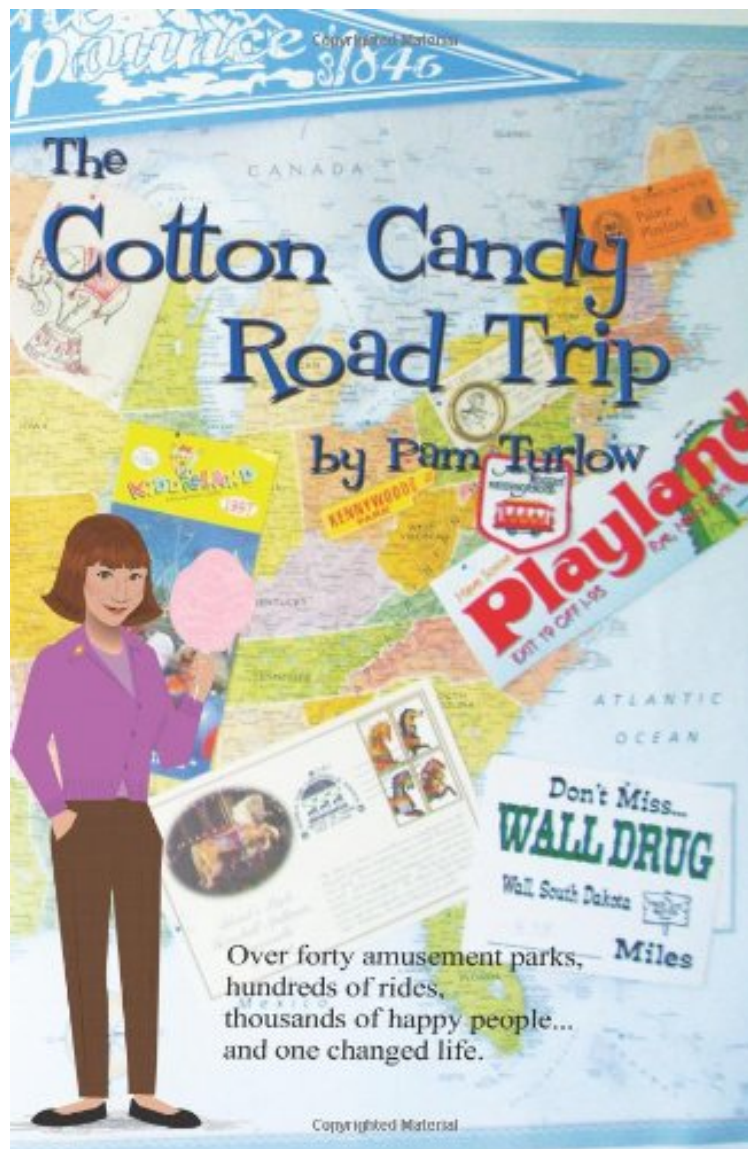


[Download pdf] The Cotton Candy Road Trip: Over forty amusement parks, hundreds of rides, thousands of happy people ... and one changed life.

The Cotton Candy Road Trip: Over forty amusement parks, hundreds of rides, thousands of happy people ... and one changed life.

Pam Turlow

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Pam Turlow : The Cotton Candy Road Trip: Over forty amusement parks, hundreds of rides, thousands of happy people ... and one changed life. before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cotton Candy Road Trip: Over forty amusement parks, hundreds of rides, thousands of

happy people ... and one changed life.:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It truly is "Eat, Pray, Love" meets "Route 66" By Ben Dooley I remember growing up, there was an amusement park not far from where I lived. My mom and I used to go there all the time. I went there with my best friend. Our class even took our Sr. Cut day in Jr. High there. When I got to be old enough to drive, it was such a treat to take my younger brother there and watch him run around and enjoy all the rides I loved. Years passed. I went to school. Moved to another city, and it seemed like any time I came back home, my park wasn't in my consciousness, and so I didn't return. I guess I thought it would always be there. I guess I never considered that my park would ever close. But close it did. Disappeared. Gone forever. And the rusting skeleton still remains. What was so amazing was that as the years pass, I meet people who knew of that park, who went there in their active youth. Or they other delighted in some other park near where they lived. It hadn't even dawned on me that there might be other wonderful and magical places throughout the country, where children (and families) could spend their summer days and nights with excitement, thrills and many magical moments. How delighted I was to find The Cotton Candy Road trip. Here's a book that surpasses the typical "guide book" and feels as though it might be something that I could have helped write. Perhaps even a chapter talking about my park. Not for the tourist, but for the fan. For the person who has their own park, who remembers racing around packing in every single ride possible... several times. Eating as much crappy and delicious food as possible before mom came to her senses. Being finally tall enough to ride the "big kid" rides, and spending all day in a place that you could swear was built just for you. So what kind of book is The Cotton Candy Road trip? Well, it's a travelogue: Turlow's writing is personal and engaging as she weaves her experiences visiting over 40 vintage amusement parks throughout the country. We follow her behind the scenes of rides, and follow her attempts to conquer the intimidating roller coaster ride (of which she "doesn't do".) We tour the country by plane, train and automobile, we explore the history of these places, get to become friends with the owners and founders, and swap stories with the fans while waiting in line. It's almost like you're actually there, and you can hear the kids screaming in the distance (or maybe that's you). It's a spiritual book; Each park continues to live and breathe--as though it's alive. And perhaps it is. Turlow strives to reveal the spirit, the magic, the "balloon man" (as she calls it) of these places, in an attempt to identify what is it about these places that makes them so special. Along the way we follow her on her own personal "roller coaster" ride--adapting to a changing economy, transitioning careers, discovering her own spirituality and self, the experience of her ailing father and already passed mother and the memories that are brought to life in these parks. It's an adventure, a nostalgic romp, a heartfelt memoir, an homage to days gone by. It's all those things that a road trip should be. Don't let the size intimidate you. The 440 page book is packed with fun photos, juicy quotes, and anecdotes to tug your heart, thrill your soul, and make your tummy tingle. It's your giant E-ticket, giving you access to 40 of the most wonderful and special places in the country. Places where fairy tales became real, children could soar in the sky, monsters and demons would be faced, first dates took place, couples got married, babies are carried, and on and on, for generations. Sadly many of these magical places have closed. Thanks to the Cotton Candy road trip for helping the magic to live on. Buy this book. Take yourself on a vacation and visit each of these marvelous places with Pam (and then go on your own to discover your own wonderful memories). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sweet By dairymensch Pam Turlow has written a confection that is as sweet as its title suggests. It is filled with love for a simpler time, for the magic that a vintage amusement park can give us, for the men in her life, and perhaps most profoundly, for life itself, and the role that these parks have played in bringing families together across the years. It does, in fact, provide information about some of the country's best vintage parks, but it goes far deeper than that. She is never content to relay simple information such as rating rides or providing hours of operation. Her concern has more to do with capturing the spirits of these parks, and providing portraits of the people who have grown up there, or worked and played there, and the passing of the ages. She brilliantly conveys the sounds and smells of the fairgrounds and the images that represent the true pictures of these places of rites of passage. Ms. Turlow allows the reader to sense the presence of the ghosts who glide among the painted ponies still. Her journeys, physical and spiritual, convey some turns in her own life also including a crisis concerning her beloved father's health. These are generously shared with the reader as well. All in all, a finely wrought portrait of places which belong to an era sadly slipping into a sunset past. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Delightful Confection By Ronald T. Shuman This book is just a delight! Pam Turlow clearly loves amusement parks; with engaging writing and a flair for nostalgia, this book is a must read for those who remember many of these places that are, sadly, fading into the sunset.

What is it about vintage amusement parks that keep people enthralled and coming back, year after year? Is it the rides, the food, the fun or something else, a spirit of place that sets them apart with an element of magic that newer parks simply lack? Part memoir, part travelogue and part serendipitous journey into the spiritual realm, The Cotton Candy Road Trip traces author Pam Turlow's travels to over forty vintage amusement parks across the United States with humor, gentleness, and a sense of playful wonder. The road trip takes place over a two-year period, coinciding with Turlow's father's decline of health, and her own soul searching for meaning beyond her monetary confines. Join her on

this journey to fulfillment, understanding and the perfect plume of cotton candy.

About the Author Pam Turlow's day job is voice-over artist. She's recorded her voice for many a product and project, including commercials, industrials, audio books, toys, animation, and on the list goes. She's also a life coach, having graduated from the Coaches Training Institute. Pam's also studied acting with the National Theatre in London and has spent some time on the boards, especially in musical theatre (favorite role to date: Mrs. Lovett in "Sweeney Todd" at Circle Theatre, a performance which won her Chicago's "After Dark Award"). Besides creative writing (which she studied at Dominican University), Pam enjoys travel, Disneyland, dark chocolate, a good wine now and then, her dog Ivy (the dainty beaglette), and, most of all, spending time with her lovely and talented husband, Ben Dooley, with whom she shares a home in a cozy suburb of Chicago.