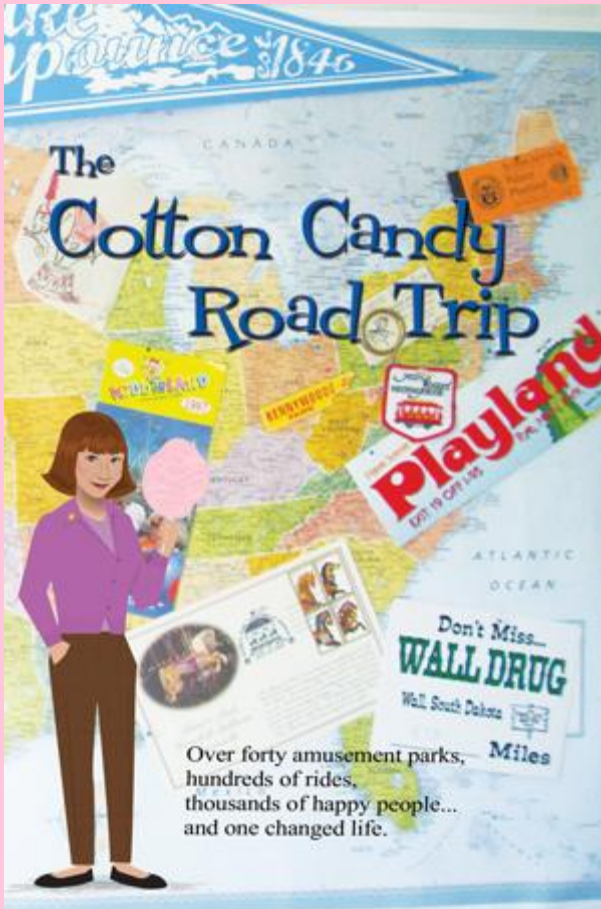


Media Kit - "The Cotton Candy Road Trip"

by Pam Turlow

"It's a little like "Eat, Pray, Love", except with roller coasters."



When you hear the phrase "spirit of place", what comes up for you? I'm sure if you give it a moment, you might recall those places from your childhood, some long gone, which held a resplendent energy that, if you could travel to them now, would infuse you with excitement, giddiness, and sweet nostalgia.

My book, "The Cotton Candy Road Trip" explores the magic of vintage amusement parks and relates stories of the people who frequent them, work at them, and willingly throw their souls into their inimitable spirit. I approached each park visit with a sense of play, an attitude of awe, and a heart full of deep respect for their history and resilience.

Along the way, I also related how this Road Trip affected my life in insurmountable ways, thus making my book part travelogue, part spiritual journey. "The Cotton Candy Road Trip" will appeal to amusement park enthusiasts, pop culture fans, armchair travelers, and spiritual seekers of all ages. It's a little like "Eat, Pray, Love" except with roller coasters.

It would be my pleasure to meet with you for an interview, to chat about the parks. Not to revel in potential author stardom, but to get the stories of these wonderful places out there, to help keep them alive for generations to come.

Yours in the Spirit of Amusement -

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Brief book summary:

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 my 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 my father’s decline of health, and my own soul searching for meaning beyond monetary confines. Join me on this journey to fulfillment, understanding and the perfect plume of cotton candy.

The book is written in diary style, with chapters numbered for each park visit. The Appendices include my Top Five List of my favorite parks, a list of favorite foodstuffs found at the parks, and more.

Author Bio and Photo:



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. 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, with whom she shares a home in a cozy suburb of Chicago.

Sample Questions for the Media:

What inspired you to write about vintage amusement parks?

What were some of your favorite parks and why?

You relate some stories that deal with the paranormal. What was one of the more startling experiences you had?

What are some of the benefits of visiting vintage amusement parks vs. larger, newer parks?

How would you describe your writing style?

Tell me what you mean by a park's "spirit of place".

What was some of the best food you consumed on the trip?

What was your favorite ride?

You visited Conneaut Lake Park three times for the book. Why is that?

You admit that you aren't a roller coaster enthusiast. Can someone be an amusement park enthusiast and NOT like coasters?

Tell me about one of the most colorful characters you met during your travels.

News Angles:

Local Amusement Park Enthusiasm - the book begins with a visit to the beloved Chicago-area park, Kiddieland during its final season and ends at Santa's Village Azoosmnet Park in East Dundee, which has rescued some of Kiddieland's rides.

Road Trips and Travel: over 40 vintage amusement parks are visited throughout the book across the country. A few of the trips were comprised of several park visits over a number of days, thus making for great itinerary ideas for those interested in their own Road Trips.

Spiritual Journeys: the book follows the author's personal journey from self-employed voice-over actor to author, while tracing the affect her father's ailing health played throughout. She feels her spirituality deepened through the duration of the Road Trip, due mostly to learning about the amazingly dedicated people who keep these places alive on a daily basis.

Metaphysical Encounters: throughout her journey, the author encounters some ghosts, studies tarot, and wonders about how numerology might play a part in the story. She also receives a few visits from her deceased mother (who was a big fan of amusement parks herself).

Amazon.com review

5.0 out of 5 stars **It truly is "Eat, Pray, Love" meets "Route 66"**, May 10, 2012

This review is from: The Cotton Candy Road Trip: Over forty amusement parks, hundreds of rides, thousands of happy people ... and one changed life. (Paperback)

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

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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).

Media:

Radio: "The Jack Evans Show" on WMBS - 590 AM (Uniontown, PA)

Upcoming Print Interview: The Doings News, Elmhurst, IL (Sandy Bosch)

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