

Creepy Is As Creepy Does

The Secret World of Disability Trolls: Pretenders, Stalkers, and Predators

*"Can you upload a picture of your feet
and legs so my mom can see properly?"*

*"I really want to listen to your stories. I am
only a one year wheelchair user."*

*"My name is Miss Wheelchair South
Carolina."*





“The News Media is not going to pay attention until some pretty white woman in a wheelchair gets raped and murdered” said A, who also happens to also be a pretty white woman who uses a wheelchair. And sadly, I think she is right.

I have been tracking THEM for a couple of years now. I had been vaguely aware THEM for many years, but I never really gave THEM any thought. I knew of the existence of people who had a special “attraction” to people with disabilities, and that these people were called Devotees. But that is about all I knew.

Being a Devotee is not necessarily a problem. It is what some of these people do that is the problem. What they do is CREEPY, very CREEPY.

“One man’s junk is another man’s treasure”. “To each his own”. “There is someone for everyone”. I get that. It’s all fine. Everyone has his or her own tastes. And as long as those “tastes” don’t interfere with the lives of others, then it doesn’t really matter to me what people do. When someone’s actions involve someone else, then it should be to be a consensual relationship.

But when the “relationship” is either completely one-sided or built upon lies and deceit, then the actions become CREEPY and predatory.

CREEPY IS AS CREEPY DOES.

It’s CREEPY to:

- Create a fake Facebook profile and pretend to be a woman when you are a man.
- Create a fake Facebook profile and pretend to have a disability when you don’t have one.
- Use that fake profile to systematically target and “friend” unsuspecting people with disabilities.
- Use those “friendships” to engage in deceptive online “friendships”.
- Use those “friendships” to solicit disability related advice on sex and toileting issues to satisfy a sexual fetish.
- Use those “friendships” to steal or solicit private photographs of people with disabilities.
- Upload those private photographs to disability porn websites.
- Create a collection of “friends” who all have disabilities.
- Share information on vulnerable victims with others who engage in similar CREEPY behavior.
- Stalk and send unwanted messages to people with disabilities.
- Treat people with disabilities as “objects”, not as human beings.

Now it just so happen that the majority of people who engage in this type of CREEPY behavior are also Devotees. But, not all Devotees engage in this bad behavior. Therefore, I have created the term Disability Troll to focus on the bad behaviors, not the label.

Now, most people reading this list will be surprised that this type of behavior is occurring on Facebook. But, how bad can it really be?



In order to get an idea of the magnitude of the problem I investigated the Facebook Friend List of fifty women that I know personally who also have a spinal cord injury or disease.

These women were from diverse locations and social groups. Out of fifty women, **forty seven** had Disability Trolls in their Facebook Friend List.

Each woman had an average of **ten** Trolls in her List.

There were about one hundred Trolls identified that created over **five hundred** instances of deceptive “friendships”.

To summarize, 94% of the women I investigated had been deceived and “Trolled” by multiple fake profiles.

There a private Group for people with spinal cord injury on Facebook that has about 400 members. Recently, I investigated the membership list and identified over sixty confirmed and suspected Trolls. Given that I must have not found them all, I estimate that about 15-20% of the entire Group consists of fake profiles created specifically for the purpose of the victimizing people with disabilities.

The following are a few snippets from actual conversations between a woman with a disability and a man who is pretending to also be a woman with a disability.

TROLL:

Lol omgsh I feel so sorry for annoying you, like really sorry, but may you help me with something really fast please?

I feel so new being in a wheelchair, may you help me with my feet?

Lol like do you get swollen feet?

I was only in a accident like last year so I feel new being a paraplegic

You know? See..... my feet

I don't think you can tell....but, can you see how swollen they are?

I feel really worried. Can you help me?

Please.

SCI WOMAN:

Maybe it's in wrong position

TROLL:

Okay.....They are really pressured

May you send a pic of your feet really fast so I can see if my feet look like yours?

TROLL:

*I mean to see if they're okay?
Please? I feel worried.*

SCI WOMAN:

*And yes, after pains attack and after they flare up,
I get pink red swollen feet.*

TROLL:

*No, I know I know,
Can you still send a pic of your feet please? I feel
so scared my feet aren't okay!
Please?*

TROLL:

*My name is Miss Wheelchair South Carolina, Julia
Rhodes.*



The strategy of the man used previously is typical of Pretender Trolls. If they “friend” a veteran wheelchair user, they pretend to be seeking advice. If they friend a newly injured person, they pretend to “share experiences”. Either way, the goal is to get the victim to divulge personal information and/or photographs by using deception.

Some Trolls become obsessed with their victims. One woman I know with quadriplegia was stalked for ten years by a Disability Troll. The man used her online photographs to identify her apartment and dropped by for an unwanted visit. Fortunately, the Police were able to convince him to leave her alone.

Other women have admitted to being deceived into discussing private toileting issues with men pretending to be women with spinal cord injury. The list of violations goes on and on.

There are websites the hold thousands of private photographs of women amputees and wheelchair users. Viewers are constantly adding more stolen pictures of unsuspecting women with disabilities to these websites to be ogled by Trolls.

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Delete post <input type="checkbox"/> File Only Password <input type="password"/> Delete Report post Reason <input type="text"/> Report	
/ prosthetics / amputee women] [wheelchair / wheelchair-	

Some Trolls work individually to locate susceptible women. Other Trolls collaborate to create intricate deceptions. Some of their favorite methods are to infiltrate private disability forums and Facebook groups. Once one *Pretender Troll* has become a member of a disability group, he will add other Disability Trolls to the Group.

Another favorite method is to create disability related Facebook Pages with names such as Wheelchair Women. These Pages are designed to attract women with disabilities for further contact. These Pages are effectively Troll Traps.



These Troll Traps will start off with benign questions such as:

"What do those of you wheelchair users who cannot stand do to prevent soreness in your buttocks? What kind of seat cushion do you have? Do you get sores? Do you have any tips or tricks to prevent soreness? Any advice to others about this topic?"

The questions invariably become explicit sexual such as this one taken off the Wheelchair Women Facebook page:

"Many people with disabilities, due to lack of feeling, often find they're better at oral sex - are you one of them? Also, (particularly for those of you who have no feelings in your genitals) how do you feel about oral sex being performed on you?"

Pretender Trolls also work together by commenting on each other's Facebook profiles and photographs to further the deception. These comments usually mention something about disability or wheelchairs to support the claim of disability.



Here is what Marla says about herself:



About Marla Ann

Trying the FaceBook thing again....

Anyone for S'Mores ??

I'm thinking of cultivating a new hobby-Spoon
Hanging ! :]

If i look short ,or it seems i sit A LOT... i do! Shortly
before my 17th birthday i fell off the back of a
pickup and landed on my butt. Ouch!
Ended up with an SCI ..level L1/T12 incomplete. I
have some movement and sensation from hips
down (mostly spasms) so there you are! I can walk a
bit with braces but prefer my sporty wheels !! I am
so much more "mobile" you know? If i do my
stretching and range of motion every day, the
spasticity is greatly reduced and less severe. Gotta'
work the program !!

Also try to stand a little each day, improve's
circulation.

I have a positive attitude .. my legs don't work,but i
will not let that stop me from living it up and
having fun!!! GOT THAT ! Good , moving forward....
:)

I love working out to keep my body strong.

Swimming, tennis, anything outside is fine.

My work keeps me busy and i love to travel.

I love the beach but don't get there as often as we'd
like.

My husband is the best and i love him very much,
he is my best friend!!

And here is Marla's older sister Jayme:



About Jayme

Leggo My Eggo, I'm Preggo !!

Howdy, i'm Jayme. I am a stay at home mother, expecting our second child. Married to a wonderful guy... couldn't be happier.

He is my soulmate !!!!

My lovely little sister bugged me to get on FB.. so here i am.

I am a supporter or Spinal Cord Injury research...

My little sis Marla is a paraplegic after a bounce off a pickup truck 14 years ago. She showed us all how strong she was by regaining her independence. She refused to let a wheelchair slow her down !!

My family is my main focus and i like to cook and clean our house.

I am the ultimate Science Fiction nerd. Will read anything but mostly Sci Fi.

Love to travel ,but the kids need to get older before we can start to "world travel" haha...

Not much time for surfing so thats all for now... :D
Must take it easy... this pregnancy is a little more .. difficult .

Can't help my sis with her new house, but her lovely friends are

pitching in ! That makes me get all emotional... that and the

HORMONES !!!! lol

And their friend Kayrn:



About Karyn

Huge Ice Hockey Fan !! Go Bruins !!

I am not a person "using a Wheelchair". I am a Person! (if anything, the chair is using me to get around... lol)

Looking to meet friends on FriendBook... er' FaceBook !!

I lead an active life. Just do things from a seated position. At age 20

i went on a joyride with ex-boyfriend and got thrown off his motorcycle. Broke my neck at C7/T1/T2 SCI incomplete. My main method of transport is my Wheelchair. I will not let this beat me !!! I reached my goal of using a manual chair !!!!!

I love to read, swim, exercise, anything to stay healthy.

Watch movies with my Big sister Kellye. She is helping out with my "situation" and i love her dearly....

I always stay positive even when things are negative !!!

Don't need any negative vibes.... ;)

Rolling with the punches !!

And another friend Suzanne:



There is also Melanie, and Zina. But, hopefully by now you have got the idea.

About Suzanne

Hello Face Book !

I'm Suzanne and i'm new here. Married to a sweet man and we just bought a house. Summer is my favorite time of year, you get to wear less clothes... LOL... Ahem, and the cookouts out back are fun too.... fully clothed.. (the grill is HOTT ya' know). I love to swim, it is when i feel most free from my "situation" !

.....long story short.....

My husband helps me more than most , due to the fact i'm a Quadriplegic in a wheelchair. Don't be scared i won't bite... Hard !! lol

Way back in 2002 i went for a dive in a lake and hit bottom,fracturing my c5-6-7 vertebrae. Also broke both arms.

I guess i do things BIG ya know !! Ended up with a spinal cord injury , paralyzed from my chest down. It sucks, but i keep pushing myself to remain active.

After months of rehab, i can use a manual wc, but i cruise mstly in a power chair.

I get a lot of help from family and friends, My husband mostly, but life is hard !

I keep busy doing whatever i can do !!

Looking to meet others with SCI and share info.

Hope to get out of this chair someday, but for now i ROLL ON !!

These six “women” are all Facebook friends. They comment on each other’s photographs. But they all have few photographs of themselves. They all have mostly young attractive female friends, many of whom are wheelchair users. And all of their profiles are strangely similar as if written by the same person or group of people.

What is really so CREEPY about this Group is the large amount of effort that has been put forth to create and maintain this deception. The single purpose of these related profiles is to deceive and victimize women with disabilities.



Facebook has gone to great lengths to state how its entire platform is based upon people using their real names. Facebook provides tools that make it very easy to report Profiles as fake. The problem is that the reports do nothing. They are not acted or followed up upon. I have reported over 100 profiles as fake and have never received a follow up from Facebook.

I have tried multiple methods of contacting Facebook Security with no success. Reporting to Facebook appears to be nothing more than “security theater”. It makes users “feel” as though Facebook cares about user safety, but it really doesn’t. Facebook cares about retaining users and getting new users.



"On Facebook we have a really large commitment in general to finding and disabling false accounts," Facebook's chief security officer Joe Sullivan told CNN in a recent interview. "Our entire platform is based on people using their real identities."

Unfortunately, this attitude of wanting users or members also extends to the ADMINS of many Facebook Groups. The administrator's primary interest is in the smooth operation of the Group and increasing Group membership.

The existence and presence of disability predators in the Group disrupts the "trust level" of the Group. Therefore, many administrators are unsupportive of any effort to remove Trolls from the Group. This situation is a microcosm of Facebook's attitude.

Here is what the Administrator of one private group for people with spinal cord injuries had to say about the presence of Disability Trolls in the Group:

"Ok, after going through reading this stuff on the devos and this is my last post on the matter.... " IF YOU CAN RUN A GROUP BETTER THAN THIS ONE GO FOR IT, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IN THIS GROUP BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THIS GROUP THEN LEAVE, SERIOUSLY PEOPLE THIS IS NOT SCHOOL. I AM NOT A TEACHER OR A PRINCIPLE. I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO JUST SEND PEOPLE TO TIME OUT OR DETENTION. EDUCATE YOUR SELF ON THE SUBJECT JUST LIKE IT'S A FINAL OR TEST AND PROTECT YOURSELF. I MEAN THIS SUBJECT IS A LOT LIKE SEX, I CAN'T GO AROUND WHILE YOUR IN THE MIDDLE & SAY WAIT WAIT DID YOU GET TESTED OR USE A CONDOM ? ."

"OK LISTEN UP : IF YOU FEEL THAT THIS GROUP IS UNSAFE BECAUSE OF FAKE PEOPLE THEN I DO APOLOGIZE. HOWEVER, WE ALL HAVE LEARNED ABOUT INTERNET SAFETY IN GRADE SCHOOL I'M SURE"

"I AM GETTING TIRED OF BEING HARASSED BECAUSE THERE ARE DEVOS OR TROLLS IN HERE. WELL I HAVE A NEWS FLASH FOR YOU THE INTERNET HAS FAKE PEOPLE ON IT WAY BEFORE FACEBOOK MYSPACE OR ANY OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLET. UNLESS YOU PERSONALLY KNOW THE PERSON YOU ARE TALKING TO THEN YOU ARE TAKING THAT CHANCE OF BEING TRICKED."



Unfortunately, this attitude of *hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil* also extends to some of the Group members. Here is a female member:

"OK I'm only going to post this once! Get off the fucking "DEVO" SHYT we all know already my god I like this group because of the convos I only speak to a very FEW in this group cuz I know for a fact they r really! So one last time watch who u add or talk to that's all there is to it if u don't like it leave!!!! But it's done it's over and everyone is very well advised of the situation! My god."

By my count there are about 60 confirmed and suspected Disability Trolls in this “private” Group for spinal cord injuries of 400 members. Many of this Group are newly injured and have no idea about the existence of Disability Trolls. Once they are added to the Group, the Trolls become aware of the “Newbie’s” existence.

If the Newbie is a young attractive female, the Trolls will immediately start messaging and internet stalking her. If she displayed any vulnerability when posting in the Group, the Trolls will exploit it to “groom” her for further victimization.

The problem is that it is very difficult to protect yourself from a threat that you don’t know exists. How are newly injured women with spinal cord injuries going to know that there are men who are actively stalking them? That these predatory men pretend to be female wheelchair users? These women have no way of knowing unless someone tells them, yet many people with knowledge seem to be unwilling to tell.



Strange also is the fact that when informed about the existence of Disability Trolls in their Facebook Friend List, the majority of people will take no action to remove them. Unfriending, Blocking, and Reporting fake Facebook profiles is an easy process, yet most people will not make the effort to remove suspicious profiles.

My thought is that since the Profile picture is usually a pretty girl, both women and men, are simply unable to “see” the real threat. They can’t see far enough beyond the picture to realize what is behind it, a man who is deliberately hiding, stalking, and looking for victims.



“You can trust me, I won’t hurt you”

Disability Trolls function very much in manner similar to a virus. They are the STDs (Socially Transmitted Diseases) of the internet. Facebook “friending” is the virus transfer medium. Here is how it works.

A newly injured person with spinal cord injury usually has had no previous contact with other people with disabilities before her injury. At this point, she is both unaware of Trolls and has not been targeted by Trolls. She is Troll-Free.

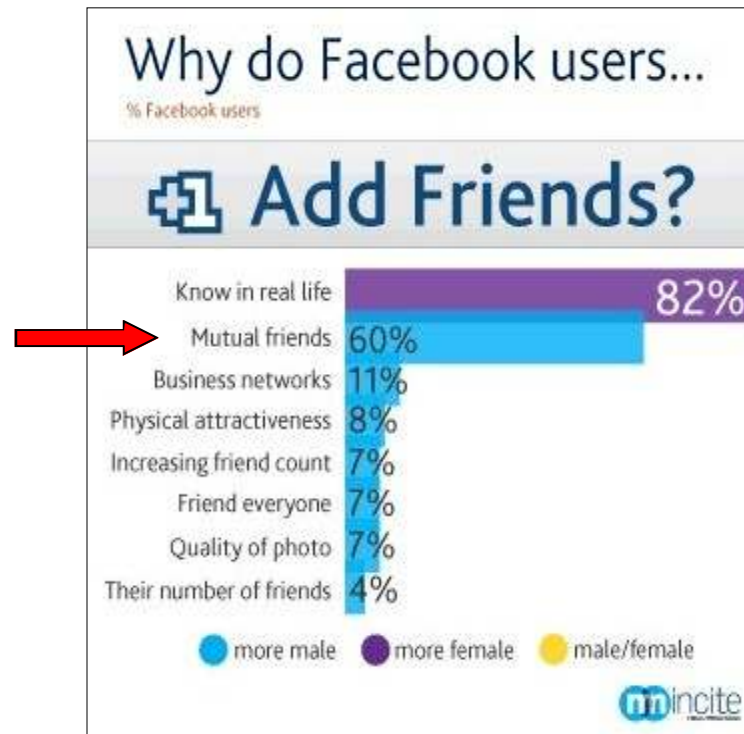
At some point after her injury, she will become connected with other people with spinal cord injury (SCI) on Facebook. She may be seeking out others with SCI. She may become a member of a SCI support group, or something similar.

In any case, she once she connects to a few people on Facebook with SCI, there is a good chance that one or more of those people have a Troll in their Friend List. These people are effectively Troll Carriers. They may not have been directly victimized or “groomed” by the Troll. They may have been targeted as a means to connect with vulnerable Newbies.

The Newbie is now a friend of a friend of a Troll. Facebook has created complicated algorithms designed to connect “friends of friends”. The Friend Finder uses these algorithms to sort through its billion members and connect people with common interests and friends. In this case, the Friend Finder connects Trolls to Victims. It is that simple.

The Troll will now try to connect with the Newbie. Even though the Newbie doesn't know the Troll personally, Facebook will show that they have Mutual Friends in common. The more Mutual Friends, the more likely the Newbie will accept the

“friending”. After all, she doesn’t know any better. The Troll Profile is not of a middle-aged man on a computer, it is of a pretty young female wheelchair user.



Once connected to the Newbie, experienced Trolls will use well rehearsed grooming methods to create a deceptive and coercive relationship with the Newbie. The Trolls are relying in the inherent emotional vulnerabilities that arise from experiencing a new disability. They systematically

message targets until they connect with a suitable victim. But, they don't stop at one victim, Trolls are serial victimizers. They are constantly in the prowl for their next victim.

This bad behavior will continue to occur on Facebook and other social media until People with Disabilities make a deliberate effort to stop it. The best method to control a virus is to quarantine the Trolls and disinfect the Carriers.

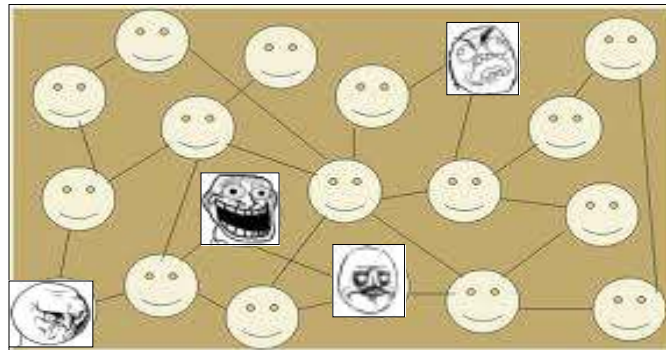
It takes more than Unfriending Trolls to stop this Troll Virus. It takes systematic Blocking and Reporting of the Trolls. Blocking a Troll removes the hidden connections that tie Trolls to Victims. It breaks the "friend of a friend" relationship.

Once a person is aware of the existence of Trolls, they are relatively easy to spot. Fake profiles have stolen pictures. They have no "real" friends. Disability Troll profiles has no real interests beyond disability. Male Trolls usually only friend and target women, they do not want other males in their Friend Lists.



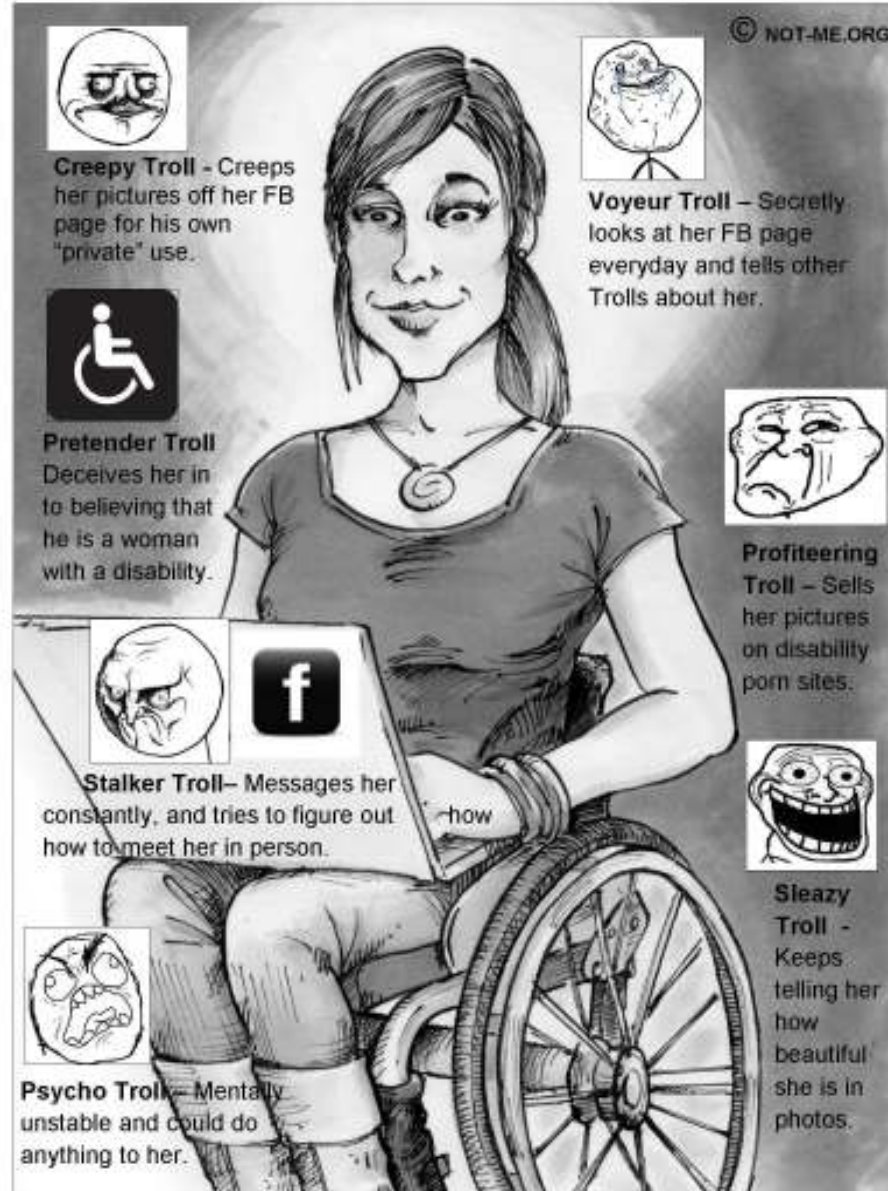
If you wouldn't go out to coffee with CREEPY suspicious people, why would you "friend" them on Facebook? Every time you "friend" a Troll, you provide an "endorsement" of that profile. You become a Troll Carrier. The Mutual Friend list and Friend Finder show up everywhere.

When you are friends with a Troll, all of your Friends are now Friends of a Friend of a Troll. And while your Troll may seem "harmless" what about his Friends? The chances are that one or more of his Friends could have obsessive personality disorders or worse. And Facebook will do everything in it's power to connect you, your Friends, the Troll, and the Troll's Friends.



In the battle against the Disability Trolls, doing nothing is the same as approval. If people do nothing about the Disability Trolls while they go about their business of victimization, they are providing the Trolls with the silence they need to be successful. Or as A stated, are people just waiting until a pretty white woman in a wheelchair gets raped and murdered before they take action?

Rolla-White and the Seven Trolls



Who are your Facebook "friends"?