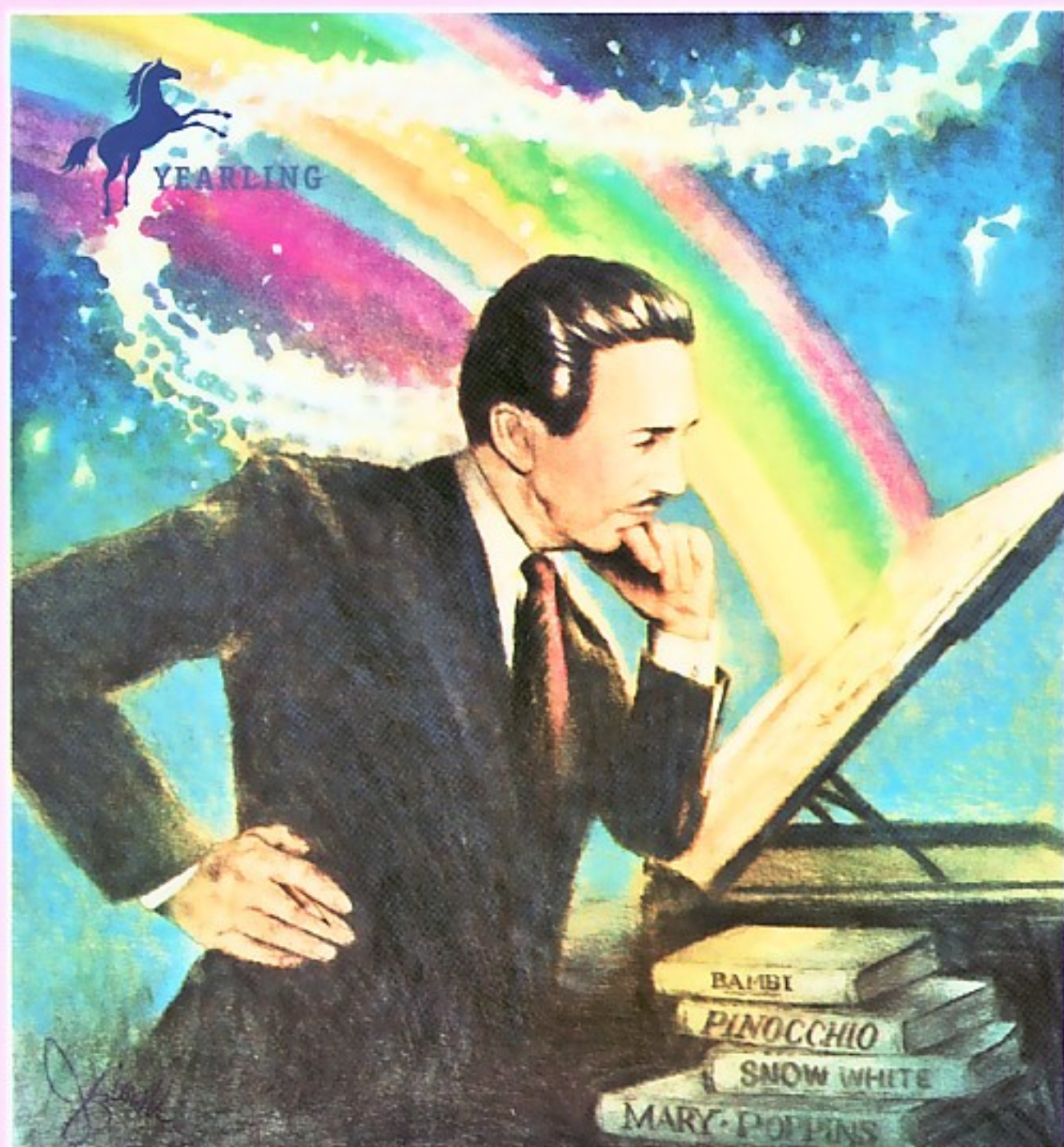


THE STORY OF
WALT DISNEY,
Maker of Magical Worlds
BY BERNICE SELDEN



INCLUDES EIGHT PAGES OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Hog Rider

When Diane Disney was six years old she went to her father with a very important question. "Are you Walt Disney?" she asked. "Of course, darling," her father said. "Who did you *think* I was?"

"What I mean is . . . are you the *famous* Walt Disney who makes movies? Someone at school said you were."

Her father grinned and nodded.

Diane blushed. Then she held out a piece of paper and said, "Can I have your autograph?"

Taking out his fountain pen, Walt dashed off his famous signature with a flourish.

"Oh, thank you, Daddy!" she gasped. It was as if he had handed her the world.

The year was 1939, and by then Walt Disney's name was known around the globe. Whenever anyone thought of cartoons, it was Disney who came to mind. He was the creator of the lovable cartoon characters Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. He had been one of the first to successfully bring sound and color to movies. His *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, a full-length animated film, had been a smash success wherever it was shown. Hollywood had honored him with many Oscar awards for his outstanding work in the movie industry. Later in his life, he would create two of the most famous amusement parks in the world, Disneyland and Walt Disney World.

How did it all begin?

Walt was born in the year 1901 in a small town just outside of Chicago. Elias Disney, Walt's father, was very active in his church. He not only gave the church what little money he could, he even climbed up on a ladder with hammer and nails and helped rebuild it. He was, at the time, a builder by trade.

The minister of the church, Walter Parr, discovered that Elias's wife, Flora, was expecting her fourth child at the same time that his

own wife was expecting a child. This gave him an idea.

"If your wife has a son, you name him after me," the minister said. "And if my wife has one, we will christen him Elias, after you."

The boys were born within a day of each other and were named Elias Parr and Walter Elias Disney. There were already three boys in the family when Walt was born: Herbert, Raymond, and Roy. A girl, Ruth, was born two years later.

Walt's childhood was not an easy one. As an adult he brought so much happiness to so many children, but he was not always a happy boy. The Disney family moved often from one town to another, so Walt spent his childhood in many different places. "Pa always had ants in his pants," one of the sons said of Elias. "He could never stay any place long enough to warm a seat."

No sooner did the children get used to life in a busy city than they would be hauled off to the countryside. And then, a few years later, they would find themselves back in the city again.

It was the town of Marcelline, in Missouri, that Walt remembered most fondly. In 1906 when Walt was five years old, Elias bought

When Walt Disney was a child, he loved to draw. It's no wonder he grew up to create such memorable and lovable characters as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Walt Disney spent a lifetime entertaining and delighting millions of children and adults alike—on film, on television, and in his magical kingdoms of Disneyland and Disney World. This is his story.

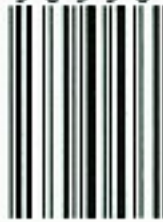
www.randomhouse.com/kids

US \$5.50 / \$6.50 CAN

ISBN 978-0-440-40240-4



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YEARLING

A Yearling Book

New York

RL: 3.4

006-009

Cover art © 2005 by Chet Jezierski

COVER PRINTED IN THE USA