Twitter Thread by Justice for The Falsely Accused

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Otherness and Power: Michael Jackson and His Media Critics is a rather short book by Susan Woodword but it does a lot to expose "progressive" hypocrisy in the media and academia.

It analyzes three works:
- A 1985 book by Dave Marsh called "Trapped: Michael Jackson and the Crossover Dream"
- Maureen Orth's MJ articles in Vanity Fair
- And a 2009 book entitled The Resistible Demise of Michael Jackson, edited by British music critic Mark Fisher

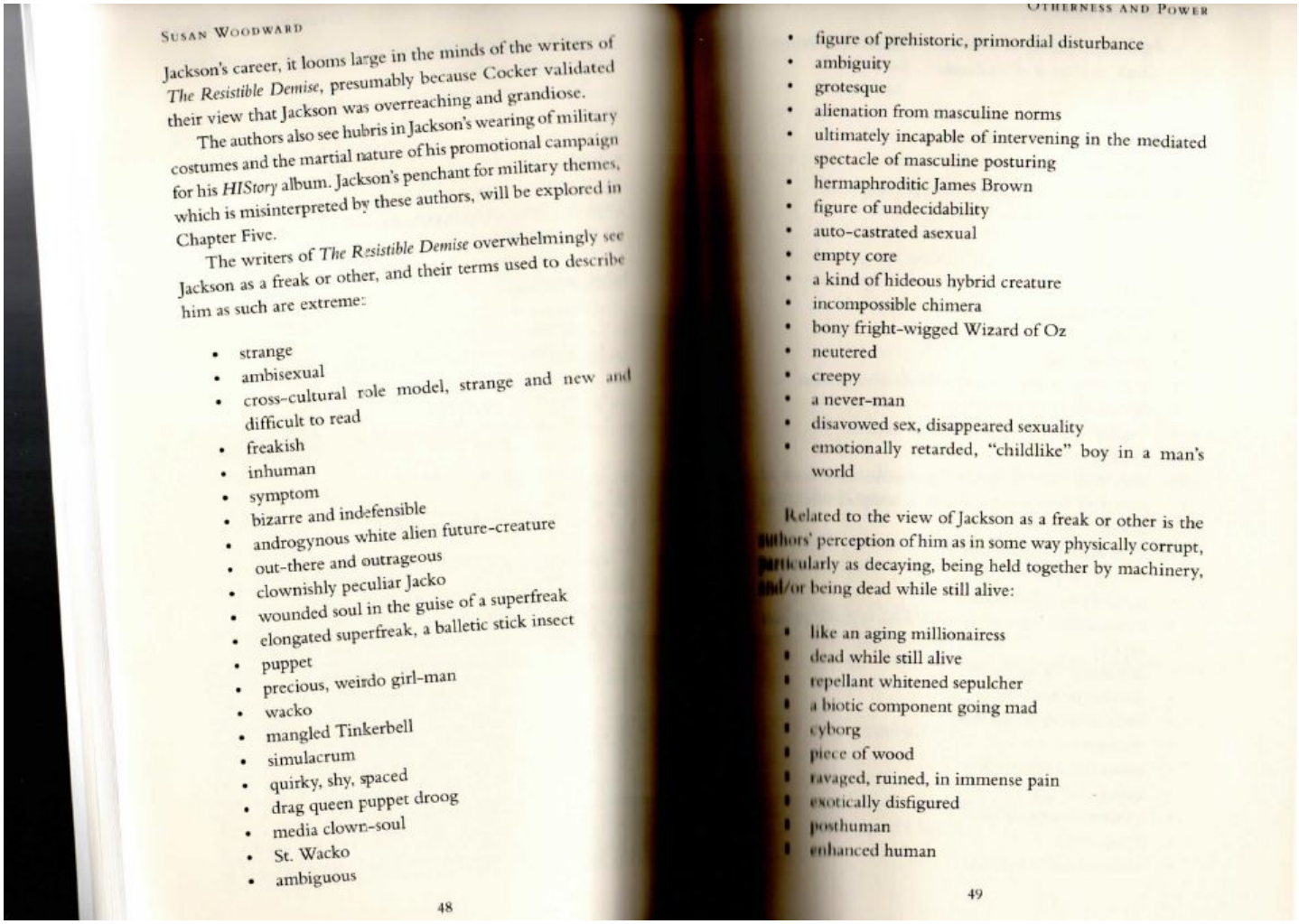
I went back to the latter part today because I heard Fisher's name again in a completely different context (he was also a philosopher) and it kind of ringed a bell, so I checked back if he was really the dude who wrote some horrible book about MJ?

Well, he didn't write it alone (he personally wrote only one chapter), but he edited it. As per Woodward the book is short on actual facts and research on MJ's life, but high on opinionated and dehumanizing hatred based on tabloid information and their perception of him.

What Woodward does is making lists of the adjectives the books' authors use of Jackson. That in itself shows the out of control, irrational hatred.

I guess anyone has the right to hate a celebrity (even if it is irrational), but I find enlightening in these lists is how it exposes these supposed "progressive" journalists, critics and academists as straight up racist, sexist and homophobic.

Here are some of those lists to illustrate that.



Jackson's career, it looms large in the minds of the writers of *The Resistible Demise*, presumably because Cocker validated their view that Jackson was overreaching and grandiose.

The authors also see hubris in Jackson's wearing of military costumes and the martial nature of his promotional campaign for his *HIStory* album. Jackson's penchant for military themes, which is misinterpreted by these authors, will be explored in Chapter Five.

The writers of *The Resistible Demise* overwhelmingly see Jackson as a freak or other, and their terms used to describe him as such are extreme:

- strange
- ambisexual
- cross-cultural role model, strange and new and difficult to read
- freakish
- inhuman
- symptom
- bizarre and indefensible
- androgynous white alien future-creature
- out-there and outrageous
- clownishly peculiar Jacko
- wounded soul in the guise of a superfreak
- elongated superfreak, a balletic stick insect
- puppet
- precious, weirdo girl-man
- wacko
- mangled Tinkerbell
- simulacrum
- quirky, shy, spaced
- drag queen puppet droog
- media clown-soul
- St. Wacko
- ambiguous

- figure of prehistoric, primordial disturbance
- ambiguity
- grotesque
- alienation from masculine norms
- ultimately incapable of intervening in the mediated spectacle of masculine posturing
- hermaphroditic James Brown
- figure of undecidability
- auto-castrated asexual
- empty core
- a kind of hideous hybrid creature
- incompossible chimera
- bony fright-wigged Wizard of Oz
- neutered
- creepy
- a never-man
- disavowed sex, disappeared sexuality
- emotionally retarded, "childlike" boy in a man's world

Related to the view of Jackson as a freak or other is the authors' perception of him as in some way physically corrupt, particularly as decaying, being held together by machinery, and/or being dead while still alive:

- like an aging millionairess
- dead while still alive
- repellant whitened sepulcher
- a biotic component going mad
- cyborg
- piece of wood
- ravaged, ruined, in immense pain
- exotically disfigured
- posthuman
- enhanced human

I guess the reason why MJ is such a litmus test in exposing "progressive" hypocrisy is because when it comes to him people suddenly don't have the same boundaries and caution as the mask of decency they would put on with anyone else.

Because he is not considered black by these people (I guess because it is up to privileged white upper middle class males to determine that) they can be racist towards him. Because they can't figure out his gender and sexuality, they can be sexist and homophobic.

They couldn't get away with describing any other person in terms like "inhuman", "weirdo girl-man", "drag queen puppet droog", "hermaphroditic James Brown", "auto-castrate asexual", "a never-man",

a "grotesque parody of whiteness" (that about a black man who never claimed to be anything else but a black man), "white woman pork face", "white lady", "slave master's wife", "never quite human", "monster", "abomination", "trash" and so on and so forth.

I am sure they critique white artists as well, but I doubt any white artist or anyone who fits their definition of what is "normal" ever gets this same dehumanizing pure hatred from them.