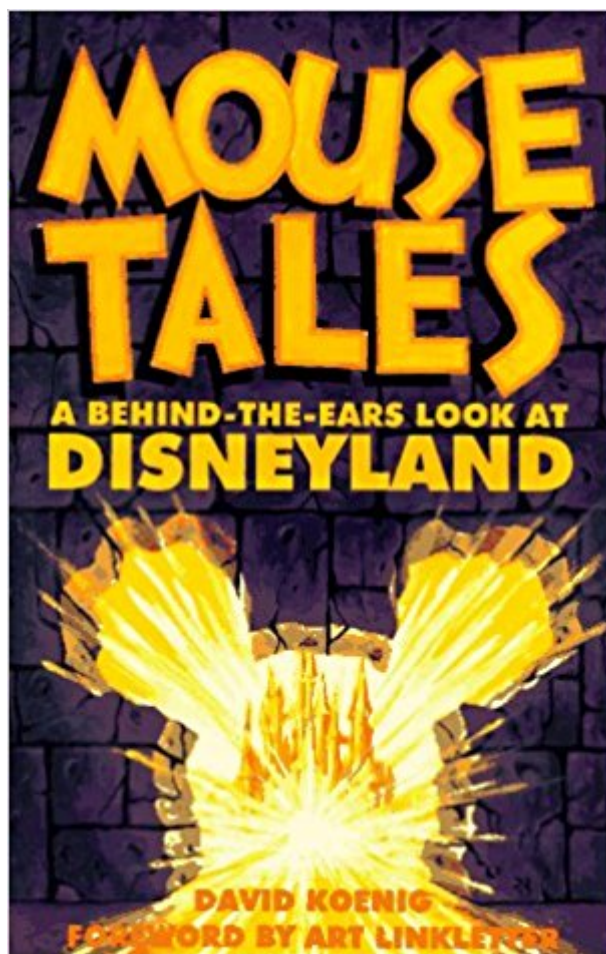


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# Mouse Tales: A Behind-The-Ears Look At Disneyland



## Synopsis

Book by Koenig, David

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Koenig, a freelance writer and editor, became friendly with many part-time employees of Disneyland in Anaheim. When they joined a major strike in 1984, Koenig was inspired to write this book.

Drawing on interviews and extensive research, Koenig describes in detail Walt Disney's plan and the goals for his amusement park; the behind-the-scenes mechanisms of the attractions; the selection, training, and expectations of the employees; the persona of the Disney characters; profiles of guests (both welcome and unwelcome); the tragic accidents that have occurred and the lawsuits that ensued; and the spinoffs throughout the world. Though the lurid details of park mishaps and employee dissatisfaction are of interest to some, there's more here than most visitors would want to know. Even the author comes across as an admirer rather than as someone blowing the cover on the magic of Disney. Most libraries will want to stick with Birnbaum's *Disneyland* (Hyperion, 1992). Elizabeth Loftus, Onondaga Cty. P.L., Syracuse, N.Y. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Koenig's tale may surprise some, since many of its specifics are so at odds with the Magic Kingdom's ultrahygienic image. If you've heard about Euro-Disney's problems (management control of staff lingerie, etc.), you expect to hear the travails of Disneyland employees, and Koenig does not disappoint, offering detailed explorations of visitor complaint procedures in which employees are

presumed guilty and given no opportunity to defend themselves; the rigors of wearing hot, heavy, bulky character costumes; etc. But surprise comes when you learn of the invasion of at least parts of the Happiest Place on Earth by vermin: when the staff of one concession stayed late to complete a special project, they were horrified to see rats literally come out of the woodwork when the main park lights went off. What's more, Disneyland battles invading insects in many areas by many means. For all that, Disneyland's management comes off well, only occasionally looking insensitive. A valuable addition to popular culture literature and to Disneyana. Mike Tribby --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I really enjoyed this book, I have always been a Disney fan and am always looking for interesting facts and things about Disney getting a look behind the walls or doors at Disney has always fascinated me. I really enjoyed this book and I keep it with my other Disney books that I have read, it was a great addition to my library. It's is always fascinating to read about others experiences and learn about things that happened there before you were even born this is a great collection of information a must have for the Disney fan.

As a lifelong Disneyland fan and a former Cast Member (1996-2005), I cannot recommend this book enough. It gives you tons of great history of the park, from the infamous to the scandalous, the hilarious to the momentous. It's not nearly big enough to encompass all of the park's amazing history, but for the information it does give you, it's worth it. Be warned, though - this book reveals a lot of information that is unbecoming of The Happiest Place on Earth. Author David Koenig covers events that are part of the park's history but don't mesh with the illusion of perfection, including murders, fights, riots, lawsuits, accidents, and after-hours shenanigans. The author underwent years of research to make this book happen. Nearly all of it comes from newspaper clippings and public documents. Much of it also comes from first-hand Cast Member stories. Some of those stories are decades old and only tell one point of view. For that reason, some of what you read should be taken with a grain of salt, since memories fade or are altered for preservation. That doesn't mean they're fake, or that the information is any less interesting. If you enjoy scandal and notoriety, then this book will have you salivating. If you love Disneyland the way it is and don't want to know what goes into making the magic, then this book is not for you. If you do decide to read it (and I hope you do), then know now: once you start, you won't be able to stop.

Mouse Tales by David Koenig is a well-researched look at the reality behind the mask or illusion

created by Walt Disney. It's a look at the park made by a man for his family to enjoy, and how it was taken over by a corporation interested in selling product to the masses. But besides this ugly story, there's moments of light that shine through, although David does degenerate into the darkest moments of Disney's history. He spends a lot of time rehashing employee stories about management and Disneyland guests that can be disturbing. Perhaps David's biggest revelation is that Disneyland's response to medical emergencies is poor, very poor. It's still bad, and Disneyland needs to rewrite its policy. Should you read this book? If you're curious about Disney's real history, I'd say yes.

Whether you've been to Disneyland once in your life or 100 times, this book is packed with fun facts, hilarious stories and jaw dropping "OMG" moments. The book is well-written and flows nicely from one chapter to another. It's perspective from cast members who have worked in the park as everything from food service to costumed characters provides a wide range of insight on what they have to deal with on a daily basis. For some of them it certainly may not be 'the happiest job on earth' but it still probably beats sitting at a desk all day. As someone who's been a semi-annual visitor to the park and has a lot of fond memories, it's always fascinating to read about others experiences and learn about things that happened there before you were even born, or too young to remember in detail. It makes future visits even more special when you are let in on a few secrets and stories about events or things that may have escaped your notice. I wouldn't say it takes away from the fantasy facade that makes the park special, but rather makes it more intriguing to see just how much effort it takes to keep the magic feeling real.

Wow. the things that go on behind the scenes are mind blowing. The pranks the staff do to the visitors are funny and unbelievable how they get away with it. A fast and easy read. Could not put it down. Any fan of Disney should read this. It opens up a whole new world of Disney you were never aware of.

This book is absolutely fascinating! If you've ever been to Disneyland and find that it still gets you excited when you think of going back, this book is for you. There is so much interesting information. I thought I knew quite a bit about the Magic Kingdom. But, this book goes deeper behind the scenes. It exposes the good, the bad and the ugly. It is not a put down of the park. But, it does let you know from first hand interviews with former employees that it's had it's share of problems. This makes you appreciate all the hard work the Disney team does to make your day in the park seem

"Magical". Chapters like "Fatal Attractions" and "Tragic Kingdom" go into detail about those "down played" accidents and deaths. I remember hearing a little about some of them and wondering how things turned out. This book gives you the details, including the law suits which were filed. Though I'm absolutely NOT a history enthusiast, I loved the history of Disneyland. Did you know that opening day was actually not so great? Do you remember the Flying Saucer ride and wonder why it disappeared? The answers are all here without the candy coating. This book is the Special Golden Anniversary Edition. There are only 4,000 copies of this edition. This makes it a special collector's item for Disneyland's 50th Anniversary. I plan on buying the sequel book, too. It's hard to put this one down once you start. So, you better buy them both now so you don't have to wait for the next part like I am.

I just purchased this book and started reading it the other day I am on chapter 1 and I have to say it is very well written in a very easy read. It goes into great detail about how things really were. For the Disney fan this is a must-have book. **DISCLAIMER:** I regularly review items on however this product I paid full price and this is my honest review

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