

“A Fairy Use Tale” was created by editing together multiple clips of Disney movies in order to discuss the issues surrounding copyright, and to explain how fair use can be utilized to maintain copyright compliance. This transcript was created to be used in conjunction with “A Fairy Use Tale” on YouTube as part of the TOTAL Copyright workshop. The transcript may seem disjointed at first; however, everything should be clear at the end.

::Disney music playing::

Various Disney characters speaking a mashup of the text below:

Chapter 1: Copyright Definitions

What the heck is copyright? What? ?What the heck is copy, copyright, right, right...

It's that law that's the problem. That stupid law!

What the heck is copyright? I'll tell you! Copyright is a permanently fixed original work.

What? Copyright is a permanently fixed original work in some form that can be seen or heard.

Hmmm....

Now listen, this is important. Only the copyright owner has the right to use their work. It's mine!!!

How can that be? That's not fair!

It's forbidden to use a copyright work without permission being granted by the copyright owner. And anybody who's foolish enough to threaten our copyright has broken the law.

Aren't we forgetting one teensy weensy, but ever so crucial little tiny detail? You better be able to pay for that copyright permission! We haven't discussed the method of payment. You can't get something for nothing you know.

But I don't have...

I'm not asking for much. Just a token, really a trifle.

Hold on...back up. Are you saying this is about money?

I'm sorry sir, I don't have any money. It's extortion!

I prefer the term Capitalist. You hear that sound? It's the sound of your freedom fluttering out the window.

Chapter 2: What Things Can Be Copyrighted?

Well, there's the usual things, like... books, plays, music, dance, movies & pictures,

Wait! Listen carefully. You can't copyright an idea. Yes I can! Can't. Can. Can't, can't, can't.

But why?

In our culture it would be unwise to limit the power of a great idea. So we can only copyright the form that an idea takes.

But what does that have to do with anything? No, no...he's got a point.

Chapter 3: Copyright Duration & the Public Domain

The law says that copyright only lasts for a fixed amount of time. Copyright used to last just 14 years.

What?!

Copyright used to last only 14 years.

I know! I know, I got it, I got the concept.

For culture that was long enough for a copyright holder to make money from their work. After just 14 years the work fell into the public domain so anyone could use the work.

Hey, what the heck is the public domain?

The public domain is a disgrace to the forces of evil. What are you saying exactly?

A work in the public domain is free for anyone to use.

Can you do that?

Yes. It is essential because culture created new ideas by building on earlier works. So the public domain is necessary for a living, thriving society.

Unfortunately, copyright keeps getting longer, and there seems to be no limitation to how long copyright lasts. It's called a cruel irony. For example, copyright now lasts a lifetime plus 70 years, and for a company copyright lasts for over one hundred years. So copyright lasts more like forever.

Well, this is just ridiculous! Delbert, will you please explain how ridiculous this is?

It's totally preposterous.

Chapter 4: Fair Use

What the heck is fair use? I'm sorry, do you mind running that by me again? What the heck is fair use?

This might sound crazy but there are limitations on copyright.

Gasp! Is it possible?

Yes. Copyright may be broken, but it's slippery. You can borrow a small amount of copyright work to: teach, news reporting, parody, and critical comment.

But how will I know if it's fair use?

There are certain rules that demonstrate fair use.

Okay, first of all it's the nature of the borrowed work. Second, it's the amount that you borrowed. There is one more thing. It has to be something that doesn't change the work's original value on the market place. Pay attention everyone, this is important. It's like I always say, fair use is not a right.

But, but then what is it? Fair use is only a legally defensible position, and this is not fair!

Chapter 5: Why use Disney Cartoons?

Because this company is intimidating anybody who takes a copyright work. The point is that fair use actually works for movies like this one to have legal protection.

And that concludes our broadcast!

What was that?! I have no idea.

The End

"A Fairy Use Tale". Directed by Eric Faden.