



## Disney after Dark

*Ridley Pearson , David Frankland (Illustrations)*

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**Disney after Dark** Ridley Pearson , David Frankland (Illustrations)

In this fantastical novel, Disney's Magic Kingdom suddenly becomes a bit eerie. Finn Whitman and four other teens have been hired as Disney World guides, but with an odd twist: With cutting-edge technology, they have been transformed into hologram projections capable of leading guests around the park. What begins as an exciting theme park job turns into a virtual nightmare as Finn and his pals attempt to thwart an uprising by a menacing group of Disney villains.

## Disney after Dark Details

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Author : Ridley Pearson , David Frankland (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Disney after Dark for online ebook

### Michele Knott says

Have you been to Disney World? Do you love the Magic Kingdom? As a huge Disney fan, this book was so fun to read! You meet Finn and 4 other Orlando teenagers who have been chosen to become DHI's, which are holographic images that are trained to be Magic Kingdom park guides. However, Finn and his friends start waking up in the middle of the night as their DHI's, in the Magic Kingdom park. They find out from Wayne, an old Imagineer (what Disney calls their engineers and inventors), that the park is under siege by a group of people called "The Overtakers". We find out that The Overtakers are lead by the evil villain, Maleficent and she has recruited other park villains to help. Finn and the others must find what Maleficent is after and stop her and the other Overtakers before it's too late. Disney aficionados will enjoy seeing some of the park audio animatronics come to life - for example the pirates from The Pirates of the Caribbean ride, fight Finn and the others while riding the cars from Buzz Lightyear's Space Adventure ride! Some of the more famous Magic Kingdom rides are spotlighted in this adventurous book - Splash Mountain, it's a small world!, Tom Sawyer's Island, The Haunted Mansion and even Cinderella's Castle makes an appearance!

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### Darth J says

4.5 Stars

I thought the premise of this series is kinda genius: A bunch of kids face off against classic Disney Villians as they try to take control of Disney World. You read that right.

And it is just as awesome as it sounds.

The kids are part of a special program where they are recorded at a studio, and then representations of them are projected all over the park as holograms. But when the kids fall asleep, they can actually *become* those same holograms and interact with the park.

There's a bit of a mystery to decode that the late Walt Disney left clues to all over the park à la The Da Vinci Code.

A bunch of the animatronics in the park come to life, including the pirates and those creepy *It's a Small World* dolls.

And the main villain is the Mistress of All Evil herself, Maleficent.

I really enjoyed this book and I look forward to the next installments of the series.

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## **Karebear says**

Okay, when I learned about what it was about, I thought that it would be REALLY, REALLY good. I just thought the idea was clever (it's about Disney characters gone bad at night in the park). But then I read it, and I realized I just didn't like the characters, or the way it was written...sorry. But I do think it's a worthwhile read.

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## **Cindy says**

Like others that I saw when I read the flap of this book I thought this was the coolest idea for a book. But like all good books it's how the idea is taken and written and then transformed. I don't know if its the author just isn't a good YA author that this is just not his style. Either way the writing is the worst, and I've read some pretty bad stuff.

I hated that we had to mention the virtual magic kingdom, the characters were so one dimensional that I could see through them. And at times I thought this kids were in 4th grade only to find out they are wandering around Orlando by themselves. They also are pretty stupid kids. Also why is that every book that the kids have the parents are three steps from being brain dead? EVERY adult was a moron.

There's more that I could go on and on about but really I wanted to like this book but just couldn't.

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## **Hannah says**

Where do I begin to describe my disappointment?

Living in Florida, I love Disney with a fierce passion. My best memories have been made there. I've seen this book every time I've gone in a store, and I figured it must be good.

How wrong I was.

Everything was so... bad, but let's break it down into elements.

### **Negative Elements:**

The characters -

They were underdeveloped to say the least. You couldn't connect to anyone because the author simply didn't describe them. You didn't know what they liked, what they hated. There were surface-level perfect, spawns of Mary Sue and Marty Stu. I found myself uncaring if they lived or died (but I know they didn't die since this is an unfortunately continued series.) Not to mention, the bad guys did not seem bad. I could find no reason whatsoever to hate Maleficent other than the previously known fact that she tried to kill Aurora in Sleeping Beauty.

The dialogue -

It was forced and without meaning. I could have slapped the characters every time they asked some obvious, stupid question. I'm aware that this is a kid's book and that the dialogue needs to be slower/more obvious, but this would have insulted the intelligence of my 8-year-old sister.

#### The story -

It was probably one of the worst I've ever read. When you look at Disney, there is so much potential for a good story, and the book seemed to capture that potential. However, once you got into it, it was horrible. The events surrounding the entire plot were completely unexplained. I'm still confused as to what the Stonecutter's Quill had to do with anything. I'm still confused as to how they even progressed through the book. Their circumstances and battles were conveniently (and impossibly, even for a fiction book) solved. Not to mention infrequent. Plus, any good parts were just not memorable. For example, I thought I would love the *It's a Small World* part with the demon dolls. But, the resolution to that conflict was so completely and utterly unintelligent I had to put the book down for a moment. I kept on asking, "Did that just happen?" However, it was not asked in the good way. Anyway, the conclusion of the plot was not good. I saw it from a mile away, but, for some reason, I thought I would be wrong.

#### The Unrealistic Situations -

Before you start yelling that this is a fiction book, I'm referring to the situations in Finn's personal life... where it was supposed to be realistic. I can't go too deep into this, but some of the things that happened in Finn's home were completely unrealistic. It just screamed obvious.

#### The abuse of Disney -

This book in no way captured that magical Disney. There was very few Disney characters in the book, and the one that it focused on (Maleficent) was not described properly. Pearson didn't capture her true personality or evilness. For example, Pearson described the temperature dropping 50 degrees every time she steps in the room and objects freezing at her touch. Where the heck did he get that? If anything, Maleficent is a fire and therefore does the exact opposite. It seems like he didn't do his research. And why were there no good guys? Everyone who could have helped was mysteriously missing as the idiots ran through the park. Anyway, Pearson didn't capture that feeling you get as you travel the park at night. There was just nothing there. If you're going to do a book about Disney, put "capturing the Disney magic" on your priorities list.

#### The weird religious references -

I read this book to read about Disney, not the author's strange view on religion (projected through little kids.) There were multiple, yet subtle, negative references to religion with an emphasis on Christianity. I was quite literally shocked. What does Disney have to do with religion? Why the heck is Pearson wasting my time with his religious beliefs? Whether I am religious or not, I don't enjoy reading about any type of religion or an author's interpretation of it... especially in a kid's book about Disney.

#### The writing style -

I thought that Pearson, being the author of a variety of books, would at least have a good writing style... but no. It was dull and uninteresting. No freshness. The imagery stunk like a dirty diaper, and everything felt choppy. The action was near impossible to visualize because it wasn't described with any sort of depth. I will employ one of my previous metaphors. It felt like I was sliding down a cheap, plastic corkscrew slide, and I kept on getting stuck as soon as I gained any momentum.

#### **Positive Elements:**

##### The basis of the story -

The original basis and potential of this book soared. It had an awesome base that was just not expanded upon properly.

##### How the book made you want to finish it -

How do you describe it? Even though I didn't like it, I wanted to find out how the book really ended. It kept you slightly interested, just interested enough to make you stick with it till the end. However, like I hinted above, it never lived up to its potential. It's a shame.

With everything considered, it was not a good book. I'm glad I read it, now I won't have to wonder about the

book every time I see it, but I really didn't like it.  
I don't recommend it, but feel free to disagree.

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### **Irene says**

Yes I am an adult and yes I enjoyed this book. Looking at the not so stellar reviews of Disney After Dark, I agree with some of the comments - like the characters were under developed. True, but I believe that this didn't dampen my reading experience because I went in knowing that there are 4 other books to follow. I'm sure (or at least hoping) that there will be more character development to take place. The other oddity I found was Maleficent's ice powers - although, it didn't bother me as much as the other reviewers, I just found it odd that ice would be her persona when that wasn't the case in Sleeping Beauty. Nevertheless, the behind the theme park feel was intriguing and it made me want to go to Disney World so I can place some of the scenes from the book. All in all, I found the book fast paced, the dialogue current as far as preteen kids (or at least the respectful, well-behaved ones) go nowadays, and the characters interesting enough to want to know more about them (I'm definitely interested how Charlene is developed because she seemed like the weakest link of the bunch). It was an overall enjoyable, straight-forward, YA genre read. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

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### **MOVED - CHECK BIO says**

READ THIS REVIEW & MORE REVIEWS ON MY SUPER AWESOME BOOK BLOG!

Go Keepers! Go Keepers!

This AWESOME book is the first in the Kingdom Keepers series. It takes place where Disneyworld is, Orlando, Florida!(A.k.a, Disney!) Compared to the other books in the series, I think that this one is second best(Fourth one is awesome-er or the one where Finn uses the sword).

I liked that this book took place at Disney and that it was with kids twelve years old instead of seventeen. Adventure was good, also, Maybeck's sarcastic comments keep you laughing. The main struggle in this book is the Keepers trying to stop the Disney villain, Maleficent. Btw, She's going dooooooown!

The ending was a very well written and made me snatch the second book straight away(No seriously, I was begging!). I liked the ending because, 1.) it was well written, 2.) everybody lived, 3.) I'm going to stop listing because otherwise this will get too long.

I recommend this for kids between 7-15, Disney fans, maybe even adults!!!

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### **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by Me for TeensReadToo.com

Five young teens living in Florida get the opportunity of a lifetime--they're each going to be turned into a DHI, or a Disney Host Interactive, to guide visitors throughout the park. The five teens--Finn, Charlene,

Willa, Philby, and Maybeck--are a varied assortment of ethnicities, and all attend different schools. As Maybeck states, they're "the Orlando assortment pack." When Philby points out that DHI also stands for Daylight Hologram Imaging, the kids get a little worried that maybe the people at Disney aren't telling them everything there is to know. And that turns out to be quite an understatement.

One night when Finn falls asleep, he finds himself in the park after closing-- in his DHI, or hologram, body. He meets an old man named Wayne, one of the original Disney Imagineers, who informs Finn that he and his other four DHI friends have been chosen for a mission. A mission to save the park from the Overtakers, a group of once-benign Park characters who have taken on power and are intent on spreading their power outside of the borders of Disney World.

What at first seems like a fantastical dream soon turns to reality, when the attractions at the Park begin coming to life when the DHIs cross over into the Magic Kingdom while sleeping. They're attacked by animatronic pirates from The Pirates of the Caribbean, the dolls from It's a Small World try to capsize their boat, a dinosaur fossil from the Thunder Mountain ride comes to life and starts chasing them. And then there's Maleficent, the witch from Sleeping Beauty, who appears to be all too real--and determined to stop the kids from solving The Stonecutter's Quill, the fable that Walt Disney passed along to save the Park from the Overtakers.

THE KINGDOM KEEPERS is definitely an imaginative read, full of action, adventure, and suspense. For anyone who has ever visited the Magic Kingdom, you'll recognize the settings immediately. Even if you're not a frequent visitor of Disney World, this is one book that will bring the magic--both good and bad--to very realistic life.

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### **DisneyMonster says**

“There's a fine line between imagination and reality. An inventor dreams something up, and pretty soon, it's there on the table before him. A science-fiction writer envisions another world, and then some space probe finds it. If you believe in something strongly enough, I think you can make it happen.”

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### **Samie Foster says**

The Kingdom Keepers-The Forgotten Harry Potter Overall Rating: Wow I didn't expect it to be this good Looking for a new fantasy book to read? Have you worn out and memorized the lines out of Harry Potter books? Or are you looking for something is both kid friendly and can be enjoyed by adults. Well in the bargain bin of a local Hasting I found this forgotten treasure that nobody seems to know anything about. It's called The Kingdom Keepers Also know as Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark, this book is written by Ridley Pearson. And if the word Disney scared you? Don't let it. Despite how silly the book sounds, it is a really great imaginative novel that isn't too silly for adults and just fun enough for kids. So here's the concept of the book. The book focuses on a thirteen year old boy name Finn Whitmen. He has won a contest along with four other kids to have their selves replicated into electronic hologram hosts to help serve people in the Disney theme park. Basically there's a hologram of each kid is created to help tourist and answer questions in Disney land. But once the holograms of each kid is made(the book calls them DHI) something happens to them. When Finn and the other kids go to bed for the night , they wake up in Disney Land after

dark in the form of holograms. And at night time Disney Land comes alive. And right here I will tell you that it is not as happy go lucky as you would think it would be. It is actually kind of a dark kids tale. The witch from Sleeping Beauty is trying to take over the world beyond Disney Land. She already nearly has complete control over the ark. And the five kids must go on a quest to solve a riddle in order to find the one thing that can hurt any Disney character. Along the way they encounter psychotic animatronics dolls, dinosaur skeletons that came alive and the Pirates of the Caribbean as well. It had this kind feel the old West World movie very much applied to story. But it's entertaining oddly enough telling a epic fantasy in a story set in a world that kids can completely relate to. Just one real complaint wit the book. Where the hell was this book when I was in elementary school? I love this book, and I would of loved it back then too. We had to read ninety minutes every day and all I had was the box car children and baby sitters club. And if they could of included more Disney villains. I think it would have been more entertaining. But it's still a masterpiece. An this is not a new book either. It was book that no one even knows about. It was written back in 1999. And if your like me and t sounds fun. You'll like it. If your kid is into reading, then get it. My rating ting is four stars. It's the Harry Potter no one knew about. I just wonder one thing though. Was this book any of inspiration for that Disney Game Kingdom Hearts? But now I'm just think out loud.P.S. check out my book website Lelue's Realm <http://www.freewebs.com/lelue/>

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### **Kimberly says**

The premise of the book sounded exciting enough. I mean, what doesn't sound fun about a book that takes place in the Magic Kingdom?

However, this book had many confusing scenes (and starts off with one of the most confusing) and a ton of things that are never explained. Plus, the author seemed to like to throw in references to attractions or locations in the park (perhaps just to geek people out).

Next, some very very weird stuff happens. It's easy enough to accept evil characters as being evil, but accepting characters that are generally seen as nice and friendly as flesh-eating monsters was just weird. Also, we are asked to accept that anything and everything that goes wrong at the park is just a cover up.

Finally, the worst part was the character development. Some characters were thrown in just for the sake of having them there. They added nothing, and I didn't really care if anything happened to them.

Great, intriguing premise, but poorly executed.

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

I've never been a huge fan of Disney, even when I was a little kid I thought a lot of it was hokey, but I'm really glad to see that Disney is able to break out of its cutesy shell in the form of a fantastic, mysterious book series more appropriate for young adults. :)

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### **Glenn Whelan says**

Don't let it fool you... The simplicity of this book should not eclipse its creative elements. For among that simple story structure is a quite clever premise easily discounted as childish.

Written for young adults, it unashamedly panders to fans of Disney Parks, most specifically THE MAGIC KINGDOM. If that Disney fan has expanded their horizons into backstage stories and the nuts and bolts of running the theme park, this book will be a great guilty pleasure, even for adults.

Author RIDLEY PEARSON weaves a simple story of good and evil - simple only to offset some complicated science fiction elements that permeate. For fans, that simple story is more than enough, especially since much of the story takes place within their beloved Magic Kingdom. Pearson does a great job of working his fantasy into the familiar. So much so, that story elements may come to you the next time you visit Disney's Magic Kingdom. Was that door always there? hmmm.

Pearson has taken this series out to seven books at this writing. While I am partial to his (and Dave Barry's) Starcatchers series, this is a fun piece of fiction.

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### Stacia (the 2010 club) says

*Soo...I guess if we're gonna bump into each other tonight in our dreams, we might want to decide when we're all going to sleep. Everyone has a 9 p.m. bedtime, right? Wait, what? You get to stay up til 10? No fair!*

**2.5 stars.** While I was reading *Disney After Dark*, I kept comparing it in my head to a starter version of *Ready Player One*. Unfortunately, I kept wishing for this book to become as epic as RPO and it never quite got there.

The strange thing is, I can't find anything wrong with DaD (hah). Even as I browsed back through my notes, I didn't have anything negative to say other than some of the phrasing seemed a touch too outdated for today's kids (it happens sometimes when an adult writes kidfic). However, that wasn't even so much a complaint, but more of an observation over a few phrases which didn't sound very kid-like (can't think of any 13 year old boy who would use the phrase hip-huggers, for example).

Yet, while there was nothing wrong, I couldn't seem to find much that was right either. And by right, I mean in a "wow, we just hit that good point of the book" type of way. *Disney* would sort of ebb and flow, with a few brief mini-adventures, then some conversational downtime; rinse, repeat. But nothing ever peaked at a high-intensity level which got my blood pumping. All in all, there weren't a whole lot of "feels" happening. I was never excited, afraid, amused, anticipating, etc. I was just mildly interested in what would happen next. And sometimes I wasn't even all that interested. I never once felt the need to have to pick the book back up after putting it down.

The adventures/fight scenes/puzzle solving reminded me of a lower-key version of *Percy Jackson*, except without the large dose of humor and the fast-paced flow which keeps PJ fans hooked.

Sadly, I won't be picking up the next book in the series. There just wasn't enough to make me want to find out what happens next. However, I would watch this as a movie, if only to see the holograms and the Disney character battles at night after the park goes dark.

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### **Katie says**

I read this book a while back. My sister had read it before me and said she really liked it. So I thought I would give it a whirl. It was a little confusing at first because I didn't know what was going on, but It got a lot better!

I like how they based it at Disney World. It made me remember when I went to Disney World the year before. All the rides, and the cool things that are there in real life and the book. The author really did a great job with it.

I hope to be able to add it to my library so I can read it whenever I want!

It's a reall cool Book!

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### **Debbie Lee says**

This was a fun book to read. Young teens and preteens will enjoy it. It is often difficult to find good, interesting books for young boys, but this is one. I imagine boys would get caught up in the characters of these boys (3 of the DHIs are boys) and project themselves into the book. Doing battle with pirates from Pirates of the Caribbean would be exciting. People who don't care for It's a Small World will like the battle that takes place after hours there. The fact that Kingdom Keepers is set in Disney World in Florida will make this story more appealing to our students. Most have been to the Magic Kingdom and are familiar with the attractions mentioned in the book. I was able to picture the two pirates playing a game of checkers, and the teepees on Tom Sawyer's Island. As the author tells of the teens walking through Tomorrowland to go to Space Mountain or heading to Frontierland, they will be able to picture it all in their minds. The characters are all very real and students will easily identify with them. Mr. Pearson did an excellent job of making them seem like normal, everyday middle schoolers doing the same kinds of things the readers likely do.

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### **Sydney Elaine says**

[ By the end of the book, lives are taken and the magic becomes more sinister and black. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Anna Sobczak says**

I loved it! It drew me in and captivated me, I loved the characters and the setting! I never once put it down, I love that this book gets right to the point instead of droning on and on..... It is defiantly a series I would recommend.

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### **Jessica says**

A fun thriller for Disney fans! A group of kids who are being used as the models for holographic hosts at Walt Disney World discover that they are the only ones who can stop the Disney villains from taking over. I liked the kids, and the action, and the inside look at the Magic Kingdom. Pearson clearly had an all access

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pass, and knew about all the service tunnels and every twist and turn of the rides. I'm curious to see where the kids go next. I did think that the whole, "We're kinda here but not really, because we're kinda holograms" was unnecessary, and didn't add much other than distraction.

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## **Katie says**

Well, this was a bit disappointing. I first read this book when I was 12, so half my lifetime ago. I loved it, it was so amazing! I bought it at Walt Disney World, a place I've gone on holiday since I was 2. So to have a book actually set in the parks, about people my own age going into the parks *at night* and having adventures? That's just the best thing ever!

So fast forward to now. I haven't read this series in years and have only read the first 3 (I think). I'm actually just so surprised at how... I don't know, bad the writing seems? I understand that I'm an adult, and this is a book for children and early teens. But I read books that are meant for all ages. And I have read so many books for this age range that have been fantastic and I have enjoyed. I was just excited to reread a book I remember so fondly, only to think "...oh" after a few chapters.

There are a lot of mistakes about the attractions and just certain things about the way the park actually is. Which I understand to an extent. This book came out in 2005. YouTube was only starting, so no plethora of videos of walkthroughs of the parks, or videos going through the rides. But still, I'm pretty sure I remember reading about how Ridley Pearson had special access granted to him to aid writing this book.

And it's not just that. That isn't actually the main issue really. I found myself cringing so many times at the language used, and the things they would think and say, and just the plot. Which is so sad! Because I *loved* this book! It still has a place in my heart, purely for nostalgia. And I'm going to finish the series, just out of the hope it gets a bit better! But it would have to be a big improvement. And I've heard that for the last book he had kids take part in writing it? Which I'm sure was lots of fun for them, but doesn't fill me with excitement.

### **Random thoughts:**

-The characters are so *bland*. I couldn't tell you anything specific or special about any of them really, that's how little an impression they leave.

-I just don't understand how he got the inside layout of Splash Mountain so wrong. If it's because he's never been on the ride, why not just ask someone else to go on and give him detailed notes?

-I know the characters are young, but the things they *say*, my god, they just come across so dumb! I understand they have to ask questions, but can they not be phrased better?

-It's taken me months to finish my reread, and the bit I was stopped at was a few chapters from the end, so there's probably so much more I could say if I had just read the whole book very recently.

I'm giving this 3 stars, but I feel like that 3rd star is just held there by nostalgia.

This review is so full of complaints, which is sad, but it does have its good parts. I just get the feeling that this has so much promise. It could have been amazing and wonderful things could have been done with the idea of Walt Disney World after dark, fighting the bad characters who are actually real. All the details of Disney parks complementing the story and adding the Disney magic to it. Like, just imagine how good that could be if done well.

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