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Waltrsquo;s Utopia: Disneyland and American Mythmaking

Priscilla Hobbs
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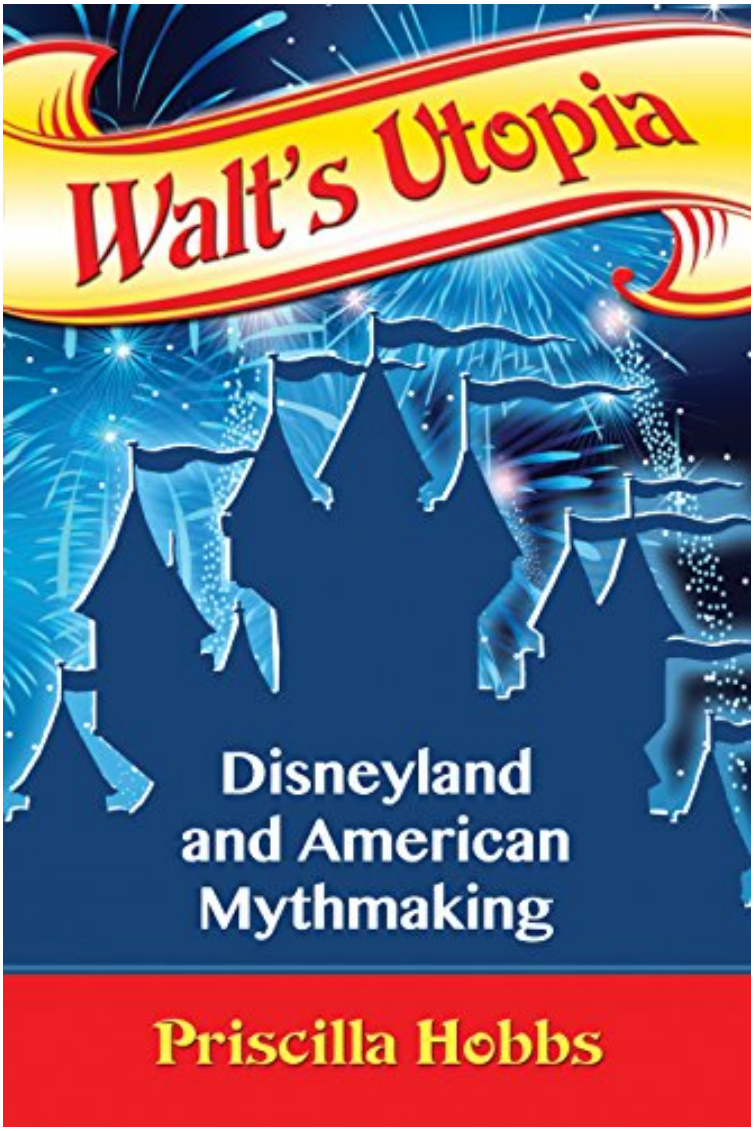

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Priscilla Hobbs : Waltrsquo;s Utopia: Disneyland and American Mythmaking before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waltrsquo;s Utopia: Disneyland and American Mythmaking:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My favorite part of this research on Disneyland is the way ...By Dorene SantosAs a fellow mythologist and Disney scholar, I am consistently impressed by Dr. Hobbs' thinking about myth. My favorite part of this research on Disneyland is the way she discusses the park as a map of the American soul. When she connects the shadow (that is, the part of our soul that is unconscious) with the way America projects identity on the city of New Orleans, for example, she shows us how the lack of attention to the shadow can be dangerous.

Instead of projecting fear of the unknown, we should cultivate self awareness by embracing the history of New Orleans, protecting it, and preserving its culture. Self awareness of our mythic underpinnings is of vital significance in this time of global transformation. Dr. Hobbs offers a unique perspective to help Americans understand how Disney reflects our national identity. I believe that understanding ourselves in this way will help us become better citizens, both nationally and globally. A fine and important read!

The ldquo;Happiest Place on Earthrdquo; opened in 1955 during a trying time in American lifemdash;the Cold War. Disneyland was envisioned as a utopian resort where families could play together and escape the tension of the ldquo;real world.rdquo; Since its construction, the park has continually been updated to reflect changing American culture. The parkrsquo;s themed features are based on familiar Disney stories and American history and folklore. They reflect the hopes of a society trying to understand itself in the wake of World War II. This book takes a fresh look at the park, analyzing its cultural narrative by looking beyond consumerism and corporate marketing to how Disney helped America cope during the Cold War and beyond.

About the AuthorPriscilla Hobbs is an online professor of the humanities. Her research specializes on Disney and American culture.