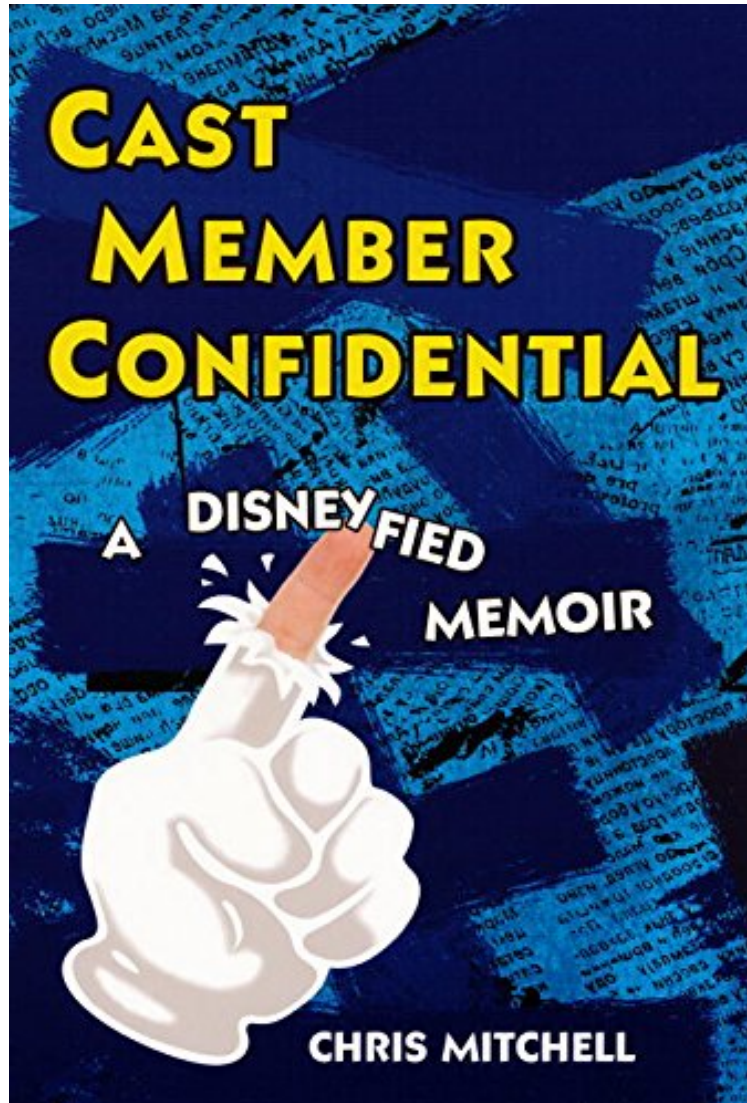


[Free pdf] Cast Member Confidential: A Disneyfied Memoir

## Cast Member Confidential: A Disneyfied Memoir

*Chris Mitchell*

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**Chris Mitchell : Cast Member Confidential: A Disneyfied Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cast Member Confidential: A Disneyfied Memoir:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining, but Somewhat Far-fetched Tale ...By DACHokieI cautiously approached this book expecting a damaging tell-all that would form cracks in the righteous pillars of the Disney foundation, but it never happened. With CAST MEMBER CONFIDENTIAL, Chris Mitchell reveals a personal Disney odyssey that hints of a dark/alternative "underworld" that belies the overly-wholesome image Disney has projected for decades. While the book is readable and entertaining, the veracity of its content is surely up for

debate. I can describe my Disney World experiences as a dichotomy between indifference (my first two visits as a teenager and young adult) and utter joy (my two most recent visits as the father of two young Disney Princess-obsessed daughters). From a parent's point-of-view, I found those recent trips to Walt Disney World to be some of the most memorable and enjoyable experiences of my life. Other than the occasional child meltdown, Disney World actually proved itself as a magically happy oasis impervious to real-world misery (politics/economy) and even Mother Nature (110 degree weather in mid-July or rain). Adult common-sense, however, dictates the understanding that the process of producing a perfected final product isn't always pretty ... or public (how many popular products include the "proudly made by child sweatshop employees" disclaimer?). While Chris Mitchell seems half-heartedly determined to prove Disney World's magical image is nothing more than an expensive faade, nothing he reveals in his book (if even true) is really that detrimental, shocking ... or totally believable. *CAST MEMBER CONFIDENTIAL* simply chronicles a late-twenty-something's attempt to escape real-world problems (a cancer-stricken mother and no viable career path) by working at Disney World, a place reminiscent of the happy times he experienced as a child in California (Disneyland). Starting as a lower-level photography department employee in Animal Kingdom, he realizes there is a class-system among Disney employees (all known as cast members): the gopher types, management and the royalty of cast members, those who don the costumes of Disney characters. Initially shunned by co-workers as an outsider, the author finally realizes the only way to earn peer approval/acceptance is to partake in deviant behavior. Once welcomed into this "inner circle", Mitchell realizes the opportunities before him: advance his Disney career and earn the ultimate role of being a "face" character, party invitations and intimacy with a few female characters in the parks while off-duty. Reading more like a teen-angst novel, readers are taken on a rollercoaster of emotion, action and scandal as Mitchell discovers the seedy, dysfunctional nature of most all of his peers ... who happen to be the same cheery characters your kids fawn over. Paralleling the author's Disney experience is the story of his sick mother in California and Mitchell's disappointingly cavalier attitude toward her struggle (the Disney lifestyle took priority). Once the author reaches his short term pinnacle (the "Little Mermaid" as his girlfriend and an opportunity to be a face character), the bubble predictably bursts, everything falls apart and Mitchell learns a few life-lessons. I enjoyed the storytelling aspect of *CAST MEMBER CONFIDENTIAL* and the author has a knack of being descriptive, but not verbose ... the book is a fast read and pretty entertaining. But, I found much of the book's storylines a little bit of a stretch. I don't doubt, as normal adults, that some of the cast members have hidden personal issues/struggles, but virtually ALL of Mitchell's peers are shown to be deviants. A simple Google search couldn't confirm some of the more notable stories: a dramatic water rescue and an employee death. While the cumulative effect of events portrayed may have readers believing the book is a complete work of fiction; I think it is actually a mixed bag as I'm sure crazy things do happen in the Disney family of employees ... they just aren't broadcasted. I liked the descriptive insider tour of the parks I got as I read as well some insight to Disney's rigid approach to employment. I found the Disney-vernacular and acronyms peppered throughout the book somewhat amusing: "protein spill" (vomit), SOP (sex on property) and DAK (Disney Animal Kingdom ... although, ironically, that acronym more commonly refers to Deutsch Afrika Korps). In my opinion, *CAST MEMBER CONFIDENTIAL* is less a tell-all than a brief, colorful interlude in one person's life. Sure, some stories come across as embellished (or even made-up), but I enjoyed it none-the-less. Many Disney Fans will likely hate this book and the somewhat deplorable depiction of cast members, but Mitchell never comes across as having a grudge or a chip on his shoulder and that gives the book a hint of legitimacy. While the expose aspects of *CAST MEMBER CONFIDENTIAL* may use the Disney as a selling point, its revelations do not come close to tarnishing the Mouse Ears.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wild story  
By Alex Underwood  
Let me say at the beginning, I have no ties to Disney or its employees so I cannot attest to the veracity of the author's stories. The book in itself is surprisingly well written. The author recants his relatively short stint as a cast member at Walt Disney World in Florida. Reading some other reviews, I am guessing a lot of the work related storied are exaggerated if not downright fabricated. I am inclined to believe a lot of it because when you have that many young people in one location, shit happens, people be crazy Yo. I thought it was a very entertaining book and I actually read it on the plane to Florida on my way to Disney. I would recommend it to people like myself who want a glance behind the scenes of the invariably pristine exterior of Disney employee life.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Magic, Secrets, and Nightmares  
By Ray Theiss  
I purchased this book just because I wanted to read something about Disney. A good summary of this work is as follows: "It's outrageous crazy!" The book is narrated by a former Disney photographer and tells the underbelly of Disney World and its employees. After reading this book, I firmly believe that Darth Vader's new home suits him better than the Death Star! Drugs, sex, lies, and corporate American control; all here in a book about the Magical Kingdom. It is a great book and well worth the time to read. I'll let you decide whether it is all true or not, but in my opinion this work takes you directly to the "Third star on the right, and straight on to morning!" I highly recommend it!

This is the story that Disney would never tell you. What do you do when everything in your life falls apart? If you're Chris Mitchell, you run away from home--all the way to Disney World, a place where no one ever dies--and employees, known as Cast Members, aren't allowed to frown. Mitchell shares the behind-the-scenes story of his year

in the Mouse's army. From his own personal Disneyfication, to what really happens in the hidden tunnels beneath the Magic Kingdom and what not to eat at the Mousketeria, it was a year filled with more adventure--and surprises--than he could ever have "imagineered." Funny and moving, Mitchell tracks his ascent through the backstage social hierarchy in which princesses rule, and his escapades in the "Ghetto" where Cast Members live and anything goes. Along the way, he unmasks the misfits and drop-outs, lifers and nomads who leave their demons at the stage door as they preserve the magic that draws millions to this famed fantasyland--the same magic that Mitchell seeks and ultimately finds in the last place he ever expected. Chris Mitchell is an action sports photographer and journalist who grew up in Los Angeles. He was a senior at UCLA when he started his first magazine, an inline skating publication, and sold it to Sports Fitness Publishing. Within a few years, he was working on five magazines within The Surfer Group. He continues to work closely with a number of publications and websites, as well as event and TV production companies like ESPN, ASA Entertainment and Lifelounge. He is a recognized expert in action sports, and as such, has stunt coordinated dozens of productions, including Batman and Robin, Brink! and Airborne. He is also the Chairman of the International Inline Stunt Federation for the advancement of extreme skating as a healthy and safe activity. After spending a year working as a photographer at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, he moved back to Los Angeles, where he currently lives.

From Booklist Mitchells contribution to the behind-the-scenes-at-Disney lit tells inconvenient truths and a few heartwarmers about working in Floridas Disney World. Mitchell confirms a few rumors or urban legends, such as the allure that wearing cute little Disney-character costumes has for furies (people who sexualize plush creatures and related anthropomorphic beings). He discusses the alleged existence of a gay hiring cabal that quietly infiltrated Disney after the untoward news several years ago concerning corporate mistreatment of gay employees and guests, and in passing he mentions being surprised by just how gay the Disney milieu is. Other highlights include a brief disquisition on how Christians and conspiracists have long been convinced that Donald Duck is a racist based on a snippet of dialog . . . in Who Framed Roger Rabbit?, in which Donald calls Warners Daffy Duck a stubborn nitwit. And then theres Mitchells furtive initiation into the SOP (i.e., Sex On Property) Club in a storeroom full of Tinkerbell pens and Little Mermaid T-shirts. Good clean fun. --Mike Tribby About the Author Chris Mitchell is an action sports photographer and journalist who grew up in Los Angeles. He was a senior at UCLA when he started his first magazine, an inline skating publication, and sold it to Sports Fitness Publishing. Within a few years, he was working on five magazines within The Surfer Group. He continues to work closely with a number of publications and websites, as well as event and TV production companies like ESPN, ASA Entertainment and Lifelounge. He is a recognized expert in action sports, and as such, has stunt coordinated dozens of productions, including Batman and Robin, Brink! and Airborne. He is also the Chairman of the International Inline Stunt Federation for the advancement of extreme skating as a healthy and safe activity. After spending a year working as a photographer at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, he moved back to Los Angeles, where he currently lives.