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The Haunted Mansion is one of the most popular and beloved attractions in Disney theme park history, and can be found in each Magic Kingdom Park around the globe. The Haunted Mansion: From the Magic Kingdom to the Movies will illustrate how the Mansion's 999 "grim grinning ghosts" moved from sketches to reality, evolving from earliest story concepts through adaptations and changes as it moved into each of the parks, to the very latest ideas for show enhancements. This book will also confirm or dispel the various myths and rumors that surround the mysterious Mansion's story. In recent years, The Walt Disney Company has seen the demand for theme park attraction-specific merchandise explode, and the Haunted Mansion resides at the top of the list. Fans are waiting with super(natural) anticipation for the upcoming movie, and this book will also explore the latest technology developed to bring the Mansion's inhabitants to an afterlife like never before.

The Haunted Mansion: From the Magic Kingdom to the Movies Details

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From Reader Review The Haunted Mansion: From the Magic Kingdom to the Movies for online ebook

Brian Daniel says

I loved this book. It's not a traditional read. Rather, it chronicles the history of one of Disney's most storied attractions: The Haunted Mansion. I've been visiting the parks and reading books about Walt Disney and imagineering for a few years now. Even though The Haunted Mansion is one of my favorite attractions, I never could put my finger on why so many Disney enthusiasts were so obsessed with it. My hope was that reading Surrell's book would help me understand the Haunted Mansion phenomenon and it absolutely did. He begins with the genesis of the idea in the Museum of the Weird for which Yale Gracey and Rolly Crump were commissioned to begin exploring and experimenting with gags for the mansion before walking his readers through the whole creative process. Along the way you meet X. Xtencio, Marc Davis, Claude Coates, and plenty others that had a hand in bringing the attraction to life, er, afterlife. The last third of the book addresses each "scene" in the Mansion in detail—but not so much detail as to be overwhelming. It's an easy read and highly recommended for Disney fans, but probably way too much information for the less obsessed or those with only a passing interest.

Stephanie says

This was a great read for someone who is a Disney fanatic. Haunted mansion is one of my favorite rides and this gave me interesting details I didn't know! It also made me want to be on the ride.

I really enjoyed the glimpses at Phantom Manor as well, but wish more detail had been included on the other versions of Haunted Mansion as well.

Jennifer Girard says

This book is perfect for fans of the amazing attraction !! It's my favorite one so I loved it. The part about the movie wasn't as interesting for me but it's only cause I'm not a fan of it.

Kaye says

My only reason for reading this book was that after visiting Disneyland Paris I wanted to know more about the theme park. This was the only book in my library system that a search brought up. After such a silly reason to pick up a book I was surprised at how much I liked it. The first third of the book gives the history of the attraction at Disneyland. The Haunted House was erected almost 10 years before the attraction opened as they worked out the details, effects and story-line for the house. The next third goes almost room by room as you ride along in your "doom-buggy". This is where the books differentiates the differences between the Haunted Mansions in the different Disney parks. The last third is a promotional for the Haunted Mansion Movie starring Eddie Murphy. For me that part of the book was as forgettable as the movie. In Paris we wondered why the final scenes of the ride were not in the graveyard but instead a western ghost town. All

things have been explained to me. Now I just have to convince my husband that I need to return to France not to see Paris but to visit Disneyland Paris again.

Whitney Garrett says

This was a great behind-the-scenes look at the extensive and lengthy process behind the making of the Haunted Mansion. I really enjoyed it! The Haunted Mansion is one of my favorite rides at Disney World, and its history is fascinating! I'd delved into this topic before, but this book had quite a few things that I'd never heard before, and the production photos really enhanced the experience.

The only reason I gave it four instead of five stars is that the book geared up to the last chapter, which talked about...the movie. Yes, the movie, which is nothing like the ride. Some of the details on the set decor was interesting, but I really wish they'd used these pages to elaborate on the Haunted Mansions at other Parks, and how they differ. Particularly Phantom Manor at Disneyland Paris, which looks like an amazing ride.

Also, I believe this book was published before Mystic Manor was built (at Disneyland Hong Kong, I believe), and this ride differs from the others so drastically, it would have been interesting to read about the decisions made about that ride. And particularly the technology behind it, as it is quite state-of-the-art.

I'd really like to see a new edition that talks about the different Haunted Mansion rides, including the newest one, and excluding anything about the movie.

Brian says

Greetings Foolish Mortals! Are you a fan of the Haunted Mansion? If so, this is the book for you. This book gives the history of the famous Disney attraction, complete with how it got started, as well as the differences in the many different versions. Did you ever want a walkthrough of the ride? Well look no further. Like most technical books, some of the text was kind of boring, but the pictures were amazing. However, the last third focuses on the very lame Haunted Mansion movie, thus bumping this book down a few star ratings.

Sesana says

I'm a hardcore, unashamed fan of Disney, especially Disney World, and the Haunted Mansion is my single favorite ride... Well, anywhere. So I obviously had to read this book. There are three parts here: the development of the four versions of the ride, a complete tour of the experience, and (sadly) a behind-the-scenes look at the Haunted Mansion movie that was, when this was published, about to be released.

I could have done without the section on the movie, and been much happier if, instead, the sections about the actual rides had been fleshed out more. Because that is the biggest weakness that a Haunted Mansion nut like me can find with this book. In particular, the coverage of the Disneyland Paris version (Phantom Manor) is sadly lacking. That was a huge disappointment to me, because Phantom is so different, so unique, that it deserved to be more than just a footnote. A lot more could have been said about the development of Phantom Manor, and I was looking forward to reading more about it. And folding a tour of Phantom Manor into a tour of the other three Haunted Mansions, when it's just so different... It didn't really work, and I imagine that a

lot of the people who snapped this book up would have loved to have seen more out of such a different take on the Mansion, one that many of them will never get a chance to see in person.

There are a lot of great stories and photos from behind the scenes of the ride, enough to satisfy most fans. And maybe I'm in the minority of Mansion fans who would love to see more about Phantom Manor. At any rate, it's a good read for Mansion fans, and for anyone interested in how the Imagineers pulled off those great effects.

Kitty says

If you're a fan, it's great fun

This attraction, at both Disneyland and Walt Disney World, is one of my favorites, and holds some sentimental value. Because of that, I enjoyed this book immensely. There are photos, drawings, stories about the creation, and a few "legends" surrounding the mystery. While some of it I knew, there were some interesting tidbits I'd never heard before. The author is obviously a fan, too, and his enthusiasm comes through in the writing.

Brittany says

I really enjoyed this book. I love Disney and I think it's super interesting to read about what goes into making it. I also liked it because the book talks about the different Haunted Mansions and not just one.

Ian says

There's enough information here that's worth reading, but I wouldn't mind it if, when Mr. Surrell passes away, his ghost is fitted the chains he forged in life--each link representing a platitude, unnecessary modifier, or wonkily structured sentence that he's written.

Lou Robinson says

Having been a life long fan of the Haunted Mansion (it's number 1 on my top 5 rides in Disney), I found this book a curiosity, interesting and full of facts about the creepy place. The book is split into 3 parts, firstly explaining the background to the ride and how it stayed as a mere concept for years and took far longer than you would imagine to come to fruition. The second part was the most interesting part for me, as it takes you step by step through the ride in your doom buggie pointing out subtle details that you may have missed and highlighting the differences between the rides at all the Disney parks. Disneyland Paris seems to be the most different. The third part concentrates on the film based on the ride, starring Eddie Murphy, made at the start of the 2000s. I've never seen it and not entirely sure I want to.

What I do want to do is make sure I have a flip through the book next time I visit Magic Kingdom, to remind myself to look out for some of those exquisite details that I probably glossed over on the myriad of times I've been to the Haunted Mansion.

Biz says

Excellent history/documentary book of Disney's Haunted Mansion. A must have for any Mansion fan!

Gives a lot of backstory anecdotes about the mansion from its humble beginnings in Walt and the Imagineer's minds to the release of the (disappointing) movie in 2005.

John says

As the only official Disney tome on Disney's most beloved theme park attraction, this is an important book, so it's sad to say that it's rather flawed. Though the book is essential reading for any Disneyland or Walt Disney World aficionado--and is gorgeously illustrated throughout with color photos and reproductions of concept art--the text desperately needed to be proofread by at least one or two more sets of eyes. Word-break hyphens appear in mid-line of text ("attrac- tions" on p. 14, for instance). Other typos are also in evidence: "a computerized camera was *programming* to perform the same move the same way every time the camera was turned on" (p. 129, emphasis added--should read "programmed"). There is at least one self-contradiction that probably relates to the change of edition: On p. 55, Surrell claims that the Foyer is the only room in the Walt Disney World Mansion to include a changing portrait effect, even though just seven pages later he discusses the changing portrait hall that was added at WDW in 2007. Surrell also misidentifies Bluebeard as a "fictional pirate" (p. 99), though the Bluebeard character is nothing of the sort (Surrell is undoubtedly thinking of Blackbeard; the slightest bit of research and copy editing should have caught that mistake).

Having said all that, Surrell's book is still very worth having for the good information it does contain. The historical genesis of the attraction is lovingly described, and the central section of the book gives a nice comparative ride-through of the three different versions of the Mansion (Anaheim, Orlando/Tokyo, and Paris). Almost all of the photos are now available online, sometimes in much higher resolution, but the ones in the book are of unquestionable legality.

Isebella says

Absolutely love this book. If you love to learn about the history behind the Haunted Mansion ride, then this is the book for you. The storylines and concepts are fun to read and the artwork in the book is a major plus.

D.M. says

I'm only slightly ashamed to admit to being a Disney fan, but the Haunted Mansion is absolutely THE thing for me when it comes right down to it.

We picked up this book on our last trip to Disneyworld a few years ago, and it does not disappoint. It covers the development of the ride, does a pretty thorough walkthrough of the three different versions of the ride (in four different parks) and then goes into the (unfortunate) attempt to capture the spirit (sorry) of the attraction in the Eddie Murphy movie.

This is a thorough and wonderfully illustrated volume, with loads of background information on every front. The ONLY drawback is that it fails to fully illustrate the bizarre Spooky Bride changes over the years, and doesn't have a single decent photo of the original, really spooky bride from the Disneyworld version! I recommend it to fans of the Mansion (even the coverage of the movie is interesting, if the movie wasn't), as well as recommend Surrell's book on the Pirates... attraction.
