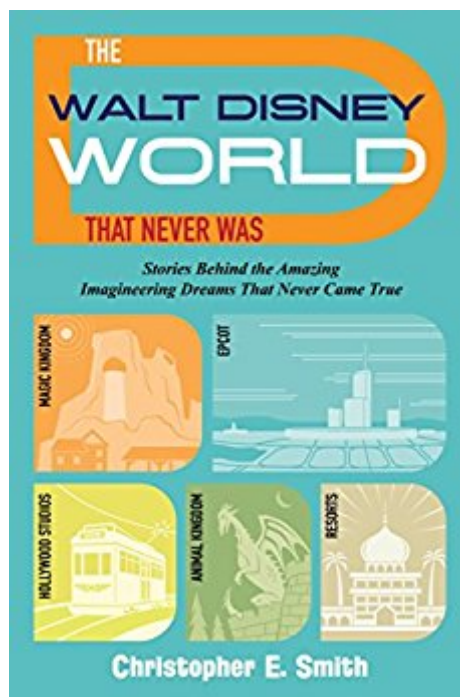




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# The Walt Disney World That Never Was: Stories Behind The Amazing Imagineering Dreams That Never Came True



## Synopsis

The Imagineering Graveyard On an alternate earth, Walt Disney World guests are taking in the thrills of Thunder Mesa, braving the Beastly Kingdom, marveling at Villains Mountain, and staying the night at Disney's Persian Resort. Want to join them? This is your guidebook to the theme park that Disney never built. In this unique, extensively researched book, Christopher Smith discusses the many attractions, shows, and resorts that were planned for Walt Disney World, from opening day to the present day, but that exist only in the minds of Imagineers. You'll find old "favorites" such as Thunder Mesa and Beastly Kingdom, as well as those lost to the pixie dust of time, like Dick Tracy's Crime Stoppers, the Enchanted Snow Palace, and Buffalo Junction. Smith looks at the politics and internal struggles behind the decision to shelve each concept, and imagines what guests might have experienced. Every park at Walt Disney World—Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and Hollywood Studios—has its hidden cache of "lost" attractions. They're all here, along with the many resort hotels that Disney intended to build, but didn't. Put aside those guidebooks of the Walt Disney World that is, and come to a vacation kingdom that you can visit only if you find the second star to the right and then keep straight on till morning.

## Book Information

File Size: 1510 KB

Print Length: 202 pages

Publisher: Theme Park Press (November 4, 2016)

Publication Date: November 4, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MXH25P2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #92,478 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Specialty Travel > Spas #14

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## Customer Reviews

For those of us who believe that Walt Disney World is the Happiest Place on Earth, it can be hard to imagine the Resort any other way than it is right now. But the fact is that many plans that Disney brass and Imagineers had for WDW never came to be. This book takes a deep dive into the history of the most interesting of these unfulfilled dreams. As thankful as we are for the WDW we have, it is exciting (and at times frustrating or disappointing) to learn what could have been. The stories are well-researched, well-told and, although at times brutally honest, they brim with warmth and reverence for all things Disney.

Christopher Smith is a lawyer in Alabama and a huge Disney World fan. He's gathered together a treasure trove of information on all the Disney World rides that were proposed but for one reason or another never actually built. Although I've read some of this information before, it was useful to have it brought together in one place. The main flaw in the book is that it has absolutely no photos, drawings, or other visuals of any of these rides. Concept art exists for many of these rides and, in fact, spends quite a lot of time giving the reader descriptions of the art. But those descriptions are no substitute for actually seeing it. I assume that the book's budget or permission issues with Disney kept the book from having any visuals. The book could also have used a good editor to rein in some of Smith's overly exuberant prose. But, hey, this is a fan's book. It was by a fan for other fans and on that basis, I very much enjoyed it.

I found this book to be very interesting and easy to read. Many books in this category are written in a manner that only appeals to the most fanatic followers of Disney. I was impressed with the smooth flow of the book and the approach that proves interesting to any fan of Disney history.

This book was okay. I'm a huge Disney Fan and amateur historian. I love the idea that this book combined the two. It was just VERY dry and read almost like a text book.

This is a really good read. It provides information and insight. The information is available anywhere online. It is the author's insights into what might have been that make this book so enjoyable.

This was a quick, easy, and very interesting read chock full of facts about the World that never was.

It was interesting to see how some current attractions were influenced by rides and lands that never came to fruition.

Good book that was very well researched. It's amazing how far some of these projects came along before circumstances forced their cancellation.

I love reading everything & anything on Disney World!

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