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A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes: My Story



Synopsis

One of the '60s most popular teen idols, Annette Funicello was more than America's favorite Mouseketeer. She knew Walt Disney, he chose her for his Mickey Mouse Club. She dated Paul Anka, Fabian, and Frankie Avalon. She made movies with such stars as Mickey Rooney and Fred MacMurray. Then she left it all behind to raise a family. In 1992, she reentered public life to share her battle with multiple sclerosis. In this touching memoir, Annette Funicello tells us that, despite it all, life is more perfect than she'd ever dreamed it might be - and once again proves to be "America's Sweetheart."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Obviously, I would not have sought out this book to read if there had not been something about Annette Funicello I had already found very much appealing. And I mean beyond her obvious good-looks and incredible smile. And reading it confirms what I always believed in my heart -and what I wanted to believe- to be true about Annette: she is an absolute sincere and caring person. Okay, if not for Annette's eventual battle with MS, the book doesn't contain any real human drama beyond what most of us might say we experience in our everyday lives (and she acknowledges that!!). And her's is a wonderful life. Annette is absolutely convincing that what she sees through her eyes and the emotions she feels throughout the events of her life are absolutely sincere. Call it sugar-coating if you want. I believe she is absolutely real. Annette always looks to see the best in people. And therefore, it just is not in her heart to pass judgement on people and tear them down -

even when sometimes, she gets hurt. Imagine that. And she never "sold out" on her principles for more money or selfish career advancement. In fact, she really was ready to walk away from it completely for the sake of her children and a little privacy. So if you want dirt and drama, go somewhere else. MS or no MS, this book is sweet. But that's Annette. So it should be. And we can all stand to learn something from her, in one aspect or another ...Or just enjoy her taking us on a trip back to an America, as she so describes "has sadly passed into history."

Surprisingly absorbing and lively recollections from Annette Funicello, one-time Mouseketeer and Disney darling who was the only teen-mouse to graduate to the big screen via "Babes In Toyland" and the "Beach Party" and "Merlin Jones" comedies. Annette comes clean about being the only Mouseketeer kept on contract by Walt Disney after MMC ran its course, and she contemplates why that was and how her co-stars struggled without Disney's guidance. She is very upfront, but also a little indifferent to her own good fortune, embarrassed and innately shy about a career that just fell into her lap. She says she never aspired to fame, but got it regardless. The book continues its interesting narrative even after Annette marries and retires, cleaning the house the day she heard Walt Disney passed, and eventually realizing her marriage was out of gas. Fate dealt Annette (and all her fans) a bitter hand when she was diagnosed with MS, which she still continues to fight, but her inspiring conclusion to the book gives all of us hope.

I have the audio cassette of *A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes*, and it is beautiful. I've listened to it several times in my car. I don't tire of it because it is a human story. Annette Funicello succeeded on her own -- her father was an auto mechanic and her mother stayed at home. This is an inspiration to children and even adults.

I bought this book for 50 cents at St Paul's Church tag sale in West Haven, CT, and I just finished reading it. I absolutely loved it. It told everything about Annette, Disney, the Mousekeeters, and her family. You will enjoy this book. It also tells about her battle with MS, and her break into show business as well as how her grandparents came here from Italy, and how her parents met. A well enjoyed autobiography. If you love Annette, you will love this book. I highly recommend it.

I was expecting more from this book. Most of the story is her Walt Disney life and nothing is in depth. I was looking for more of her adult life. Annette just touches on different stages of her life.. I still will enjoy the memories of my teenage years with her as one of the my idols.

While reading this book, I often wondered how a person could be so perfect. Of course Annette is not going to tell us how imperfect she really is, but she does tell us things that we could never imagine. When one thinks of the greatness of the wonderful man, Walt Disney and his buddy, Mickey Mouse, the next person who pops into our minds is Annette. She embodies everything that Disney created and does it with such grace and wholesomeness. From the Mouseketeers to Dick Clark's American Bandstand and her records, to the Beach movies etc. Annette tells of her storied life and all of her wonderful friends and family. The final couple chapters deal with her MS and she faces that, with such grace and strength, like a strong lady that she has always been, even though she has days that she is anything but strong. She is now in a wheelchair and has trouble speaking, but the glow that is Annette will go on forever and ever. Annette and her book are one in a million and she is a real person, who has issues with being a star. Even if you have no idea about the Mickey Mouse Club or Annette, the book is well worth the time to read as she takes all of us back to easier times, always being a lady, some might call prudish, but always living the good, clean, wholesome life that makes her still endearing to all. Wouldn't it be nice to have today's stars be just a tiny bit like Annette Funicello?

I haven't finished this book yet but what I have read takes me back to simpler times and reminded me why I was always an Annette fan. Those were precious times never to return again. If you are a baby boomer and loved watching any Disney TV from that era, you would truly enjoy this book. Thank you, Annette for being such a special person in my life.

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