

**Waltzing through Imperfections: An Analysis of the Series *Extraordinary
Attorney Woo* Using Cultural Model of Disability Studies**

Dissertation submitted to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam in partial fulfillment
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English Language and Literature.

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Certificate

This is to certify that the dissertation *Waltzing through Imperfections: An Analysis of the Series Extraordinary Attorney Woo Using Cultural Model of Disability Studies* by Vasila M P, Register Number 200021001008 is a record of bona fide work carried out by me in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the graduate degree of Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature.

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Declaration

I, Athira Manoharan, hereby affirm that the dissertation titled *Waltzing through Imperfections: An Analysis of the Series Extraordinary Attorney Woo Using Cultural Model of Disability Studies*, is a genuine record of work done by me under the guidance of Miss. Athira Manoharan, Post Graduate Department of English, Bharata Mata College, Thrikkakara and has not been submitted previously for the award of any degree or diploma.

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Vasila M P

Contents

Chapter 1: Sirens of Imperfection	1-7
Chapter 2: Culture and Disability	8-12
Chapter 3: Whale Tales and Relations	13-17
Chapter 4: 'Court'ing	18-22
Chapter 5: Melting the 'differences'	23-26

Chapter 1

Sirens of Imperfections

Korean dramas or k-dramas are different from the series produced from other countries. They belong to a number of artistic genres including romance, thrillers, investigation and horror. Korean dramas have recently gained popularity around the world with rise of k-pop, especially in Asian countries. The language barrier created across boundaries are met through subtitles which are provided in many languages. Though they deal with various facets of human life and social relationship, romance occupies the centre plot of them. Korean dramas are concise into sixteen or twenty episodes which are mostly less than hour each. This structure makes it feasible to watch and enjoy in contrast to series from countries like India which runs for years. There are few Korean dramas which have more than twenty episodes, but most of the Korean dramas have less than that.

Korean dramas have played a significant role in spreading the Korean cultural fever across the globe. Through these soft family dramas, youngsters acquainted themselves with Korean fashion, makeup, cultural shows and most importantly, food. Food is an important element which attracts the viewers. Korean dramas feature characters having social interactions that involves food and restaurants. The popularity attained by Kimchi, Kimbap, Suchi owes it to the dramas which featured them. Culture plays a huge role in this too, as actors often eat food indicative of culture in all kinds of settings. Dramas also provide space for advertisements accommodated into the plot of it. In Korean dramas product placement is a technique to promote food products of different companies. The characters use and display the products in the show.

The actors drink or eat special brands of packed food. The Korean skin care products which gained momentum in the recent past also owe its success to the drama and glass-like skin of the actors featured in them.

In every k-dramas we can see the excessive use of alcohol. The hero and heroine of the drama often make a bond through sharing a drink and mostly end up getting drunk. It seems as the common ways of bonding among Korean youth and something conducive to their climate which is mostly cold. K-dramas also shows the negative sides of excessive use of alcohol by using alcoholic characters occasionally.

K-drama includes different genres which are vastly distinct from each other. Some are traditional and historical while some deals with contemporary issues such as queer politics, disability studies, pop-culture. Music also plays an important role in Korean dramas which often become as important as the characters. Background scores of Korean dramas are often released as albums with an existence outside the premise of the film. These songs are usually sung by members of casts who are also often well-known k-pop k-pop idols. Korean drama has created a tough benchmark for ‘oppas’ with their overall excellence.

The project dwells in the background of these amazing cultural ground of creativity. However, the foregrounded focus of the project is on the series *Extraordinary Attorney Woo*, which educates the viewers about autism and how society perceives it through the character named Woo Young Woo who is an autistic person as well as a genius. Yu In Sik is the director of the series *Extraordinary Attorney Woo*. Yu In Sik is known for his drama *Dr. Romantic* and *Ms. Cop*. His works deal with problems that occur in daily lives but are often given marginal attention. *Extraordinary Attorney Woo* follows the same suit. As the name of the series indicates, it features an attorney who is not ordinary. But her inability to be ordinary is shown in a positive light which is distinct from the conventional light bent on

people suffering from autistic spectrum disorder. She is not differently abled but extraordinary.

This series released in June 2022 and has released sixteen episodes currently. The series tells the story of Woo Young Woo, a brilliant rookie attorney with autism spectrum disorder. She works in a big law firm. There she faces discrimination, but she solves the cases with her unique way of thinking. Extraordinary attorney woo shows how person with disability is treated in society and workplace which is the subject at hand if this project.

The first episode shows the five-years-old Woo Young Woo and how her father finds she has autism. Like most of the people with ASDs, Young Woo was diagnosed young, at five years old. Her Asperger's manifest as being social anxiety and reservedness. But at the same time, she is also a genius with photographic memory and obsessive love towards whales. The series then skips time and starts of when she graduates from Seoul National University at the top of her class and begins her first day as Hanbada, one of the foremost law firms as a rookie attorney. Her senior attorney was not at first ready to work with her because he thought a person with autism will not be able to handle the cases. But the CEO of the firm, Han Seon-Young supports her and agrees to dismiss her if she misses handle her first case to compromise the supervisor Attorney Jung Myung-seok. She wins her first case. Her colleagues were shocked by her intelligence and Myung-seok grew gentle and considerate towards her. However, her success invites jealousy from her colleague Kwon Min-woo who in the subsequent episodes tries to sabotage her career in Hanbada. The prejudice face by Young Woo is the study of interest of this project. Each episode of the show focuses on particular cases that Young Woo was able to solve with her unique pattern of thought process.

In the next episode, it shows how she handled the case of a girl whose marriage was ruined because of her dress malfunctioned at the marriage function and exposed the tattoo of

Buddha on her body leaving her half naked in front of the guest. She won the case. Young woo comes to attention of CEO of Teasan, Tae so-mi who is Young Woo's mother who abandoned her after giving birth due to the difference between the social stature of Young Woo's father Woo Gwang-ho.

The next episode was about case of the death of a brilliant medical student who died due to intoxication and mysterious broken ribs. One day the parents of the medical student saw their autistic younger son beating his brother in the chest. When they checked on him, he was found dead. The father of the medical student approaches Hanbada to defend his autistic son against murder charges. Attorney of the case was Young Woo. Young Woo following her father's advice, tries to communicate with him (Jeong Hoon). Young Woo found evidence that the medical student had committed suicide. She was also able to find that the autistic brother tried to save him by performing CPR. But the parents refused to accept that he was suicidal owing to his excellent academic profile and success. Young Woo was removed from the case due to her autistic condition. Later she tried to find what exactly happened to the medical student. She tried to hang herself to find what exactly happened. Her colleague, Lee Jun-Ho saw this and tried to save her. She fell to the floor on her back. She explained the things to her senior attorney. In the court it was proved that the autistic brother tried no to kill his brother but on the contrary attempted to save the life of his brother. And he was set free. However, Young was disillusioned with her dream of becoming an Attorney who can help everyone around. She resigned as she thought she was useless in defending in some cases such as the one recently encountered.

In the next episode, she handled the case of the father of her best friend, Dong Geu-ra-m. Her father was fooled by his brothers about the shares of their late father's property and he was in debt of two hundred and sixty million won. She won the case and the brothers apologised to him for their doings.

In later episodes we can see how she handles the cases in her own way. And she finds out about her mother who abandoned her after giving birth for an elite life. She falls in love with her colleague, Jun-Ho who was always there to help her. Later she finds that his family is against their relationship as she is autistic. And she thinks he will not be happy with her; she will be a burden to him. She breaks up with him, but later they make up. She finds out that she has a brother and she helps with his case and advises her mother to be a good mother for her son.

Friendship and romance are beautifully portrayed in the series. As episodes progress, we can see a unique way of greeting between Young woo and Dong Gue-rami, who is Young Woos best friend, and it went viral among the viewers.

Along with showing the life of main character, stories of lives of people in some grave junctures and circumstances were featured in the series which comes as the client of Hanbada law firm. And some important messages and advices gives through those characters. This series gives a massive lesson to viewers to learn empathy, be more accepting of disabilities, and understand that everybody's spectrum is different.

Whales have an important role in the life of Young Woo. Whales are like spirit animal for her. It calms her frayed nerves, helps her ceases and even helps her make new friends. The series is an honest analysis of discrimination and opportunities that surround the lives of autistic people. Young Woo is blessed with analytical thinking capacity and photographic memory which helped her wade through the difficulties faced by her due to autism. But the case is not the same for everyone going through the same condition.

Cultural model of disability studies developed by Sharon Snyder and David Mitchell is applied to conduct an in-depth analysis of the social and interpersonal communication gap has contributed in creating the marginal space for the disabled. The medical model of

disability and the social model of disability are the previous models of disability. According to the medical model of disability, you are the cause of your disability and it is your issue. The medical model of disability attempts to treat the handicap by either making a person appear less disabled or by using the medical intervention or “normalise”. According to the social model of disability, a person’s disability is unique, just as a person’s gender, age or colour is unique. It also claims that there are disabilities that affect how people connect with one another and with society.

Sharon Snyder and David Mitchell put forward the cultural model of disability to deal with issues which were not covered by social and medical model of disability studies. Sharon Snyder is an independent researcher and also a faculty member in the department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

David Mitchell is an editor, scholar, history/film exhibitory creator and film maker in the field of disability studies. He wrote books regarding disability and produced films of disability, art and culture. David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder are authors of the books: *Narrative Prothesis; Disability and the Dependencies of Discourse* (2006), *Cultural Locations of Disability* (2006) and *The Biopolitics of Disability: Neoliberalism, Ablenationalism and Peripheral Embodiment*. They are also the creators of *The Body and Physical Differences; Discourses of Disability* (1997) and have cowritten more than thirty-five refereed journal essays on various aspects of disability culture, art and history.

Cultural model of disability values disability as human diversity. From the perspective of cultural model, ableism, lack of accessibility and personal feelings cause heightened problems and serves as barriers of individuals with disabilities. The cultural model of disability views ableist ideology and social institutions as the root of problems. With this perspective, cultural model says that, those who can incite change are the society, disability

culture as a whole, and social movements. Cultural model of disability seeks to change institutions beliefs viewing disability as a “problem” that must be fixed or ignored. And the goal of cultural model of disability is that disability will be reframed as a valuable and vital part of human diversity. The project, by analysing different relationship formed by Young Woo, in personal and professional life tends to prove her as an integral part of human population.

Chapter 2

Culture and Disability

In our society there are many disabled people, some of them are afflicted with inborn handicap while some others are mentally retarded. There are others who might have lost their limbs or some organs on account of an attack of some disease. Others are victims of accidents. Speaking from a purely objective standpoint, we as humans are all differently abled from one another. When referring to groups of people, there is nothing inaccurate in saying that within the group each people is differently abled. Using the term “differently abled” to refer to disabled people actually reinforces the idea that there is one normal way to be human. It suggests that only disabled people who must now be called differently able instead defective from the normal human model and also it suggests that there is in fact a correct way to be able.

In Disability Studies emerged as a distinct field so as to probe into the literary as well a cultural portrayal of disability in different types of texts. It includes many models of disability. Cultural model of disability is one of the models of disability. Cultural model of disability as a distinct theory came into being in the middle of the first decade of the twenty first century and proposed a border view of disability than the previous models, which are medical model and social model.

Disability is viewed as a defect or abnormality in the medical model of disability. It is believed that physical or psychological deficiencies are the causes of disability. The “problem” – from the medical point of view – are the individuals with disability. Experts in the medical field are thought to be the ones with the power to make change while the ones

suffering from disability are not attributed with agency for self improvement. The medical model emphasises a need for change in relation to people with disabilities and others accommodations efforts. The change efforts aim to identify, reduce, remedy, and accommodate perceived shortcomings. The medical model promotes health care spending in order to offer service to support persons with disabilities, emphasises the significance of biological causes, and establishes a criterion for medical treatment and legal review.

This model has a number of flaws, including a tendency to perpetuate stigma, promoting exclusive rather than inclusive definitions and criteria for disabilities, and dehumanising since a person must “prove” their disability (for example, through medical treatment or legal evaluation). It also ignores the impact of design decisions on society (focusing on a disabled person as the “problem” or “obstacle” rather than the surroundings).

The term the social model of disability is first coined by the disabled academic Mike Oliver in 1983. He is often known as the father of the social model of disability. The social model of disability postulates that a person’s impairment or difference is not what cause their disability, but rather the way society is set up. It looks at methods of removing barriers that constrict the options available to disabled individuals. When barriers are removed, disabled people can become independent, equal members of society with freedom of choice and command over their own life. Disability is regarded as a difference in the social model or social perspective. It views ableism and lack of accessibility in general infrastructure and mainstream traffic as the root cause of disability. Or, to put in other way, the social model sees impairment as a condition created by bad design. The core of the issue is mostly found in societal structure and system. It is thought that institutional leaders, people with disability, disability activist, social movements have the power to change the situation. The social model modifies society norms and values, as well as institutional procedures and protocols. The

objective of the social model is to make society and daily life more accessible by removing any barriers that limit or take away options for those with disability.

The model's flaws include removing disability from a person's identity and failing to emphasise the biological reality of disability, which affects thousands of people. Many people with disability perceive their disability as an important part of their identity, despite some people's opinion to the contrary.

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health has been criticised for its faults and cultural model of disability was introduced. The cultural model of disability was developed by Sharon Snyder and David Mitchell from the university of Chicago.

In the field of disability studies, David Mitchell works as a researcher, editor, creator of historical and film exhibition. He is the author of three academic works: *Cultural Locations of Disability*, *The Biopolitics of Disability: Neoliberalism, Ablenationism, and Peripheral Embodiment*, and *Narrative Prosthesis: Discourse of Disability. The Body and Physical Differences: Discourses of Disability*, *The Encyclopaedia of Disability*, *The Master of Disability*, and *Cultural History of Disability in the Modern Age* are four edited scholarly collections that he has published. In his capacity as a film maker, he has created four films about disability arts and culture, including *Vital Signs: Art of Riva Lehrer* and *Disability Takes on the Arts*. His documentary film work received a special acknowledgement in 2007 from the Munich Film Museum and *The Way We Live Now: Disability Short Film Festival* for having a significant influence on filmic representations of disability.

Professor Sharon Snyder works for the university of Illinois at Chicago's Department of Disability and Human Development. She co-authored *Narrative Prosthesis: Disability and*

the Dependencies of Discourse with David Mitchell, and she served as a co-editor of *The Body and Physical Difference: Discourses of Disability*.

The ICF categorisation, according to the authors, presents a disability model that maintains the status of the health concerns and calls for specialised care based on standards for non-disabled persons and their living situation. According to the cultural model of disability, impairment is defined as both human characteristics that are constrained by environmental factors and socially mediated differences that give people with impairment a sense of belonging, as well as the study of these individuals from a phenomenological perspective. Supporters of the cultural model argues that disability should not be viewed as a disease or as a reason for social marginalisation.

The cultural model of disability improves how society views disability nowadays. It demonstrates the necessity of considering how people with disabilities are viewed and interact with others in various cultures while conducting research on disability. The cultural model of disability broadens our understanding on what disability is in both theoretical and practical sense. The reason behind attributing personal autonomy is so important in modern societies and what normative expectations and restrictions are associated to it arise in cultural models of disability, which promotes a more comprehensive approach. By considering independent life, we may emphasise the main advantage of the cultural model of disability. In order understand the nuances of disability, the interaction of marginal culture with dominant culture can be studied. Researchers studying disability culture can benefit from using the cultural model of disability as an analytical tool.

In the cultural model of disability, disability is celebrated as a kind of human diversity. From this perspective, ableism, lack of accessibility, and individual attitudes increase problems and present obstacles for individuals with disabilities. The cultural model of

disability, like the social model of disability, attributes the problem to ableism and societal norms. From this viewpoint, society, the disabled community as a whole, and social movements are viewed as the agents of change. The cultural model of disability seeks to change how institutions perceive disability, which they now see as a “problem” that needs to be solved or ignored. It is envisaged that through the aforementioned change, disability will be reframed as a significant and valuable aspect of human diversity.

The benefits of this approach include the fact that people with disabilities are accepted, recognised as a source of pride and belonging, and linked to organisations that are more inclined to support political change. Having said thus, the next chapter of the project investigates upon the various personal relations formed by Young Woo and how it has helped her form her perspectives

Chapter 3

Whale Tales and Relations

Extraordinary Attorney Woo is a Korean legal drama centres on Woo Young Woo, a recent law school graduate with autism who is starting her legal career at Hanbada, one of the most popular law firms. A different court case is investigated in almost every episode. In addition to the court room drama, the series places a lot of emphasis on the emotional ties among family and friends. The shows greatest accomplishment is the amount of awareness it was able to create in south Korea regarding Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In the drama *Extraordinary Attorney Woo*, relationships have an important role. Relationship between father and daughter, friendship and romance are beautifully portrayed in this drama. Woo Young Woo's father is a single parent. In order to raise his autistic daughter, Woo Young Woo, Woo Kwang gave up his ambition to become a lawyer and opened a Kimbap shop. He found out that Woo Young Woo is an autistic child when she was five years old. He also realised that she has high intelligence. When he was attacked by the drunken neighbour in front of Young Woo, she started to scream about the criminal law. It was the first time that she talked after being a mute since birth. from that incident Woo Kwang found that she is not a mute but suffered from social anxiety which was part of her autistic condition. He also found that she was interested studying law and possessed the most crucial element for the same, memory. He supported her to achieve her goal.

The relation between Woo Young Woo and her father in the series is heart-warming to watch. She shares her thought with her father she talks about the works in her office. She even took advices from her father about the case which she handled. When she defended a case regarding an autistic person, she asked her father what it was like to raise an autistic

child alone and how he felt living with an autistic person. He answered all her questions and it helped her to communicate with her autistic client. He ran a Kimbap shop he made food for her and packs lunch for her. Sometimes he tells her that she became an adult to prepare her own food and take care herself and her father. Woo Young Woo only eats kimbap she feels strange when she eats a food with unfamiliar taste. She always talks about how she feels every day before she leaves her house in the morning. Young Woo's father's picture of different facial expressions of feelings are pasted in the wall near to the mirror in her room, looking at that she finds how she feels that day when she wakes in the morning. When Young Woo says that she is not an attorney any more he asks her why she quiet her job and convinces her to re-join. She always talks about whales to her father and the others. She says everything that pops in her mind without scrutinising. Others find her behaviour strange, and criticises her.

Tae so mi, Taensa's CEO was impressed by the intelligence and by the skills of Woo Young Woo and offers her a job in Taesan. Tae so mi is Young Woo's mother who abandoned her after giving birth to her, but the both didn't recognise each other. Woo Young Woo accepts the offer. When Woo Young Woo was to leave her house to move to Taesan her father says the truth to her that Tae so mi is her mother and she abandoned her when she was just an infant and made a deal to never again. When Woo Young Woo heard this, she fell unconscious. After she went to see her mother and refused the offer she gave and told her that she is her daughter. Tae so mi was shocked. She approached Woo Young's father and asked him if he is trying to threaten her. He gets mad and shouts at her.

Woo Young Woo finds that she has a brother. He comes to her as a client. He hacked personal details and confessed his crime. He is a minor. His mother was not ready to attend the trial. Young Woo met her and said she was not a good mother to her but try to be a good mother for her son.

Young Woo and her best friend Geu Rami have a wonderful relationship. Her best friend is like a supporting pillar to her. They have a unique way of greeting. They became friends when they were in high school. They share their all thoughts and feelings. She protected Young Woo from the bullies when they were in school. She supported her in every situation. Young Woo helped her best friend's father with his case.

Woo Young Woo's friend and colleague Choi Su Yeon is the only person Young Woo knows from the college who she calls "spring sunshine." She always assists Young Woo with simple tasks like opening a bottle cap or telling her when the café is offering Kimbap. Although she herself is a brilliant lawyer, she never views Young Woo as a competitor. She helped Young Woo recognise her feelings for Jun Ho despite having a crush on him, and supported their relationship. She and Kwon Min Woo frequently argue, and she is the only one who reprimands him when he tries to intimidate Young Woo.

Young Woo meets Lee Jun-Ho in Hanbada. He helped her to pass the revolving door which was struggling to pass. He works in the litigation team in Hanbada. He made a rhythm to make it easy to pass the revolving door to Young Woo. He works with Young Woo's team and frequently travels with them to their cases. He does not fall in love with Young Woo out of sympathy. For him, it was love at first sight, and he didn't require an explanation for his feelings. He understands her and doesn't care about her autism. He listens intently as she talks about whales, but he becomes envious when she mentions a previous relationship. Despite the fact that he appears to be flawless, he is not. Young Woo had liked him for very long time, but he couldn't figure out, so he finally ventures to ask her. Jun Ho is compassionate, non-judgemental, and lives his life according to his own rules. Despite how much he cares for Young Woo, the fact that Young Woo has autism does not prevent him from talking to Young Woo about their problem. He doesn't bad mouth her when they part away. He chooses to let her take her time. After she opens up to him. He helps her understand

his love in the way that she can comprehend rather than pressuring her to accept it. His devotion to her is unwavering but not blind. If she is mistaken, he admits it to her and they resolve the issue together. He helped her in her difficult situations and accompanied her in everything. Whenever she talks about whales, he enjoys it and listens to her. Gradually they developed romantic feelings. He does everything that he can to make her happy and comfortable. One day when they witnessed an accident Young Woo got scared and started to cry. Jun Ho comforted her hugging her tight. They faced criticism from her friends. One day when they were walking along the road one of his friends saw her and she asked if he is volunteering to accompany her. When he told his friends that they are in relationship, they made fun of them or rather were astonished by their relationship. He got provoked and fought with them. He has a genuine feeling for her which is not marked by her ASD.

When Young Woo's father found about their relationship, he doubted about Jun Ho's feeling towards her. He had a doubt that he is not genuinely love with her. When Jun Ho introduced Woo Young Woo to his parents as his girlfriend, they were against their relationship. They told him that he won't be happy with her as she is an autistic person. They said she will only be a burden to him and she can't make him happy. Young Woo accidentally overheard everything they said. She felt sad and believed that she wouldn't be able to make him happy. She decided to break up with him. Jun Ho asked her the reason why she broke up with him, but she didn't give an answer. When he begged her to tell the reason, she complied and admitted that she overheard the conversation between Jun Ho and his parents. She told him that she won't be able to make him happy. If he is with her, he won't be happy. He understood that she heard what her sister told to him. He told her that he is happy when he is with her and to be happy, he wants to be with her.

The drama follows Young Woo's growth and development as she negotiates friendship, authority, love and truth about her birth-mother in a cruel society by focusing on a

different case in each episode. Young Woo is a fantastic lawyer; she can solve issues with ease, she is an excellent student, and she is well versed in the law. However, she has trouble completing tasks that others her age has no trouble with.

Young Woo is shown in the first episode becoming anxious as a result of having to pass a rotating door. She can be seen examining a chart of facial expressions in order to comprehend how people interact. She uses headphones because loud noises make her nervous. She has trouble speaking, and repeating things helps her recall them. As she starts working at the legal firm, she must break this tendency. Young Woo is also conscious of all the difficulties she encounters, and viewers frequently hear her complaining that life is difficult for people like me.

Korean dramas make stories concerning persons with disabilities, mental health issues, domestic violence, the psychological trauma of serving military, and many other topics have received a great deal of attention. There are many reasons why people enjoying Korean dramas, but more stands out in light of extraordinary attorney woos growing popularity: the portrayal of disabled people.

Chapter 4

'Court'ing the Disability

A glimpse inside the life of someone on the autism spectrum is provided in the series *Extraordinary Attorney Woo*, which breaks the template for how disability is portrayed in film and television. Specially, as seen by Young Woo.

As a viewer we get to experience a day in her shoes as she gets ready for work. She eats Kimbap every single day to maintain her daily routine, uses headphones on the tube to block out external stimuli, counts to five on her fingers before entering a room, deals with different people in and out courtroom including those who think she is not capable to her job, tries to communicate and interact with co-workers, and manages her meltdown. This drama continually serves to dispel widely held misconception about autistic person with heartfelt observation that touch the soul.

Woo Young Woo had always had a fascination with the law because her father was a lawyer. She graduated from a law school with the highest score but was unable to find work for several months owing to her autism. But because her father is friends with the CEO of Hanbada law firm, she eventually makes Young Woo an employment offer. Despite the fact that Young Woo has autism and is unable to perceive emotions and circumstances in the same way as others, she is not scared to try new things. She learns through experience and isn't afraid to say when she doesn't know something. Young Woo faced a lot of problems and criticisms as an autistic lawyer in her office. The first crisis that she faces when she went to the office is the revolving door. Even if she was confused and scared, she tried to pass through the revolving door. But she failed. Lee Jun Ho is the one who helped her to open the revolving door.

When Young Woo met with her senior attorney Jeong Myung Seok and introduced her, he had doubts about her. He didn't want her in his team, but Seon-Young, CEO of Hanbada agrees that he can fire Young Woo if she mishandles her first case. Although he initially had doubts about young woo, he was still patient with her.

The first case that she got to handle was to defend her childhood neighbour, charged with attempt to murder to her husband. Even if a plea deal for attempted murder has been agreed upon, Young Woo understands that doing so would avoid the defendant's pension and leave her without a place to live. Following cross examination by Woo Young Woo, who elicits testimony from a medical expert that the irritable husband may have suffering from an underlying subdural hematoma, the man passes away. The offence is downgrade to assault, and the defended gets probation while keeping her pension and house.

After knowing the potential of Young Woo, her superior began to do everything in his power to help her. He doesn't become angry when Young Woo wanders into a chat about whales or another unrelated subject. He supported her.

Young Woos colleague Kwon Min Woo recognises Young Woo's brilliance and regards her as a rival. He frequently thinks that Young Woo receives preferential treatment because she is autistic, and he always tries to pick on her. He even makes an attempt to have her dismissed in an effort to land a position at the Taesan legal firm. Before anyone else at Hanbada, he was aware that Young Woo was Tae Su Mi's daughter.

She got a case to defend an autistic man whose name is Kim Jeong Hoon. He is seen presumably beating his older brother, a medical student who later passes away intoxicated and with a suspicious broken rib. His father, a client of Hanbada, requests that the company handle Jeong Hoon's defence. Young Woo attempts to communicate with Jeong Hoon through his love of Pengsoo, following her father's advice how to reach an autistic person.

Although Young Woo and Jun Ho discovers evidence of the older brothers attempted suicide by hanging himself, his parents were not ready to accept that he attempted suicide. The prosecution challenges the defendant's decreased capacity but referring Young Woos high functioning autism. Despite Myung Seok's objections, the case is given to one of his rivals. Young Woo tries to hang herself in her workplace to find what exactly happened to the medical student, but Jun Ho intervenes and saves her. She understood that Jeong Woo made the same endeavour to save his brother, falling and fracturing the victim's ribs while attempting CPR. The accusation against him lowered to mere physical harm. Young Woo leaves Hanbada in dissatisfaction after Jeong Hoon declared her mentally incompetent.

Tae-so-mi, the birth mother of Young Woo was first presented to us as the top attorney at Taesan, the law office of her father, which also happens to be a competitor of Hanbada. Young Woo admires Su-mi as she demolishes Hanbada in the courtroom with grace, but even in this hero moment, there is a definite undertone of negativity. Su mi appears to have benefited from nepotism, while Taesan's winning strategy primarily relies on dishonest tactic like bribery and surface gloss. Hanbada, in contrast, makes clumsy attempts that are so painfully unsuccessful that they are mocked. Even though Taesan's victory may have brought him glory, Hanbada's defeat had integrity. It is a textbook example of failing up.

Tae Su mi, who is unaware that Young Woo is her daughter, is so taken with the young lawyer that she tries to snare her for Taesan. When she learns who Young Woo is, her attitude abruptly changes. Su mi visits Young Woo's father, and requests that he persuade his daughter to leave Korea as well as Hanbada. Su-mi does not want the fact that she has an illegitimate child to be known because she is waiting for a powerful position.

The series extraordinary attorney Woo's depiction of ableism encourages viewers to combat it in their everyday lives. Young Woo experiences discrimination from society; in

spite of her near-perfect bar test score and graduation with high rank from Seoul National University, one of the top universities in south Korea, she is turned down by practically every law firms. She continues to experience harassment and bullying from some lawyers even though she is employed by Hanbada. These lawyers are persistent in their effort to had her fired or severely disciplined. The show admits that despite the fact that she is a fantastic lawyer and consistently demonstrates her superior skill another work, the series acknowledges that she faces discrimination just because she is autistic.

The programme does a wonderful job of demolishing some of the stigma associated with autism spectrum disorder and presenting broad information about it. For instance, it emphasises the fact that autism is a spectrum condition and manifests itself uniquely in each individual, dispelling the myth that all autistic person share a common set of characteristics.

However, Woo Young Woo, who has a savant autistic syndrome, is not portrayed in a way that most autistic people are, which worries some critics. One of the ten people with autism have savant syndrome, a rare disorder that causes exceptional abilities and talents. As a result, woo young woo is able to memorise and carefully examine vast volumes of information. There are worries that this will cause some viewers to have unjustified expectation of all people with autism. The show has numerous humorous moments which depicts critical portraits of an ableist society, which are quite serious. The legal drama is engaging and has a talent in touching viewers emotions.

This programme does an excellent job of retaining viewers emotional and interpersonal drama. It also sheds a light on autism spectrum disorder instance of ableism they have personally experienced through the representation of ableist characters.

This series does a fantastic job of drawing attention to various discrimination. Young Woo encounters difficulties in her office as a result of preconceptions of her clients and co-

workers. These instances of ableism show taking the forms of subtle remarks and exclusion from activities. Neurotypical viewers might examine their own preconceptions and learn how to be a better friend by seeing some of the realities of autism.

Chapter 5

Melting the Difference

The show centres on Woo Young Woo, a lawyer with autism who was raised by her single father. She is she is a brilliant woman who works hard to create a life where she can assist others despite having a disability.

The series *Extraordinary Attorney Woo* depicts the tale of a young autistic lawyer and the difficulties she faces in her personal life, professional life, and romantic relationship. The underlining concept of the show, is prospering despite disability and integrating into society. Throughout the course of the series, attorney Woo suffers from the ridicule in the courtroom due to her autism. She becomes aware that many disabled persons feel like their feelings are never truly their own while advocating for an intellectually disabled client. Others frequently force them to make decisions that doesn't reflect their actual desire by projecting their thoughts and feelings. Attorney Woo acknowledges in a particular episode that, no matter how successful she is in her chosen area, the world will likely only regard her as the autistic one. She says that if you have disability, merely liking someone is not enough. Because even if you say it's love, if the other people say it's not, then it's not. In an episode, Young Woo over hears Jun Ho's family members tells him that "this difficult relationship of yours is making us upset. All we want is for you to be happy and you have to be bringing home a girl who can make you happy." (Extraordinary, ep 13. 1:00:49 – 1:00:56).

The drama's current subject of whale's infatuation, which is shared by the title character, gives her character silly yet distinct aspect. In the last episode Young Woo says her mother, who asked if she accepted her offer to sending her abroad, "I live in an unfamiliar

ocean with unfamiliar belugas. Because everyone is different from me, it's not easy to adjust and there are lots of whales that hate me, too. But its okay. Because this is my life. Though my life is unusual and peculiar, It's valuable and beautiful." (Extraordinary, ep 16. 58:04 – 59:20).

Her character and whales share striking similarities in that both are solitary yet extraordinary.

The drama is also emphasis her autism as a weakness and reminds the viewers that how judgemental society can be. She was the top graduate of the Seoul National University School of Law prior to the event of the narrative. However, no company was willing to hire her because of her autism. She got job in Hanbada, a big law firm in Seoul. She confronts clients and co-workers who are prejudiced towards her in various ways because she is different from the peers.

The drama's central theme explores what it means to be remarkable for a person like Woo Young Woo, in both positive and negative aspects. The constitution forbids the discrimination against disabled people, but discrimination against employees with disability still occurs often in Korea.

In the third episode, online criticism made disparaging remarks about Kim Jeong Hoon, Young Woo's client who is autistic and is charged with murdering his brother, a medical student. Young Woos monologue vividly captures the truth of how the society in which she lives frequently views autistic individuals as underserving of life after learning how the public treats him. We can see she saying "I'm not an attorney who is helpful to the defendant." (Extraordinary, ep 3. 56:15 – 56:28)

In particular, *Extraordinary Attorney Woo* addresses the challenges woo encountered when looking for work and the difficulties she experienced at work. For many disabled

persons in south Korea, this is their everyday reality. Due to obstacles in the work place, such as lack of disability facilities, disabled persons are also more likely to experience poverty.

In *Extraordinary Attorney Woo*, Young Woo served as change agent by exposing others' prejudices. Similar to this, disabled people's self-advocacy played a crucial role in bringing about change and extending the rights of disabled people in south Korea. Although *Extraordinary Attorney Woo* emphasises south Korea's shortcomings in providing for disabled people, the country has been moving forward in recognising the rights of those who are disabled.

In this drama, from Young Woo's words how disabled people are seen in society. "Even just 80 years ago, autism was an illness that was not worthy of living. Even just 80 years ago, Mr, Jeong – hun and I were people who weren't worthy living." (Extra ordinary, ep 3. 45:05 – 45:15). "Even now hundreds of people click the like button for a comment that says, 'it is national loss if a medical student dies, and an autistic person lives.' That is the weight of this disability that we bear." (Extraordinary, ep 3. 45:16 – 45:47). These words show how the societies approach towards the disabled.

This drama shows the approach of society towards the disabled. And shows the problems faced by the disabled in society and their workplace.

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