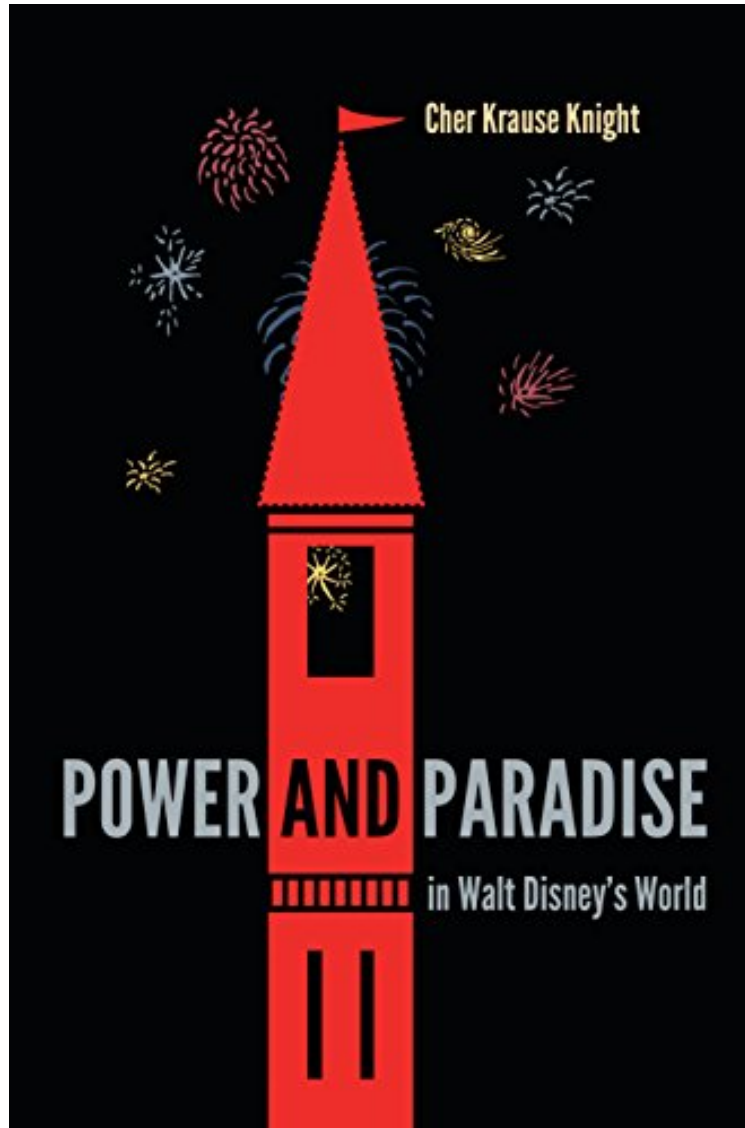


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## Power and Paradise in Walt Disney's World

*Cher Krause Knight*

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**Cher Krause Knight : Power and Paradise in Walt Disney's World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Power and Paradise in Walt Disney's World:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly book on Disneyworld By Wulfstan This is a EXTREMELY well researched and footnoted book about Disneyworld, Walt, and the entire Disney theme park experience. The book explores why DW is such a huge sociocultural force, looking into Walt's inspiration and vision for creating his parks, and how this translates into reality. Neither a hagiography nor a "dirty secret" book, this is Un-official, but Cher Krause

Knight reveals she is a big fan of the parks (as am I!). She also covers the history, but in ways neither the fans or detractors do- allowing her to tell the true story of the Reedy Creek Improvement District, a political subdivision that makes DW pretty well a independent county of Florida. The Notes and Bibliography take up nearly 50 pages. By no means is this a guidebook, note. This is a social history book, and covers such things as Worlds fairs of the past, etc. Not easy reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed WDW more because of this book. By Thospowers I recently visited the Magic Kingdom after reading this book, and I had a deeper appreciation for the park because of it. An important book for fans of WDW who want to add a new perspective to the experience. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I love Disney and I am a big reader but this ... By Sara Triceratops I love Disney and I am a big reader but this was much too dense and academic for me, I passed it along to a friend.

A roller coaster of a book that will leave you marveling. With intelligence and a sense of fun, Knight reframes Disney World as a pilgrimage center, a Garden of Eden, and a Worlds Fair. A great read and a real contribution to Disney literature and the Disney World experience. Harriet F. Senie, author of *The Tilted Arc Controversy: Dangerous Precedent? Approaching Disney and his magic lands from the vantage point of scholar and enthusiast*, Knight interweaves astute observations about globalized cultural production and the built environment while her crisp writing makes for a lively and engaging read. Sarah Schrank, author of *Art and the City* Knights insights on Disney as an intrepid planner, inventor, innovator, and iconoclast and his fascination and deployment of technology that bridges private desire with the public realm has pressing relevance for contemporary culture. Patricia Phillips, Rhode Island School of Design In this fascinating analysis, Cher Krause Knight peels back the actual and contextual layers of Walt Disneys inspiration and vision for Disney World in central Florida, exploring the reasons why the resort has emerged as such a prominent sociocultural force. Knight investigates every detail, from the scale and design of the buildings to the sidewalk infrastructure to which items could and could not be sold in the shops, discussing how each was carefully configured to shape the experience of every visitor. Expertly weaving themes of pilgrimage, paradise, fantasy, and urbanism, she delves into the unexpected nuances and contradictions of this elaborately conceived playland of the imagination.

About the Author Cher Krause Knight, associate professor of art history at Emerson College, is the author of *Public Art: Theory, Practice and Populism*.