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# Mousetrapped: A Year And A Bit In Orlando, Florida



## MOUSETRAPPED

*A Year and A Bit in Orlando, Florida*

CATHERINE RYAN HOWARD



## Synopsis

The bestselling travel memoir by the author of *Backpacked: A Reluctant Trip Across Central America* Three big dreams, two mouse ears and one J-1 visa. What could possibly go wrong in the happiest place on earth? When Catherine Ryan Howard decides to swap the grey clouds of Ireland for the clear blue skies of the Sunshine State, she thinks that all of her dreams (living in the United States, seeing a Space Shuttle launch and, um, owning a Starbucks card) are about to come true. Blissfully ignorant of the realities of moving thousands of miles away from home - and woefully unprepared for the logistics of setting up a new home once she gets there - Catherine trusts the Orlando of her daydreams will be waiting for her just as soon as she steps off the plane. But not long into her first day on Floridan soil - and not long after a breakfast of Mickey Mouse-shaped pancakes - Catherine discovers that amongst Orlando's baked highways, monotonous mall clusters and world famous tourist attractions, park tickets are overpriced, pixie dust is hard to find and thick, wavy hair is downright impossible to straighten . . .

**PRAISE FOR MOUSETRAPPED:** "A unique book by a brilliantly witty, instantly loveable author. I couldn't put it down." --Trashionista.com, Top 10 Reads of 2010 "[A] unique story that proves that dreams really do come true." --WanderlustandLipstick.com "Catherine writes with such honesty and humor that this is one of those books that you just keep reading and reading until you find you have finished it . . . A very entertaining bit of escapism." -- D. Jones, #1 Top Reviewer and #1 Hall of Fame Reviewer on .co.uk

See also *More Mousetrapped: A Little Bit More From That Year and A Bit* (e-book only)

**PLEASE NOTE:** To avoid disappointment, readers should note that Catherine worked for a global hotel chain at their property in Walt Disney World; *Mousetrapped* is NOT a memoir about working for The Walt Disney Company.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I should confess that I purchased this book by mistake (hit the wrong button) and didn't realize that I could cancel the sale. So I read it, although I am not a theme park fan and working in one would be my idea of dying and going to hell. I ended up enjoying it in spite of myself. Howard writes very well and her experiences in America are worth reading. Like many young people who come to America on work visas, she did NOT get exactly what she was promised, but she's resourceful and made the best of it. I can really recommend her book on traveling in Central America (BACKPACKED.) She is a wonderful writer and observer and I hope she will keep them coming.

I received a Kindle for Christmas and purchased this book. I found Catherine's experiences to be sweet, engaging and endearing, as I stated in my title. I kept wishing I had met her on one of my trips to Disney. She struggled, she had highs and lows, and she found magic. As someone who wanted to be an astronaut, I adored her writing about Cape Canaveral and her experiences there too. I'm truly smitten with her writing about her travels, finding it humorous, self-deprecating, heart-warming and endearing. It's like hearing your best friend talk about her day, with all its ups and downs. I found myself rooting for her. I bought the hard copy of the book for a friend of mine and sent it to her as a gift. I know she'll love it, as she has accompanied me on many trips to Disney and she was so delighted to receive it after I told her about it. I have since purchased and read Catherine's "Backpacking" on my Kindle, purchased her novel "Results Not Typical" for Kindle, in addition to her Kindle book "Self-Printed: The Sane Person's Guide to Self-Publishing" just because I'm curious about the whole self-publishing venue. I also subscribe to Catherine's blog on my Kindle as well. One thing just lead to another, and I am now a fan of Catherine Ryan Howard. This book and my new Kindle started it all. My only regret is that I didn't know about her books sooner. So, don't wait. If you are a Kindle user, try a sample.

I've read Mousetrapped at least six times.....and it'll be in my bag when I head back to Florida this summer! Congrats, Catherine, this book has opened what I hope is turning out to be a great career for you! (Yes, I'm on my second reading of "Distress Signals")

So I just got back from a trip to Disney World and I was looking for a behind-the-scenes look at the park. The reviews were positive and the price for Kindle was perfect so I downloaded it. Soooooo glad I did. The writer is earnest, witty and self-admittedly naive about the task she was undertaking. She arrives with little money and not much in the way of a plan but discovers more than she expected about herself, Disney and America. I don't mean to put too fine a point on that last part, but her sincere observations about NASA and Disney highlight why we are both loved and hated around the world. She's like your best friend, the one who tells you she thinks you look hawt in those jeans but cares enough to tell you there's toilet paper stuck to your shoe. Girlfriend is mad funny and comes across as a babe in the woods, one with a hidden shank fashioned out of melted plastic and razor sharp wit to defend herself. If you're looking for a fly-on-the-wall memoir or "inside baseball" biography of someone who worked in the trenches at Disney World and can tell you what type of mortar they used to build Sleeping Beauty's Castle, well, this isn't that book. Sure, there are plenty of tidbits about working for the mouse (and yes, I know she didn't actually work directly for Disney but get over it, the hotel has themed fish holding up a water fountain, for goodness sakes). But there's so much more here, from the writer's happy voice to the unabashed love of dreamers and dreaming. This book is for people who want to relive the feelings they had when they first fell in love with Disney World or remember how they felt the last time they saw fireworks break over the World Showcase Lagoon. If you like your non-fiction unapologetically smiley and don't mind innocence and joy jumping off the pages, just get the book, already. Oh, and I DARE YOU not to cry when she talks about the Apollo program.

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