficial at little or no cost to myself and choose not to, is that inherently harmful?"

How does using disabled characters relate to the goal of D&D?

When I was in high school, our D&D group was at a church lock-in (overnight party). During free time, we found an unused room and played D&D. People would stop by and listen in and invariably ask, "Who's winning?" All the players would point at the DM and say, "HE IS!" But in reality, we were all winning. We were having a great time. We were bonding with each other, learning teamwork, practicing math, and benefiting in all the ways D&D is beneficial. To me, the goal of D&D is to have fun, regardless whether we complete the quest as expected.

That said, there's a sense of satisfaction in completing the quest, in powering up, in gaining loot or recognition or all the

many goals players have for their characters. But does disability detract from that?

There's a reason each character class has limitations – the game is no fun if you can literally do anything. Were that the case, you wouldn't need dice (and could give them all to me!). No, the game is about facing challenges and finding creative solutions to those challenges with help from your allies. But isn't that the life of a disabled person? If anything, a disabled character who still uses class abilities is the quintessential D&D character – someone with disadvantages and challenges who isn't helpless and can achieve their goals, not *in spite of* their challenges, but *regardless of* their challenges, because while their challenges are part of them, they don't define them.

So then should we pressure or require disabled characters?

Again with the “should” – what is harmful or beneficial? Forcing someone to play a disabled character would not be beneficial. It would not be fun. They would learn the wrong lesson.

I've also learned that moral pressure to do *anything* is harmful – it leads to resentment or self-righteousness, and either way, it never lasts or actually changes hearts and minds.

Rather, the more we introduce disabled characters as NPCs or through other players who would like to do so, the more we offer and demonstrate the benefits of doing so, but that's only possible when we normalize the presence of competent and capable disabled characters in the game world.

I welcome your thoughts in the comments below. If you, like me, would like to include the benefits of disabled characters in your game, I invite you to sign up for our newsletter so you

don't miss our resources that will help you do that, many of which are free.

Note: This is the first of 2 in a series. [Read Part 2 Here.](#)