## The Fourth Book in Jeff Dixon's

## **Best Selling Kingdom Series**

## Terror in the Kingdom

## A NOVEL

- Release Date: November 17, 2016
- ISBN: 9781632694232
- Retail: \$14.99
- Format: Paperback



The terror is real.

Grayson Hawkes is living every Disney fan's dream. He's in charge of the beloved international empire, with access to all the

fantastical worlds created by Walt Disney himself. But hidden within the dream, secrets and danger lurk. Because in the world of Disney, there are always heroes and villains. And winning or losing is a matter of life and death.

In Terror in the Kingdom, the highly anticipated fourth installment in the Dixon on Disney series (The Key to the Kingdom, Unlocking the Kingdom, Storming the Kingdom), Hawk must not only protect the highly coveted secrets of Walt Disney, he must also save those closest to him. The future hangs in the balance. The terror is real.

Author Jeff Dixon once again weaves together fact, history, and trivia to create an action-packed page-turner, best described as faction. Readers are left to figure out where facts end and fiction begins. With his uncanny knowledge of the inner workings of the Most Magical Place on Earth, Dixon offers Disney fans their ultimate wish: the adventure of experiencing Walt Disney World from the inside out.



#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Jeff Dixon - Orlando Florida**

Jeff Dixon is one of the rare people who can call themselves Orlando natives. When he had the chance to spend time in Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom before it opened to the general public, Jeff was immediately in awe of the Disney magic. He later became a cast member, and has created countless memorable moments within the Walt Disney World resort over the course of his lifetime. Jeff holds degrees in sociology and theology. His research of and experiences at Walt Disney World inspire him to collect theme-parkology. His calling as a Transformational Architect has made him an expert in storytelling methodology. And he has blended all of these *ologies* together to create a unique view of the world of Disney. Jeff's desire is to see every individual become the best version of themselves, and he believes life is not only a precious gift but a compelling adventure waiting to be lived.

#### Previously Published Titles from Jeff Dixon:

- <u>Storming the Kingdom</u>, Deep River Books 2014
- <u>Unlocking the Kingdom</u>, Deep River Books 2012
- <u>The Key to the Kingdom</u>, Deep River Books 2010





#### **Suggested Interview Questions for Jeff Dixon**

#### Author of Terror in the Kingdom

#### 1) You write books that are loaded with history, trivia, and secrets about Walt Disney and the Walt Disney World Resort. Why are those things so interesting to you?

There are Disney fans all over the world, so it is a topic that is not just interesting but one that fascinates others as well. Walt Disney and the Walt Disney Company are without a doubt the greatest storytellers of our time. They have created stories, moments, and memories that become a part of the fabric of people's lives. Understanding why and how they tell stories that last a lifetime ought to be something that the Christian community should take notice of. We have an eternal story we are telling and there are some lessons we can learn to help us tell our story better.

#### 2) Your series of novels take readers to places in the theme park and throughout Central Florida. The question for each reader as they get drawn into the books is "are those places real?"

Yes, the places in the book are very real. I believe that is some of the reason that books have been so well received. I get letter every week from people who have taken time out of their vacations to track down a location that was mentioned in the books. Usually it is one that hits their own individual interest or just seems so unusual that they just can't believe it is there. Sometimes I get a picture of them standing wherever it is they have been. It is very flattering but also makes reading the books more fun.

3) You mentioned earlier about Walt Disney and his ability to tell a story. You believe there are lessons that we need to learn from him and then company?

I do. I can remember stories that I saw on the screen as a child. Those stories, the images, the emotions are something that I have kept with me all of these years. Now mind you, these are usually fiction stories that have been brought to the big screen but



the memories have lasted a lifetime. I don't care how you summarize it but you have to come to the conclusion that what you have seen is a powerful story.

The way the story is told, unpacked, and connects is why it stays with you. As a preacher, pastor, and Bible teacher who is called to help people live transformed lives and become the best version of who they were created to be, I believe that I am telling the greatest story ever... and yet, people will remember a Disney story better than the story we share each week. I think we have to be willing to explore the reasons for that and get better and telling our story.

# 4) You mentioned the word – transformation. Are the Disney stories you write transformational?

I want them to be. The characters are readily identifiable and very real. Their lives are loaded with struggles, they are not perfect, and there is always an element of whether or not they are making the best choices. The reader finds some common ground in them. Although each book is a stand-alone book and adventure, there is an arc to the stories where the characters have developed and their lives reveal change and growth. I think readers connect with that.

Since the lead character has been a pastor, there is also a lot of life lessons that get unpacked in the way he functions, make choices, and interacts with others. So there too is a transformational element to them.

Perhaps the easiest and most gratifying is the letters and feedback I get from folks who read the novels and then talk about how they were inspired to dig deeper into things of faith, how they were able to connect to God as a result of the story, and how they want to know more about Jesus because of the way He is mentioned in the book. One person told me, "I don't know the Jesus that the characters in the book are talking about. I read the book because I love Disney but I feel compelled to know more about God because of the story."

That is transformational – and God can use a work of fiction to motivate the next step.



# 5) The latest book is *Terror in the Kingdom*. Is it a book about terrorism and with all that has happened in Central Florida, how does it speak to those events?

The story is a work of fiction. It is an action, adventure, mystery thriller and it written to be an exciting escape from everyday life. It has been in the works long before the news of Orlando became global in the summer of 2016.

The reality is that for anyone who has ever been there and visited, they have been to a gathering spot for people from across the globe. Living in Orlando, we have always known that Walt Disney World was a target for evil people – the fact that nothing has happened there is to the credit of the heroes who work in law enforcement in Central Florida and Disney Security who are always dealing with threat assessment.

What Orlando has been through recently does not really factor into the book, but the book does build on the idea of how complicated and tricky it can be to make decisions to keep people safe and at the same time, honor that they have come to Central Florida on vacation, to get away, and create moments of magic. I can't imagine anything tougher for those who stand on the front lines and try to make that happen for people. It is huge and frightening task...but they do it so well, that sometimes we take it for granted.

# 6) The books are loaded with details. Do you think God is in the details and how does that come across in the book and our lives?

The stories are loaded with details because there are two types of trips you can take to Walt Disney World. You can do the usual and amazing vacation. Or you can take the trip of a lifetime and discover 'things you never knew you never knew." This is the trip where you not only ride the attractions and take in the sights but you also travel off the beaten path and find things that are hidden in plain sight, in the details that most miss.

For example as you enter the Magic Kingdom and move through the Main Street Railroad Station, you can hear a telegraph working. It is tapping out a portion of Walt Disney's opening day speech from Disneyland in 1955 and it plays constantly



throughout the day. Someone who knows Morse Code told me that they could not recognize the message, the reason is because of the details the Imagineers put into the parks. Their attention to detail allowed them to create it in the period specific "American Morse" also known as "Railroad Morse" which disappeared with the acceptance of "International Morse Code" that people are familiar with today.

The life lesson in moving through the entrance is that in life we hear a lot of things but we aren't real good at really listening. The world and culture bombards us with noise, but sometimes to get the meaning and understand that is really happening, we have to slow down and listen... maybe ask a few questions... and try to comprehend and experience things at a deeper level. People who do that have a quality of life that is so much richer than those who don't.

#### 7) Are there lessons that Christians can learn from Walt Disney?

I think so but sometimes they get lost in the hype and legend of Walt. He was a Midwesterner who rose above his circumstances and created the largest entertainment empire in the world. Along the way he stumbled, went broke, failed a lot, made a lot mistakes and he kept trying.

That alone should be inspirational to any person who struggles along in life, and we all will struggle.

But on a larger scale, he also became a shaper and a person of influence. His willingness to risk made him a person that people sought out for direction, for ideas, and he was always pushing the limits of what he could do. That is why he created the animated films, the live action films, shot his television show in color when there was no such thing as a color television in homes, and why he invented the whole concept of a theme park and entertainment. As a result, the movers and shakers of the world came to be near Walt. Artists, scientists, world leaders all tried to get close to him and he navigated it all... not as a typical Hollywood star but as a guy who would rather ride a train around in his yard than be in the spotlight.



If the followers of Jesus would learn how to be known as the risk takers, the innovators, the leaders, and the people who worked to make the lives of others better think of the influence we could have. Some do, others don't, but I really do believe that the church should be the most creative and culture shaping force in our society. Walt could probably help us see how that can happen more effectively.

# 8) The word that has been used to describe your novels is "faction" – what is that exactly?

Faction is the blending of fact and fiction. If you blend it together well enough in the context of a novel, the reader will get caught up in it and wonder where the facts end and fiction begins. As a result, it hopefully forces the reader to explore and take a step beyond to find the real answers. In the case of my stories their search will be to discover the truth about Jesus and find out more about Him. Then beyond that the fun of finding out the truth about the details and locations in the park, the state of Florida, and in the history of Walt Disney.

Fact meets fiction and blends together to create "faction."

