



The Dark Side of Disney

Leonard Kinsey

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THE DARK SIDE OF DISNEY reveals all of the tips, tricks, scams, and stories that THEY don't want you to know about! Unabashedly unafraid of offending the family-oriented audiences catered to by other Disney travel guides, author Leonard Kinsey gives intrepid travelers access to the seamy, raunchy, and often hilarious underbelly of Walt Disney World.

From cautionary tales of scoring illegal tickets, to thrilling accounts of exploring off-limits areas, to chronicles of drug-induced debauchery, this completely unauthorized guidebook will change the way you think about vacationing at "The Happiest Place on Earth".

"Pack the trunks and leave the kids at Grandma's because THE DARK SIDE is about to make your next Disney vacation the best one ever!"

-Chris Mitchell, author of CAST MEMBER CONFIDENTIAL

The Dark Side of Disney Details

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From Reader Review The Dark Side of Disney for online ebook

Rossy says

Nuh-huh, didn't like it at all!

Scams, where to have sex at Disney, what are the best and worst rides to go on while stoned... As an girl obsessed with Disney , I was expecting something totally different!

T_____T

Joel Neff says

Save this book until you're planning your next vacation to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. It has several hints, tips, and resources to make your next trip a bit more adult than Uncle Walt may have had in mind. There are websites and maps and photos to help aid you in plotting where and when to get high, get laid, and how to get away with it all.

Having said that, I was a bit disappointed. I wanted more of the stories, more of the anecdotes that are sprinkled throughout the book. I wanted to read more about the people who have wandered off the carefully groomed paths to explore the utilidors below and behind the scenes of the park. I wanted to hear more about people's experiences getting high on the attractions and why they chose what they did. I wanted to hear stories of people getting caught and how they got away with it. I wanted to read more about the people who came by the tips offered in the book. In short, I wanted more adventure and less guide.

Still, for anyone planning a Disney vacation, this is, if nothing else, a nice reminder that just because something is not sanctioned by the officials, doesn't mean it can't be done.

Michael says

After finishing The Dark Side of Disney, I must admit that I was a little disappointed. I bought the book on Amazon because I am one of those people that have been to Disney World a million times (my wife and i even got married there). I hoped that with the inflammatory tone uncharacteristic of WDW guide books that I would find some information that I didn't already know. While the interviews at the end of the book were interesting, the guide portion of the book was filled with info that most "Disnerds" already have and references to the Disboards, probably the most well-known WDW fan site. I know this sounds like I am too critical, but even according to the author in the first few pages, he wrote this book for obsessive WDW fans like myself. I would recommend reading it if you can get it as an e-book download, but save your money if you plan on paying cover price and just do what he tells you on every other page and go to disboards.com instead.

Carrie Poppy says

Okay

Nick West says

First, let me state unequivocally that I enjoyed reading "The Dark Side of Disney". Heck, I finished the thing in less than 24 hours.

That said, I have to dock the book a couple of points because it is advertised as something other than what it is. Then again, the book doesn't seem to be all that sure what it is in the first place.

Part one is basically a travel book, focusing on the potential pitfalls and windfalls of various offers of free tickets and/or cheap merchandise and food at Walt Disney World. This was easily the best and most informative part of the book, with many great tips for travelers to Orlando. But I wouldn't exactly call it the "dark side" of Disney; it's more the "dark side" of the community surrounding the Disney property. This section also includes many great tips on hotels and restaurants at Walt Disney World and provides some anecdotes on the cons to staying off-site in Orlando.

Part two is a guide to debauchery at the happiest place on Earth. I realize that this section isn't really for me, since I don't do drugs (to each their own, no big deal) and if I want a drinking vacation I'll go to an island or Vegas. But it does contain some good tips on the best bars on property, as well as a couple stories of adventurous couples getting busted trying to check Disney rides off their "places to bang" lists. (Basic synopsis: Don't do it. There are literally cameras EVERYWHERE around the parks.) But again, neither of these are really a "dark side" to Disney. They are just tips for a more adult vacation. Even the section on buying/using drugs doesn't count, because Kinsey flat-out tells you that you can't buy on property and you're stupid if you try to smoke/drop/snort/etc. in the theme parks because you'll get busted.

Finally, part three is about wandering the off-limits areas of the resort. Realistically this section could have consisted of a single page of links to blogs on the Internet, because these are the stories Kinsey is sharing about exploring the long-closed Discovery Island in the dead of night or sneaking on to the also-long-closed Horizons attraction after hours. Again, not really a "dark side" of Disney.

I enjoyed "The Dark Side of Disney" a great deal just because it's different from the other Walt Disney World books on the market. But will I feel the need to read it again? Probably not. I'm clearly not the target audience, which is fine. If you think the regular Disney vacation is dull and tired, then you may want to give this one a look. Just don't share it with your kids or they'll never look at Cinderella the same way again.

Feistytiger says

This E-book was not as good as i hoped it would be. Following my love of disney and the inside scoop I expected this to have some useful tricks of the park. However it was irrelevant unless you lived in America and could visit the parks often. He uncovered some other ways to save money and to almost con the system.

However from the cover and the blurb i was hoping for some more juice, and some inside gossip on the parks. Adventures he had and some of the 'darker' side to this disney park. When he did mention these

aspects (briefly) they were really interesting, but the rest felt highly irrelevant.

A bit of a disappointing read, and not worth it unless you were American and could visit the parks frequently. However some of the blatant breaking of rules i would not recommend. Also you could not imagine getting away with some of it now days - i.e. breaking into the Cast members rooms. You would think anyone with common sense would see this is happening and put a stop to it.

Chris says

Another review stated that this book reads like a 15-year-old bragging about sex that he's never had. Yeah, that's about right. It's basically a collection of ramblings from a message board and that's not an exaggeration, it really seems to be. Even the more informational content reads like it came from a stickied FAQ thread on a forum.

The listing dips between kind of neat to pretty dopey. More straight forward accounts of dodging security and the inner workings of the more of off-limit areas would have been more interesting. Listing areas where you could totally have sex but probably not actually but sounding really excited about it regardless is pretty worthless. Other things like freaking out about walking into a staff area and watching workers actually walk around is useless.

The book is really pretty tame, all in all. Not really worth it.

Jo says

I know I have a dark sense of humor, but so far this book has had me cracking up. Only about half way through... I think this book (so far) is really funny if you are an adult fan of Disney, like to travel there without the kids, and have been a large number of times...

So now that I have finished this book, I still stand by my original review. I was fascinated by the people who snuck into the tunnels, the closed attractions... I wish I had the guts to do that. Fun quick read for an adult Disney fan. Be prepared for adult language and situations but I think you can tell what you are getting by looking at the cover alone.

Brendon Schrodinger says

While it is quite obvious that Leonard is a huge Disney geek and a person into place-hacking and other such endeavors, this book tends to fall flat in what I saw as it's need to seem "cool".

I would have liked this book much more if Leonard had concentrated more on the exploration of the theme park and the behind the scenes, even the place-hacking and system-hacking side. But this obsession about talking about which hidden balconies and hovels to have sex in, how great it is to do drugs in the park, and other male teenage fantasies is very sad. If you aren't a teenager and find yourself looking for hidden places

in a theme park to have sex, you may have some issues to deal with. I don't think I'm a prude at all and I do go by the adage that as long as it's between consenting adults whatever, but still these sections of the book make me feel a little sad for the author.

It's also great to know that Disney puts on rock concerts, but the way Leonard tells it they are ROCK CONCERTS. He really does seem to want to make his time and experiences at Disney seem 16-year-old-boy cool.

And these parts of the book seemed the least genuine of the whole book. Maybe it was subjective, but there seemed to be more enthusiasm for the place-hacking and other stories. I would question that the demographic to enjoy this book would not necessarily be the demographic who would enjoys public sex and taking LSD. Nor are they prudes at all. Just geeks.

But other than that he does convey his love of the park and interviews some other people who have explored the park in interesting ways also. I did enjoy two-thirds of this book greatly and would give those parts 4-stars. But you can only read so much about the n-th balcony that gives you a view of the fireworks while screwing.

Amanda says

Easily one of the trashiest books I've ever read.

I mean, I get it's supposed tell you how to have a great time at Disney if you're an adult that likes doing illegal things.

But he writes with the prose of a hypersexed 15 year old that just learned about drugs and hasn't actually done any of them.

I finished it in one sitting, although, I'll be honest, I skipped the section about drugs in the parks because, it's not pertinent to my interests.

And realistically, I probably wouldn't ever try many of the things listed in the book...as a die-hard Disney fan, I'd rather not risk being banned from the parks.

Chris Batchelor says

Although I've always liked reading books about Walt Disney World, this book is just about the worst book out there that deals in this company. I don't like the fact that the author's methods including those in the first chapter are all illegal methods, and as the book progresses, the methods of other things just are too irate to read! Don't purchase unless you want to end up in jail or just don't try any of these methods described in the book under any such situation.

Teresa says

I'm in love with theme parks, especially Disney. And I am positively obsessed with abandoned areas, closed rides, hidden places, dark secrets. This book has pretty much none of those.

What this book has is a lot of Leonard Kinsey's sad bravado as he boasts about how to party in the park like you're a drunken frat boy. As far as all the tips in this book, I feel like they've decreased in effectiveness every day since it went into publication as there's no way this book went under Disney's radar and I'm sure measures have been taken to prevent people from stupidly following this guide. Abbie Hoffman he is not, but imagining himself as some kind of bad-ass hero, Kinsey tells you where the best places are to eat your pot brownies, get drunk at Disney, and have sex on site (The best option is a bathroom. Fantasy fulfilled?). I skimmed the book, because Kinsey is an irritating narrator who comes off as pathetic. "Nothing like doing mushrooms and getting a handjob on Space Mountain! Hurr hurr hurr!" Yeah, we're all impressed, dude. You're cool.

Toward the end of the book, he mentions the trip to Discovery Island. It's an interesting story, but not when Kinsey is telling it. Instead I recommend going straight to the source-
<http://shaneperez.blogspot.com/2009/1...>

It's my own fault for wasting my time on this book, though, as everything you need to know about it is right there on the cover- a topless girl with a bottle and a cigarette, half of her hair shaved in that "I'm a cool girl" hairstyle, tattoos in abundance as though tattoos are still shocking these days, and her short shorts nearly off, like she can't wait to give a handjob in the Magic Kingdom. It's a book by a dude who is trying way too hard to make everyone think he's so-cool-you-guys. Sad.

Redfox5 says

I am not a rule breaker. And I love Disney, wouldn't want to do anything that would get me banned from Disney, which is why I will be avoiding the advice in this book, well maybe apart from renting DVC points (totally looked that up immediately).

But I still really liked this. Leonard is a Disney fan, although he's a naughty one! He gives you tips and tricks in this book for how to get yourself into backstage areas, get in the park for free and even find some secluded spots for sex in the parks. I find this one a bit disturbing considering the amount of children around. Stick to the hotels people! No one wants to see that shit!

But everything is told in a humorous way, along with funny stories about things going wrong. I always like to know more about the cast members and the secret backstage stuff and would love to get down in the Utilidors, but as I said above, not a rule breaker. I'd pay for the tour!

I also really enjoyed the interviews at the back. I find Discovery Island fascinating and love hearing more about it.

Great book for fans and as it's written by a fan, there is no hate for Disney here like you would expect in a book like this. Which is awesome as find that a massive turn off when books about Disney are written by haters.

Margot Note says

I found out a lot of information on how to improve my next visit to Walt Disney World!

Here's what I can add from my experiences:

- 1) The best time to go is early September, when children are back in school. I was at Magic Kingdom and Epcot Center on the tenth anniversary of 9/11, and it was vacant except for some European tourists.
 - 2) \$100 cash is yours for the taking. In my naiveté, I didn't understand that a free breakfast and a timeshare presentation meant that a woman would try to wear me down while I drank black coffee and ate a banana. I left, but not without a guilt trip and a warning that I'd have to return the money, which they have no way of reinforcing. I hustled the hustlers!
 - 3) The most cathartic moment of my life: having a breakdown at Epcot, due to heat, overstimulation, bad food, a cold, and post-family-visit blues. I was so scared that security would drag me away for crying too hard that I started hysterically laughing! I was mellow for the rest of the day.
-

Karsyn says

This was such a funny, and fairly accurate, telling of the darker sides of Disney. If you are up for scamming, or doing illegal things, it's for you.

As a former annual passholder of 16+ years, former wife of a lifer cast member, a cast member myself of 2 years and having worked events in the park for 6+ years, I've done a number of the things listed in the book. Mind you, I never did anything illegal, or even drank or did drugs at all but the other stuff was fun.

Finding a lifer really isn't that hard. If you find one, you find them all, because they are usually friends having been around together for so long.

As the daughter of a "handicapped" woman (she had foot problems all her life, wore those big boots on her leg), I spent much time in a wheelchair going onto the rides that she wouldn't, while she waited elsewhere.

Free parking was a must, and I was surprised not to see the side way of getting to the Magic Kingdom, by going along the road to the campgrounds. There's a guard booth there, never manned (2000-2006 anyways, when I was going the most) plus going in the back way through the cast member entrance, just say you lived back there and were going to a hotel and they let you right on through.

Oh how I tell people NOT to stay offsite and if they do, they HAVE to be on 192 WEST of I-4. You go past I-4 to the east and "main gate" takes 30+ minutes, on a good day. Forget it, in the morning during the traffic!

Refillable mugs, definitely a good one! :)

DO NOT READ THE FOLLOWING, if sex easily offends you!!

(view spoiler)

So, this book was just a blast to read and made me miss WDW even more. Having moved out of FL in 2012, it's the only thing I miss about that horrible crappy state!!
