

✦ Where My Disney Story Began — And Why It Still Shapes My Life Today

A dedication to the people who unknowingly set my life on its magical path.

Some moments change your life long before you realise it. For me, that moment happened when I was three years old — long before I understood what Disney was, and long before anyone around me could have imagined the impact it would have on the rest of my life.

This blog is dedicated to the people who set that moment in motion: my parents, my Uncle Chris and Frances, my Nana and Grandad, my Auntie Mary.

To my uncle, auntie's, and grandparents — thank you for taking me, for choosing to bring a little girl along on adventures you could never have known would shape her entire life. You didn't just take me on holiday; you opened a door to a world that would become part of my identity, my comfort, and my joy.

To my parents — thank you for every “yes”. For letting me go so many times, even when you weren't coming with me. For trusting the people who took me. For giving me the ultimate childhood filled with magic, travel, and memories that have stayed with me forever. You gave me opportunities many children never have, and I will always be grateful.

And to my husband, Steve — thank you for embracing the Disney-obsessed family you married into. For never judging me when others labelled me childish, geeky, or “too much”. You allowed me to step fully into the Disney adult I always was, and you support me wholeheartedly as I turn a lifelong passion into a dream come true.

✦ The First Spark

My Disney story began in 1992, when my mum and Uncle Chris found a holiday on Teletext. If you remember Teletext, you'll remember the ritual — scrolling through the holiday pages, writing down codes, hoping the deal was still available by the time you phoned.

That first trip took 24 hours. I barely remember it, but it planted a seed. A tiny spark. Something none of us could have predicted.

What my family didn't know then was that they weren't just taking me on holiday. They were laying the foundations for something that would become deeply rooted in who I am.

✦ Growing Up Disney

I grew up visiting Florida and Disney regularly — villas, hire cars, I-Drive dinners, Disney tickets, Universal, SeaWorld, Busch Gardens. The classic 90s Orlando childhood.

I saw Disney evolve. I saw the castle dressed for the 25th and the 50th. I watched Downtown Disney become Disney Springs. I saw the parks change, grow, reinvent themselves — and somehow still feel like home every single time.

Back then, I didn't understand what those trips were building inside me. I just knew they made me happy.

And the truth is, I always knew Disney would be part of my life — I just never knew what a profound effect it would have on me. Looking back now, it feels like every moment, every trip, every memory was quietly shaping the person I would become. Dreams really do come true.

✦ The Domino Effect

It wasn't until adulthood that I realised those childhood trips had created something far deeper than nostalgia.

Disney had become part of my emotional DNA.

It wasn't about being “spoiled” or “obsessed”. It was about something inside me that felt *settled* there — a sense of safety, comfort, and belonging I couldn't replicate anywhere else.

Disney wasn't a destination. It was a feeling.

And I didn't fully understand that until life got hard.

✦ Rediscovering Disney as an Adult and a Parent

Travelling to Disney as a parent is a completely different experience. You think you know the magic as a child — but seeing it through your children's eyes is something else entirely.

But for me, it became more than that.

There was a trip — one I'll write about another day — where life at home was falling apart. I knew my marriage was ending. I felt lost, overwhelmed, and unsure of what my future looked like.

And yet, inside that Disney bubble, I felt safe. The outside world couldn't touch me. For the first time in a long time, I could breathe.

That was the moment I realised Disney wasn't just a place I loved. It was a place that held me when I needed it most.

✦ Full Circle — Taking My Own Children

Returning with my children has been one of the greatest joys of my life. Watching them laugh, explore, and feel that same spark I felt as a child — it's indescribable.

I hope they grow up wanting to take their own children one day. Not because it's Disney, but because it's a place where you can be yourself. Where you can let go. Where you can laugh, cry, and feel everything fully without judgement.

Disney is joy. Disney is release. Disney is home.

✦ Why I Became a Holiday Planner

People often think planning a Disney holiday is simple — but anyone who has done it knows it can be overwhelming, confusing, and incredibly complex.

I've travelled:

as a child

as a teenager

as a young adult

as a parent

as a single parent

as part of a blended family

I've done the villas, the hotels, the split stays, the long-haul flights with toddlers, the stroller naps, the meltdowns, the magic, the tears, the fireworks, the lot.

And I know how transformative it can be when it's done right.

That's why Magical Planners exists. Not just to sell holidays — but to help people experience the same joy, safety, and magic that shaped my life.

✦ A Thank You, and a Beginning

To my family — thank you. You didn't know what you were starting, but you gave me something priceless.

To my parents — thank you for every opportunity, every moment of trust, every magical "yes".

To my uncle, auntie, and grandparents — thank you for taking me, guiding me, and unknowingly setting me on the path that would become my life's passion.

To Steve — thank you for loving the Disney adult you found, and for supporting the dream I'm finally brave enough to chase.

And to anyone reading this — welcome. This is the beginning of me sharing my story, my experiences, and the magic that has carried me through every chapter of my life.

There's so much more to tell. And I can't wait to share it with you.