



Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom

By Cory Doctorow



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On The Skids In The Transhuman Future

Jules is a young man barely a century old. He's lived long enough to see the cure for death and the end of scarcity, to learn ten languages and compose three symphonies...and to realize his boyhood dream of taking up residence in Disney World.

Disney World! The greatest artistic achievement of the long-ago twentieth century. Now in the keeping of a network of "ad-hocs" who keep the classic attractions running as they always have, enhanced with only the smallest high-tech touches.

Now, though, the "ad hocs" are under attack. A new group has taken over the Hall of the Presidents, and is replacing its venerable audioanimatronics with new, immersive direct-to-brain interfaces that give guests the illusion of being Washington, Lincoln, and all the others. For Jules, this is an attack on the artistic purity of Disney World itself.

Worse: it appears this new group has had Jules killed. This upsets him. (It's only his fourth death and revival, after all.) Now it's war....

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Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom By Cory Doctorow Bibliography

- Rank: #434943 in Books
- Brand: Cory Doctorow
- Published on: 2003-12-05
- Released on: 2003-12-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .2" w x 5.50" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A lot of ideas are packed into this short novel, but Doctorow's own best idea was setting his story in Disney World, where it's hard to tell whether technology serves dreams or vice versa. Jules, a relative youngster at more than a century old, is a contented citizen of the Bitchun Society that has filled Earth and near-space since shortage and death were overcome. People are free to do whatever they wish, since the only wealth is respect and since constant internal interface lets all monitor exactly how successful they are at being liked. What Jules wants to do is move to Disney World, join the ad-hoc crew that runs the park and fine-tune the Haunted Mansion ride to make it even more wonderful. When his prudently stored consciousness abruptly awakens in a cloned body, he learns that he was murdered; evidently he's in the way of somebody else's dreams. Jules first suspects, then becomes viciously obsessed by, the innovative group that has turned the Hall of Presidents into a virtual experience. In the conflict that follows, he loses his lover, his job, his respect—even his interface connection—but gains perspective that the other Bitchun citizens lack. Jules's narrative unfolds so smoothly that readers may forget that all this raging passion is over amusement park rides. Then they can ask what that shows about the novel's supposedly mature, liberated characters. Doctorow has served up a nicely understated dish: meringue laced with caffeine.
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From [Booklist](#)

Welcome to Bitchun society, where all today's commonplace problems have been solved: even death is a minor inconvenience, since one can make regular backups. Our hero has gone to Disneyland--his habit at times of major personal crisis--where he works for the ad-hocracy that runs the Haunted Mansion and the Hall of Presidents. It is a great honor to be working on the pinnacle of late-twentieth-century cultural and artistic achievement--Disneyland, that would be--and it inspires great loyalty. Our man begins feeling the pressure of change, however, after a cookie-cutter teenybopper shoots him dead for apparently no reason at all. Convinced that a new ad-hocracy on the block used his death to take over the Hall of Presidents, he vows to sabotage their plans and protect the sanctity of the Haunted Mansion. Thus begins a cycle of destruction and conflict with unexpected ramifications for the park--and his personal life. An excellent ride, entertaining and unpredictable. *Regina Schroeder*
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Review

“He sparkles! He fizzes! He does backflips and breaks the furniture! Science fiction needs Cory Doctorow.”
?Bruce Sterling, author of *The Hacker Crackdown* and *Distraction*

“This is science fiction for the non-SF reader as well as for hardcore fans of the genre--think Carl Hiassen crossed with Philip K. Dick, with just a dash of Disney magic” ?*Kathryn Lively, author of Saints Preserve Us*

“In a world of affluence and immortality, the big battles will be fought over culture, not politics. That's the starting-point of *Wired* contributor Doctorow's daring novel.... Few challenges to copyright giants are as entertaining as this book.” ?*Wired*

“Cory Doctorow is the most interesting new SF writer I've come across in years. He starts out at the point

where older SF writers' speculations end.” ?Rudy Rucker, author of Spaceland

“A kinetic, immersive yarn...wholly entertaining.” ?*The Onion AV Club*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Curnutt:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources included can be true or not need people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom book because this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Gregory Sims:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information currently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider if those information which is in the former life are challenging be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom as your daily resource information.

Wanda Pence:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get lots of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, often the book you have read is Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom.

Erin Wright:

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