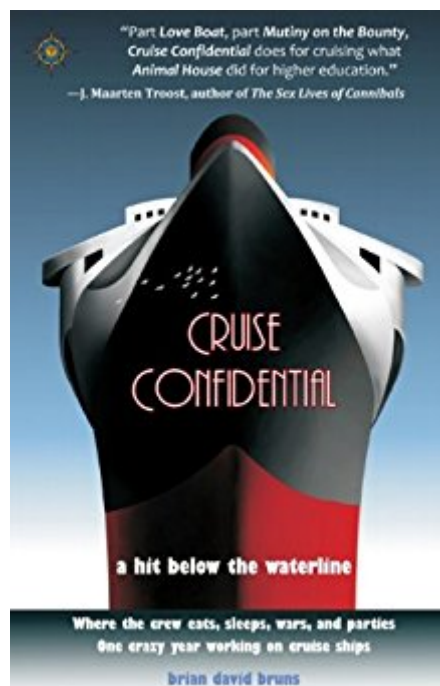




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# Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below The Waterline: Where The Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, And Parties -- One Crazy Year Working On



## Synopsis

In *Cruise Confidential*, Brian David Bruns spills the dirt &#151; or in this case, the dirty water &#151; on those romantic, fun-filled vacations at sea. His hilarious chronicle of the year he spent working for Carnival Cruise Lines takes readers down into the areas where the crew works and lives, leaving readers gasping with laughter as they're assaulted nonstop with events that range from the absurd to the utterly bizarre. Stewards fighting over food. Cutlery allowances and other nonsensical rules. What the crew calls those onboard (no, it's not &#147;passengers'Â•). And of course, the sex. An abundance of ready, willing, and able bodies eager for action on a vessel replete with nooks and crannies leads to love in some mighty strange, and seemingly impossible, places. Breezy, entertaining, and informative, *Cruise Confidential* is essential reading for those planning a cruise or for anyone who just needs a good laugh.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book because I enjoy going on cruises and thought it would be interesting to get a bit of a behind the scenes view of the cruising world. The book is well written and does a good job of

sharing behind the scenes information, funny stories, and an overall story line following the author through his experience entering the cruise ship world. It provides a great view of what ship employees do behind the scenes, whether it be for better or worse! The author does a great job mixing comedy with his story and makes it a nice smooth read. Highly recommended for anyone that enjoys cruising, is curious about cruising or wants to work on a ship.

It is predictable that the serving crew is overworked and oversexed. The author portrays himself as a one woman person but unfortunately that one woman is not on the boat with him so his celibacy for him to his mate meets with him in Romania. Any person who has taken a cruise knows that the waiters and kitchen staff work incredibly hard. Servers from other countries have this super work ethic and the author says that as an American he is a survivor in the cruel sea ship world. Entertaining to read but not startling. Take it for what it's worth.

Really enjoyed this book. In order to be with the woman he loves (she is from Romania and works on a cruise ship to support her family), the author decides to get hired by Carnival Cruise Line. He is the only American ever hired in the Food Service Department and he quickly learns that work on the cruise is ridiculously hard and the hours are long. He must endure the politics of the ship, prejudice because he is the only working American, shares the truth about what really goes on with the crew on the cruise ships and ultimately ends up no closer to the woman he loves, despite traveling all over the world. This is a really enjoyable book, with interesting characters, fascinating places and tells you just about everything you ever wanted to know about what goes on under the guest cabins on cruise ships. Great storytelling skills.

Boring -- I mean, seriously, how could this book be so boring? But it is. Rather than giving a behind the scenes look at what it is like to be a cruise employee, its purpose seems to be to stroke the author's ego. All we hear about is how sexy he is, what a good guy he is for not cheating on his girlfriend, and how much harder he works than anyone. Of wait - there is more - I almost forgot: he can drink a lot too. Guess what? Staying faithful isn't that big an accomplishment, nor is getting stupidly drunk every night of the week. On top of all the ego stroking, the book isn't even well-written. It's taken me months to finish it because I keep putting it aside and moving on to better quality writing. Don't waste your money or your time on this one.

This book gives a perspective from a young, attractive American male entering a new profession on

a cruise boat. The cruising industry is no different from any other industry-what the public thinks or sees is often very different from the experience of those who work in that industry. I enjoyed reading Brian's experiences. They were funny, frustrating, sometimes repetitive, but always interesting. I have been on a couple of cruises, on different cruise lines, so I had some experience to compare with for reference. This book does not give specific advice about maximizing your cruise experience. This book does not reveal 'cruise secrets' that will maximize your dollar. But, this book will give you a peek into what a dancer, or a waffle maker, or a bar tender, or a laundry washer, etc experiences day after day, week after week, month after month, consecutively, while taking care of your delightful, well-mannered, considerate family. The stereotypes have some truth and for those who are offended about the references on Americans as workers- I would assume you have not travelled outside of the United States and seen how the rest of the world works and the conditions they work in. Some are better, most are far worse. Most of the world doesn't care about being fair. It is just business. I really enjoyed Brian's story and appreciated that he was able to stay true to who he was.

Actually I would rate this book 3 1/2 stars if possible. It was well written with no formatting errors or typos so that is a very good thing on the Kindle. However, call me pessimistic or pragmatic but I found it just a little unbelievable in parts. I don't know how people can survive the pace of life on a ship with just a few hours sleep every night and never a day off for months on end. I would think people would be dropping down all over the place. Instead when they have a half day break if the author is to be believed they are leaving the ship if possible to party on the Caribbean Island, get totally wasted on liquor and then return to the ship for the next tour of duty that same day. These people are super human or else the truth is stretched just a little bit. It seems like some of the waiters can drink for an hour or two, get totally drunk and then sober up in an hour and go on to serve dinner ??? All in all it was a fast fun read with quite a few interesting facts thrown in. But my main problem with the book was the fairy tale ending where everything turned out perfect and was tied up in a neat little bundle.

My wife and I cruise a lot and we enjoy the time away and the interaction with the crew. I thought this would be a fun look into the realities of life at sea for the many hard working men and women who staff these modern ships. Instead, I got a poorly written book by an egotist who comes off as totally obnoxious. His attempts at "humor" are pathetic and he is the kind of person all sane people would avoid like the plague. This is not a good book about cruising--it is rather just another self-absorbed tome about someone who thinks far too highly of himself. Ugh.

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