

Book Review

The 5 Star Flight Attendant

*The Guide to becoming a Flight Attendant
From Commercial to Charter to Corporate*

By Aleca King

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There are many books written about how to become a pilot; however, few are written which focus exclusively on the business end of the aircraft. Author Aleca King takes us behind the scenes of the mysterious and romantic world of flight attendants. We peer briefly into the different worlds of the scheduled airlines, on-demand charters, and corporate aviation. King portrays each with the insights and humor that can be done only by one who has done all three.

The book is full of vintage airline advertising photos which bring to mind the tales of flying in an era when passengers dressed up to go fly, back when passenger security simply meant ensuring seat belts were fastened for takeoff and landing. One single-page chapter that was especially intriguing gave simple, but unique insights into how the cabin crew deals with poor weather and frustrated passengers—a side of flight operations which cockpit crews rarely see.

What makes this book unique is the rare glimpse into the plush flying found in the world of large corporations and power-wielding CEOs. She briefly examines fixed base operations, inflight services, and the special conditions on the ground which typically surround the arrivals and departures of corporate senior executives. Of special interest is the author's brief, but especially germane, chapter on confidentiality. True to her profession, author King does not kiss-and-tell by regaling us with war stories. But crafted into the twenty pages of large-print text, she briefly allows us to see aviation from the revenue-generating, corporate-power side of the aircraft.

This book is short, sweet, and fun to read. To illustrate her points, the author makes great use of vintage photographs portraying the Golden Age of air travel and mixes them with images of the modern day. She deftly sells the glamor of being a flight attendant. Clearly, Aleca King is a cheerleader for her colleagues and industry.

D.H.

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