

Heil Mickey

By

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Mickey Mouse is a three fingered little fuck with no soul.
- Charles Bukowski

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This book is dedicated to -

*The people I left behind,
my friends from Fantasyland, Toontown and S.T.A.G.E.
I wouldn't have been able to survive without you
and also to my fiancé Holly,
who I love with all my heart,
without you, none of this would have been possible.*

To Work for a mouse

Here I am
in Paddleboro Mass.
Slouched in our
Alice in Wonderland bathroom
waiting for the water to heat
so I can take a shower
It smells like Florida

In a short time
I'll be moving to the land of
palm trees and flamingos
to work for a mouse

For 37 Years
I've lived in this
cold and damp state
I've known nothing else

god, I'm scared

The secret life of Toons

While Minnie and Donald wait for the bus to go home,
Cinderella comes up screaming into her cell phone
to Prince Charming about how he's a fuckin' asshole
and how he'd better fuckin' be there
since she's been waiting for this for a fuckin' month.
Across the street, Pluto and Goofy are smoking
their heads off while on break
Goofy is saying he loves Minnie cause when he's doing her from behind
he can hold onto her ears.
Nearby Sleeping Beauty is bitching to Snow White
about how she hasn't been laid in a month
and how much it sucks that most of the prince's are gay.
The Queen of Hearts strolls by and says
"Gay? I'm just a drag queen honey, don't ask don't tell."
and she laughs hysterically and prances about.
Around the corner Jasmine and Tinkerbell
are whispering sweet nothings to each other and
discussing how great it will be when they have their first kiss
while Aladdin is down the street
trying to get the number of the new girl in town.
In the break room many of the Toons
are watching Jerry Springer, Piglet is sleeping on the couch
Rabbit is talking to Eeyore about how they
really got drunk last night and they still have hangovers
Down the hall is Mickey's own break room
in it are 8 hispanic women in tuxedos
bitching to each other in spanish
When Mickey comes in bitching about getting off set late
cause this fuckin' rude family was takin' forever
shortly after that he bends over and starts smacking his own ass
saying how he's so bad for saying such a thing and laughs
This all sounds really weird
but it's all just another day
in Toontown

It's a dumb world after all

I used to think only blonde women were stupid
or people from the south were stupid
inner city people or teenagers
they were all stupid
but now that I work here I've realized
that foreigners are even stupider than Americans
not just women
not just blondes
not any specific racial type
The majority of people I see each day
are complete morons
just look at what they wear
little half sweaters that tie just underneath their fat boobs
they'll walk around looking like complete train wrecks
in the so called happiest place on earth
such total gutter tripe
They'll wear half shirts with their flabby guts hanging out
or T-shirt and shorts in 40 degree weather
just cause it's Florida
There's other things that show their genius
like riding a ride completely around till the lap bar comes up
where they're back where they started
and still wonder if they should get out of the boat
till you have to scream at them to get out
the voiceover will tell them not to lift up on the safety bar
but they'll jam up on it anyways
people don't listen
or they're too stupid to realize someone's talking to them
You see a lot of people from all over the world
working in a themepark
and man,
are they dumb

Fantasyland

Fantasyland
land of broken dreams and empty promises
where magic can happen
for a price
A land of abused children
and berated spouses
Once the happiest place on earth
is now just a facade for a nazi regime
that professes diversity
as long as you fit into their appearance guidelines
and smiles are enforced with an iron fist
A sweatshop of mammoth proportions
where workers are treated like slaves
by an uncaring and soulless entity
Where guests get worse every day
having more temper tantrums
than the kids they drag behind them
or push in an endless sea of strollers
slamming into whoever they want
in a rush to stand in line
bullying cast members to get whatever they want
leaving their waste in their wake
and for those guests that are polite or happy
they are treated like everyone else
We're trained in guest service guidelines
but when we go the extra mile for a smile
we're slapped down by the upper levels
Here
fun is not allowed
Here
expressionism is outlawed
Here
you dress and speak the way they want
Here in Fantasyland
the magic is dead

Stupidworld

It seems to me,
the general consensus of the world is
Ignorance is bliss
Here at Stupidworld this adage is ever present
This is a place where stupidity reigns, it's a constant
In a place where 30-80,000 people visit a day
less than 10% actually use their head
maybe read a sign, answer their own question or read a map
Questions like, "What time is the 3 o'clock parade?"
never answer themselves
it takes a team of crack rocket surgeons to figure it out
"How do I get in to this ride?" is another one
even though you can see people walking in
or the line of people waiting to get in
or better yet, they are standing underneath a sign that says
entrance
standing underneath things is a huge problem for visitors here
it's almost as if they can never look up
that's too difficult for most
"What is this?"
While holding a map that describes the ride
never ceases to amaze me
"Do I just put my ticket in here?"
While pointing to a sign that says
insert park ticket here
with a figure of a hand holding a park ticket right next to it
and a **receive Fastpass ticket here** just under it
either proceeds or follows the question
"How does Fastpass work?"
It seems that people refuse to read
People who don't speak english are an exemption
they can't read english, but what about these red blooded Americans
Not only do they not read but they don't listen either
Asking someone to move all the way down to the end of the row
ends up in a blank stare from the guest like you're not there at all
that's where hand motions come in, but to no avail
they'll still sit there like you're invisible,

Stupidworld (cont)

like ignoring you will make you go away

These people are lemmings

They just follow the group blindly

Then ask “What show is this?” when they get there

and when given their own entrance they continue to follow the pack
go where everyone else is even though there is no line in front of them

They’ll stand there in front of an open turnstile

and stare at you when you tell them to use both, the left or the right
you have to spell it out to them

they hardly ever figure it out for themselves

This is the same place where “Wait right here.”

means just come right in, no matter how many times you say it

Conversely I’ve seen folks unlatch a chain that leads to a moving ride
and I might add, impending death and or dismemberment

and look at you weird when you stop them

and also call you an asshole or something else

more beautiful and eloquent

I’ve been called a smartass for asking someone

to read the pass they hold in their hand

because I can see from where I am that the pass is invalid

due to the big black box containing the uppercase letters forming

NOT A VALID FASTPASS

but I can’t read the small print stating why

so for that, I’m a smart ass

Seeing the things that go on, hearing the questions they ask

it makes sense why this country would vote for Bush

not once, but twice

and why they’d believe anything they hear

This world is pabulum fed, mostly by TV

They come here on vacation jabbering into cellphones

dragging their kids around like luggage

They’ll stand in a major exit and feed their child on the ground

or change their baby on the floor of a major walkway

They’ll ask if you work here

when you’re wearing a uniform and nametag

while wearing a shirt saying

I’m surrounded by idiots

They’ll ask where the entrance to the ride is

Stupidworld (cont)

that's surrounded by a giant green wall
that's clearly marked
This area is being refurbished for your future enjoyment
and still be astounded when you tell them it's closed
they'll ask you what the wait time is while standing in front of a sign that says
the wait time is 55 minutes and ask you if the wait time really is 55 minutes
It all boils down to that
the meek have not inherited the earth but,
the ignorant and lazy have
and all I can say is
Welcome to Stupidworld

The dream is over

When I was around 7
my parents made a trip to visit my maternal grandparents
In the course of that trip
we visited what was then known as Walt Disney World
back when there was 1 park instead of 4
I can't remember the details of that day
but I'll never forget the rides
Mr. Toads with it's crazy car speeding through a mansion
and ending in a tunnel with what I thought was a train coming straight
at us
only to crash through the exit doors
20,000 Leagues, I really thought we were under the sea
and we were being attacked by a giant squid
Small World, which my parents had to go on,
with it's children from many lands and incessant song
Then it poured and we ran into Hall of Presidents
I really thought it was Abraham Lincoln and we hissed when Tricky
Dick spoke
I even have a vague memory of the Skyway
it was over before it started and once back at home
I heard stories from my cousins about Space Mountain
and it's famous chicken out line
I heard about Disneyland's Haunted Mansion
and dreamt about what it was like
I always wanted to return to Disney World my whole life
and I thought I never would
When my kids were born I wanted to take them but never could
When I met someone and fell in love, late in my 30's
She made a trip to Disney World,
she had been many times as a child
but as an adult she wanted to stay and I said I'd follow her
After working in a seasonal theme park for 6 years
I thought there could be no better job
making plans to move we made a day trip to Florida for a Disney job fair
We wanted to be characters and we made it to the final interview
only to be told that we had to start right away if chosen,
we couldn't cause we hadn't moved yet

the dream is over (cont)

so we'd gone through the whole thing for nothing,
we should have taken it as a sign
through the kindness of a cast member
we got to visit the park that day
after 30 years I finally got to see the rides I always longed for
Mr. Toads was Winnie the Pooh
and 20,000 was an empty pit
but on Pirates I had a cheshire grin
and I finally saw the Haunted Mansion
and fell in love
I even rode Space Mountain
and it scared the crap out of me
Back at home while at work
I dreamt of working in the shadow of the castle
and when we finally moved and were on the job hunt,
being characters were out
cause I was too fat to fit in their suit and Holly had too much boobs
I landed a job in Fantasyland/Toontown
and Holly eventually made it to the call center
Toontown was great and the first 3 months were great for me,
it wasn't so great for Holly
She couldn't go out in the sun cause she'd get sick
and her job was dismal
I got to be a clown for the Halloween celebration
and that was my best month yet
We were in a play together and we started to make friends
but I found that I couldn't transfer like I wanted to
and I was stuck where I was
Holly left her job cause she felt like she was an undesirable and unappreciated
The more I tried to have fun in my job
the more they took away from me
and our friends back home wanted us back
The best thing that happened while we were there was
We got engaged inside Cinderella's Castle,
the ring brought in a glass slipper
but Disney took all of our dreams and smashed them
They don't care about the magic anymore,

the dream is over (cont)

just protecting their image and the almighty buck
I don't know if I can even go to another theme park again
not even the happiest place on earth
cause for me there's only the pain
of the loss of a dream

Heil Mickey

Everyone is given a number when they come to work here
you become the number and less the name
Everyone wears a uniform that's specific to their area right down to the socks
There are guidelines on how a worker should look, specific hairstyles and colors
Men are allowed a moustache of a specific length and width
beards aren't allowed, neither are sideburns
tattoos are a different story
If you have a visible tattoo, don't even apply
If you get a visible tattoo or change your hair color
to anything other than a normal hair color that is suited to your skin tone
you are fired
Goth's need not apply
You must conform to their standards
cut your hair if it gets to long, or you get written up
stand straight, don't lean, or you are written up
you can't be sick, you can't be late, even for a minute
There's a point system
If you're late less than 2 hours it's half a point
more than 2 hours, it's a point
call in sick, it's a point
You can call in for 3 days in a row and it's only a point
as long as you say it's continuous
get enough points and you're written up
3 in 30, 6 in 90, 12 in a year
if you're written up 4 times you're fired
There are so many ways to get written up
safety infractions, appearance infractions, attitude infractions
for a job that's so short on people they can't fill every position
they sure don't make any effort to keep people
They've burned through most of the locals
so they have to import workers from other countries
or lie to college students about how great it is to work here
the college program is pretty much indentured servitude, with a smile
which is another way you can get written up, not smiling

Heil Mickey (cont)

They try to get their workers to conform
most of the workers are so conditioned they can do their jobs in their sleep
nonconformists are gotten rid of
they're trying to get rid of me and slowly but surely it's working
A clear signal that lets other workers know it's ok to run the ride
is an open hand, raised outward, arm extended, palm outward
Heil Mickey

Ryan Travis has been performing for over 8 years as a poet, actor, singer, performance artist and clown. He's toured with 2 infamous poetry groups, **The Collective** and **The Barnum and Buddah Circus**, all over New England as well as, NYC, NJ, PA and KY. He was nominated for an Irene Ryan Award for Acting Excellence and a Cambridge Poetry Award for best love poem. He's also been published in many online and print magazines, most recently in England.

Known for his upfront and revealing style, his work ranges from children's poetry to the outright offensive, so much so that he was once asked to leave the stage by a long distance phone call by the venue owner.

Ryan likes to push the boundaries, trying to break down the walls of taboo words in order to destroy the limitations of language making the most offensive, common and everyday, believing that no one word should be more powerful than another and freeing the word of all prejudices making the world safe as a true, word warrior.

Ryan has returned to his home state of Massachusetts, with the love of his life, after realizing that like Mickey, Florida has no soul either.

You can contact the author via email at darkratpoet@excite.com or visit myspace.com/poetfromhell to read some more of his work

This is his third chapbook.

Heil Mickey

Ryan Travis

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Compact Discs: *Mom's Favorite Vase* the demo tapes, *Kuypers* the final (*MFV Inclusive*), *Weeds and Flowers* the beauty & the desolation, *The Second Axing* Something is Sweating, *The Second Axing* Live in Alaska, *Pettus & Kuypers* Live at Cafe Aloha, *Pointless Orchestra* Rough Mixes, *Kuypers* Seeing Things Differently, *5D/5D* Tick Tock, *Kuypers* Change Rearrange, *Order From Chaos* The Entropy Project, *Kuypers* Six One One, *Kuypers* Stop., *Kuypers* Masterful Performances mp3 CD, *Kuypers* Death Comes in Threes, *Kuypers* Changing Gears, *Kuypers* Dreams, *Kuypers* How Do I Get There?, *Kuypers* Contact • Conflict • Control, *the DMJ Art Connection* the DMJ Art Connection (2 CD set), *Kuypers* Questions in a World Without Answers, *Kuypers* SIN, *Kuypers* WZRD Radio (2 CD set), *Mom's Favorite Vase* and *The Second Axing* These Truths, *assorted artists* String Theory, Oh (audio CD), *Life At The Cafe* (3 CD set).