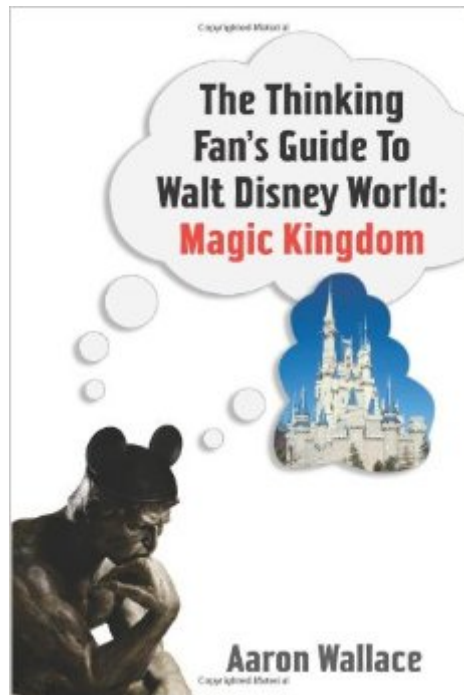


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The Thinking Fan's Guide To Walt Disney World: Magic Kingdom



Synopsis

The Thinking Fan's Guide is a different kind of guidebook for a different kind of theme park experience. Aaron Wallace avoids the ephemera of prices and menus to explore the heart of the Disney experience, the attractions themselves. He provides a lighthearted but scholarly look at the history, lore, and literature that inform the designs and storylines of every ride and attraction in the Magic Kingdom's Adventureland, Frontierland, Liberty Square, Fantasyland, and Tomorrowland, as well as the Walt Disney World Railroad, the Sorcerers of the Magic Kingdom game, the Celebrate a Dream Come True and SpectroMagic parades, the Wishes fireworks show, and Main Street, U.S.A. itself. Far from being mere "amusements," these 36 attractions provide a complex, multi-layered narrative that can be experienced and appreciated just like a great novel, play, or film. The Thinking Fan's Guide will fascinate Disney buffs with the sometimes surprising insights it offers into old favorites while offering newcomers to the Disney magic a much richer experience. If you are ready to immerse yourself in the magnificent achievement that is Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom, this is the guide for you.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: The Intrepid Traveler (April 16, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1937011240

ISBN-13: 978-1937011246

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #555,053 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in Books > Travel > United States > Florida > Disney World #622 in Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic

Customer Reviews

"The Thinking Fan's Guide" is insanely readable. Through personal experiences and opinions, Wallace is able to keep the reader grounded in the real world, while still taking time to look back at the history of the attraction. ...I had a lot of fun reading this book. (Andrew Tipton, Disney blogger Disney Hipster Blog, March 19, 2013) Aaron Wallace has put together a very interesting book that is a little hard to classify. It is part guidebook, part Disney history, and part academic

discussion. ... Many of the attractions, concepts, etc. are explored through the lens of their Disneyland roots and ultimately Walt. Being a fan of Disney history, I enjoyed learning about the connections and reasons for them Aaron makes. (Jason Dziegielewski, blogger Disneygeek, The GeekÃ¢âs Library March 29, 2013)I actually found the notes section the most interesting place in the book, and any readers of Wallace's book should not bypass this wonderful section. Wallace has mini biographies of influential individuals, comments on the nomenclature in the parks, and even includes the full Shakespearean verse that gave rise to the phrase Ã¢âGrim Grinning Ghosts' (wonderful!). ...[The book is] a perfect introduction to the wonderful depths of artistry that so many eyes overlook. (David Younger, theme park expert Theme Park Theory.com, April 3, 2013)Ever wonder why the Disney parks are so successful? A new book called Ã¢âThe Thinking Fan's Guide to Walt Disney World: Magic KingdomÃ¢â goes a long way toward answering that question. (Rudy Maxa, Journalist & TV personality Rudy MaxaÃ¢âs World (rudymaxa.com), April 15, 2013)I have to say that this might be my favorite Disney book, to date! Ã¢âI love Aaron Wallace's writing style. It's intelligent, with a hint of humorous mixed in for good measure. (Heidi Strawser, blogger What's Going on in Heidi's Head, April 4, 2013)Playing on the fact that Disney is more about the story than the spectacle and thrill, Wallace gives you more of the back story and notes on the theme and development of the attractions in Walt Disney World as well as some of the hidden meanings behind them. The result is a guide that allows new visitors and veterans alike ...to see the park in a totally new light. Ã¢âMake sure this book is either a pre-visit read, or take it along with you so you can fully appreciate all that the Magic Kingdom has to offer. (Charlie Hensel, high school librarian and blogger NJ Biblio, July 3, 2013)Regardless of how many times you have personally visited, ... this book will not only increase your knowledge of the rich history and all the great attractions that the Magic Kingdom Park offers, but will also entertain you and give you an overview of the park you love... from another fan's perspective. (Sam Carta Orlando Theme Park News, April 29, 2013)Ã¢âThe Thinking Fan's Guide to Walt Disney WorldÃ¢â is like giving every Disney Guest who reads it their own Disney historian as a tour guide. (Natalie Reiner, blogger Ink and Paint Blog, May 25, 2013)Aaron supplies fans (new and old) with a refreshing take on Magic KingdomÃ¢â he has an amicable way of making his information feel accessible and fun. (Estelle Hallick, blogger This Happy Place Blog, August 20, 2013)The author presents each ride separately, weaving a story of its creation, why it fits within each land (or doesn't), and paints a description so rich thatÃ¢âI have a new appreciation for several rides. (Anthony Markham, Disney blogger WDW Happy Place.com, July 16, 2013)The descriptive, contemplative views of each ride are so comprehensive that The Thinking FanÃ¢âs Guide To

Walt Disney World: Magic Kingdom is recommended for erudite armchair travelers as it is for starry-eyed tourists! (Small Press Bookwatch Midwest Book Review, August 2014) The highlight of the book for me was learning about Walt's influence on the attractions as they were created for Disneyland and later re-created for the Magic Kingdom. I think it a great book for Disney fans. (Crissy WDW Hints, August 9, 2014)

Aaron Wallace, who lives in Orlando, Florida, has always had a passion for Disney, from movies to theme parks and everything in between. He first started thinking critically about the company's artistic output during his time at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Communication Studies (with a concentration in Media Studies) and English. Today, Aaron is a writer and an attorney, having earned a Juris Doctor degree from Wake Forest University. He is also a professional film and media critic, who has published more than two hundred movie, television, and music reviews to an audience of millions. Since 2004, Aaron has been a part of the writing staff at DVDizzy.com, one of the Internet's most-accessed sites for entertainment journalism. In addition to writing, Aaron hosts Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Pod, the web's second-longest-running non-commercial podcast dedicated entirely to Disney. He also appears as a regular co-host on The Hub Podcast, another popular show devoted to having fun with Disney. Aaron visits the Walt Disney World Resort on at least a weekly basis and tweets his adventures on his Twitter page, @aaronspod. His website is available at www.AaronWallaceOnline.com.

As advertised, The Thinking Fan's Guide is not your typical guidebook, but then again, Walt Disney World is not your typical theme park. You get some of the "typical" information about attractions like wait times, best time to visit, and "fear factor", but there is so much more as well. Playing on the fact that Disney is more about the story than the spectacle and thrill, Wallace gives you more of the back story and notes on the theme and development of the attractions in Walt Disney World as well as some of the hidden meanings behind them. The result is a guide that allows new visitors and veterans alike to Walt Disney World to see the park in a totally new light and hopefully gets them to slow down on their race to the next ride. Broken into chapters based on the theme lands of Walt Disney World (Adventureland, Frontierland, Liberty Square, Fantasyland, Tomorrowland, and Main Street, USA), The Thinking Fan's Guide serves as a virtual tourbook of the park, taking guests on a morning ride on Jungle Cruise straight through to a spectacular view of Wishes at the end of the day. Wallace's easy to read writing style also adds to this relaxing tour as well. He is able to

introduce attractions in a way that doesn't make old WDW vets feel as though they are being talked down to, but also allows the uninitiated to understand what they are looking for without even having seen the actual attraction itself. Learning about the history, subtle differences between the Walt Disney World and Disneyland attractions, and discovering some of the hidden secrets and meanings to these attractions helps you to understand why the Disney properties have been so successful over time. More time is spent in the details, making it so that each time you visit you will see something new that you may have missed or overlooked before. Books like *The Thinking Fan's Guide* only help to remind us of these subtleties and gives a new incentive to look during the next visit -- I know I will be when I am in WDW in August! My only criticism (and this is almost unfair) of *The Thinking Fan's Guide* is that there is very little on the attractions in the New Fantasyland expansion that took place in the Magic Kingdom recently. The two attractions I was looking forward to reading about, *Enchanted Tales with Belle*, and *Journey of the Little Mermaid* are missing here, apparently a victim of time constraints for publication as they only opened in December, 2012. Hopefully there will be a new edition with these new attractions (as well as the *Seven Dwarfs Mine Train*) will come in the future. I highly recommend *The Thinking Fan's Guide to Walt Disney World: Magic Kingdom* to old and new fans alike. Make sure this book is either a pre-visit read, or take it along with you so you can fully appreciate all that the Magic Kingdom has to offer. I sincerely hope that with the success of this edition, we'll soon see similar guides for the other three parks that make up the Walt Disney World Resort.

... if I could write well. I'm an engineer by trade and a Disneyphile my fortuosity. I spend improper amounts of time with Disney related things including park vacations at least annually. When I mention that I'm going back to WDW or Disneyland, I inevitably get moans of "Again? Haven't you been on all of the rides yet?" I repeatedly try to explain how Disney parks are more than just rides, they have a unique character culture and history that I enjoy learning about and experiencing. However, it just comes out as bla, bla, bla, Disney, bla, bla. This is the book that I would have written to explain to my extended family and non-Disney fan friends my passion. Here, Mr. Wallace lays out some of the history of the attractions in the Magic Kingdom, a history unknown to probably 99% of the people that enjoy them. These attractions didn't just spring up overnight, a lot of extremely talented people put forth extraordinary skill in creating them, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Haunted Mansion* among the best. Others, such as *The Enchanted Tiki Room - Under New Management*, not so much. Mr. Wallace doesn't pull punches, giving honest and often humorous reviews of each attraction. This isn't your "Unofficial Guide" with tons of stats and tips. That book is

the first step in enjoying the parks. This book is about enjoying the depth of theming and history of the attractions, the next step in enjoying the parks on a deeper level. An unexpected bonus is the Watch This feature where Mr. Wallace recommends a film to watch that compliments each attraction. Most are not what you expect but make perfect sense. I recommend this book highly for people who love Disney parks but don't really understand why, for people who need gifts to give out to their friends who don't get it and even for Disneyland fans in that most of the WDW attractions were created for Disneyland and Mr. Wallace explains the DL history of them before they were recreated in WDW. 5 Stars, enjoy.

"The Thinking Fan's Guide to Walt Disney World: Magic Kingdom", is complete, detailed- AND fun to read. Nearly every attraction in the Magic Kingdom is covered, starting in many cases from Walt's original thoughts on the ride. There is another book around here about the history of the attractions at Epcot. Although complete & detailed, it's slow going and not a fun read. Other books about Disney World are guidebooks. This is not a guidebook, it's a detailed history of each attraction, but it focuses on why & how (and to whom) this attraction is fun & great. (Or- not so great. He's not afraid to critique a poor ride, but most reviews are upbeat and positive). Each attraction (mustn't say "ride") has a brief intro which gives riders the core info about wait times, FastPass, etc. Then it's on to history, more detailed info, "why & when" and maybe a film suggestion. (e.g. try watching The African Queen to get into Jungle Cruise mode). Very readable, fun, and even a few chuckles are found. Recommended for any Disney fans.

I am a huge fan of WDW, having grown up in Florida, and am an avid reader of Disney guide books whenever get "homesick" for the parks. A lot of them are great, but this is the first one I have read that is truly a pleasure to read. It is exceptionally well-written, flows nicely, and contains new information even for WDW veterans like me. Wallace's succinct but apt descriptions of not just the attractions, but also the overall "feeling" of the various areas of the park spark my memories of visits there, and this is what I have been trying to find in a guide book. I can't wait for the next volumes to come out!

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