



## Realityland: True-Life Adventures at Walt Disney World

By David Koenig

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### Realityland: True-Life Adventures at Walt Disney World By David Koenig

Realityland: True-Life Adventures at Walt Disney World takes the first-ever in-depth, unauthorized look at the creation and operation of the world's most popular vacation destination. Step backstage and witness: Walt's original plans for Disney World and how his dreams completely changed in the hands of his successors... His undercover agents who secretly bought 44 square miles of swamps... The chaotic construction and frantic first years of the Magic Kingdom... The underground caverns that wind beneath the theme park... Disney's unconventional, initially disastrous foray into operating its own hotels... The behind-the-scenes machinations that led to EPCOT Center... How safety and security are maintained on property at all costs... The tumultuous change of leadership that turned the cherished Ways of Walt upside down. Join David Koenig, author of the best-selling Mouse Tales: A Behind-the-Ears Look at Disneyland, on Mr. Disney's wildest ride ever.

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## **Realityland: True-Life Adventures at Walt Disney World By David Koenig Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In the fourth of his books about the Disney empire, Koenig (Mouse Tales: A Behind-The-Ears Look at Disneyland) takes an even-handed approach to chronicling the ups and downs of an American institution. Based on nearly a decade of research and 100 interviews with past and present employees ("cast members" in Disney-speak), Koenig explores the genesis of Walt Disney's east coast outpost. It began as Disney's dream for the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow, or EPCOT: a multilevel, glass encased, climate-controlled city. Part of that dream died with Walt in 1966-less than a year before construction began on Disney World-and it would be two decades before his severely altered plans would become reality. In erudite and fluid prose, Koenig takes readers on Walt's clandestine land acquisition exploits in central Florida, through the chaotic construction and frantic early years of the Magic Kingdom and into Disney's disastrous entry into the hotel business. He also recounts the company's struggle to develop a scaled-down EPCOT Center and overcome tumultuous leadership changes. When the author does editorialize, it's subtle, and the book chips away at the Disney fantasy just enough to reveal that nothing-not even "the happiest place on earth"-is perfect.

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### Review

Koenig drags every skeleton out of the Mouse's closet and makes them dance. After reading Realityland, you'll probably never experience Disney with child-like wonder again, but the insider info is well worth a little lost innocence. --Seth Kubersky, Orlando Weekly

Koenig, the author of two highly respected, behind-the-scenes books on Disneyland, now sheds light on the beginnings of Walt Disney World. Interviewing almost 100 people and incorporating almost a decade of research, Koenig has written his best book to date. Perfect for Disney fans and history buffs. --Jeff Ayers, Library Journal

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### About the Author

With four exhaustively researched behind-the-scenes books on Disney theme parks and animation, David Koenig has become the world's first and best-known Mouse House outsider. He has spent more than 25 years interviewing hundreds of cast members and researching the history and mystery of the Disney Empire.

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