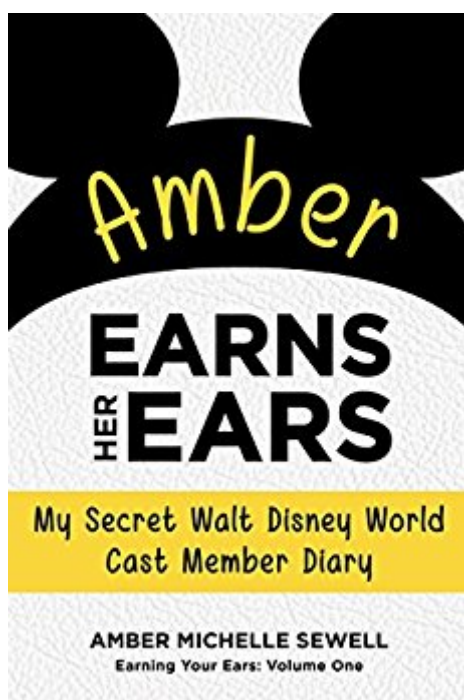


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Amber Earns Her Ears: My Secret Walt Disney World Cast Member Diary (Earning Your Ears Book 1)



Synopsis

My Boss, Mickey Mouse Come read Amber Sewell's Disney College Program diary and share her successes and her failures, her moments of delight and her moments of despair, and learn what happens when the pixie dust settles and the guests have gone home. As part of her job, Amber not only had to flash a smile and chat with awestruck children, but also deal with amorous Imagineers, drunks in Downtown Disney, bleeding kids and hysterical parents, screaming roommates, conceited Cast Members, and power-hungry supervisors. Throughout, she kept her cool, chronicling in *Amber Earns Her Ears* what it's like to work "backstage" and how Disney ensures its millions of guests always come back for more. Even though the pay is low, the rules rigid, and the experience at times disillusioning, Amber still found her job magical. Her book is as much a coming of age story as it is a compelling behind-the-scenes glimpse of Walt Disney World. Follow Amber as she: Soldiers through Disney's extensive Cast Member training, including the famous Traditions class Struggles to master Disney's picky procedures for food prep and quick service at Epcot's Electric Umbrella Stands in the broiling Florida sun behind a cart selling Captain EO merchandise to the disinterested Seeks the reason why someone would stand in the broiling Florida sun behind a cart selling Captain EO merchandise Shares tips for how you can ace your College Program application and interview, and work for the Mouse yourself From private, after-hours tours of iconic attractions like the Haunted Mansion to hauling sacks of rotting food to a grease pit behind the Electric Umbrella in Epcot, Amber Sewell saw the Mouse at his best and at his worst, and tells all. *Amber Earns Her Ears* is the first volume in the popular "Earning Your Ears" series. If you've never been in the Disney College Program, this is the next best thing!

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Customer Reviews

This was the first of the Earning Her Ears books that I read and it made me wish I was young enough to go back to college and give the college program a try for myself. The author writes very well and her stories are entertaining. You also get the story of two college programs in this book (well one was called something different when she first participated but it equates to the same thing) and it was interesting to see how the author's perception changed as she worked there longer. In the end it was obvious that she was ready to move on and that the excitement of the program was not as strong the second time around, but she still presented it with the magic, a bit dimmed but still present as she grew into the next stage in her college life. This is also one of the few books in this series that is well edited and I give credit to the writer who was an English major because it is a very enjoyable read that flows nicely. Unfortunately this is not something I could say for some of the books that follow although they are still worth reading. I definitely got the impression that if this young lady continues to write, she has a good future ahead of her. A nice job and definitely worth reading. (In fact, I gave my first copy away and actually bought a second copy because I enjoyed it so much.)

As a fan of the Disney Parks, I always look forward to the behind the scenes stories shared by former Cast Members. Amber does a fantastic job sharing her two experiences with the CareerStart and College Programs at WDW, both the good and the bad. It truly made me wish that I was 25+ years younger so I could apply myself. All in all a very fun read.

This book was divided in two sections, "Part One: My First Semester at Walt Disney World" and Part Two: My Second Semester at Walt Disney World" and it reads like two different books. "Part One"

was fairly interesting to read with a good mix of on the job and hanging with co-workers stories. The author, Amber Michelle Sewell, does a good job of saying how her first experience helped her become more open and interact with strangers with more confidence. This section really clicks along and is easy to read. "Part Two" was a challenge for Sewell to complete as an employee at Walt Disney World which in-turns becomes a challenge for the reader to finish the book. Sewell is now working merchandising in the park and is not enjoying it at all. She cannot wait for her the second semester to end so she can head back to college. There is really less discussion about her work within the park and more about the adventures she goes one with co-workers. In this section many of the chapters read like she just phoned it in to fill some more pages. If this book would have left out the second part I would have easily given it four or more stars. I gave it three stars because I really enjoyed the writing of part one and feeling like the outcome could be different than I expected I didn't stop reading it halfway through the second part. It ended how I expected. She still enjoys going to the park but she does not have any interest in working with Disney again. I guess much like Sewell wanted to see her second semester through to completion I wanted to see this book through to the end.

Amber was a Walt Disney World 'Cast Member' working in Foods and Merchandise over a two-year period. Experience her fears and joys and loneliness and the "family" of the Disney Company. The experience won't be to everybody's liking. For many, Amber's experiences behind the Cast Member name badge will ruin 'The Magic.' For me, it aided my willing suspension of disbelief. Disney employees are people. They have lives and their job is a big part of that life. Some experiences are wonderful--and some are rotten (remember Dorothy Gale's remarks about Oz in the 1939 Disney MGM edition of "the Wizard of Oz"?). Amber experienced both "there's no place like home" and "some of it wasn't very nice, and some of it was beautiful." Besides, Amber is a Harry Potter fan (Universal Studios property) and had to go "off-site" to get her Harry Potter fix. But buy the book and let Amber tell you of her adventures in the magical land of Walt Disney World.

The first half of this book was fantastic! Amber perfectly captured the feeling of a Disney program. I could tell she really enjoyed her time there, although she wasn't viewing the experience through rose colored glasses. The second half of the book dragged a bit, as she attempted to write more in the style of a diary. Some weeks there just wasn't much to say and perhaps the book would've flowed better had she stuck to highlights. Amber wasn't as satisfied with her second program, but she was never overly negative, just realistic. I loved her closing thoughts. She captured perfectly the

conflicted feelings so many former CPs have. Nice work!

I enjoy reading peoples' experiences working for The Mouse and this book was a fun little read! It may not be the best one out there but I am very happy to have read it and will probably re-read it! I grew attached to the author and her life and was sad it was over at the end. I think she wrote the first half better than the second half but I didn't mind it - this book gave me a nice little escape from my life by vicariously living/working in Walt Disney World as I read it!

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