



Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where the Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, and Parties? One Crazy Year Working on Cruise Ships

Brian David Bruns

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where the Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, and Parties? One Crazy Year Working on Cruise Ships

Brian David Bruns

Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where the Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, and Parties? One Crazy Year Working on Cruise Ships Brian David Bruns

In *Cruise Confidential*, Brian David Bruns spills the dirt — or in this case, the dirty water — 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 "passengers"). 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.

Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where the Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, and Parties? One Crazy Year Working on Cruise Ships Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Brian David Bruns

Format : Kindle Edition 386 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Travel, Autobiography, Memoir, Humor, Biography

 [Download Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where t ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where the Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, and Parties? One Crazy Year Working on Cruise Ships Brian David Bruns

From Reader Review Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterline: Where the Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, and Parties? One Crazy Year Working on Cruise Ships for online ebook

Jamie Lynn Lufrano says

I picked up Cruise Confidential upon returning from my first cruise. The trip had left me wanting to learn more about cruising, and I suppose I was hoping to extend my experience just a little longer (even if only through a book). This book chronicles the first year of the author's experience working on a cruise ship, providing a bit of a behind-the-scenes look into life working at sea. It is an entertaining enough casual book to read, but requires some significant suspension of disbelief. The dialogue is borderline absurd at times and the author expects the reader to blindly accept that he happens to always be ready with the perfect come-back and nearly everyone he encounters is ignorant, unintelligent, or some combination of the two. I found it much easier to get through it by considering this book to be a fictional story within an interesting context. It held my interest well enough, so I would recommend to those with reasonable expectations.

Liz says

Brian David Brun's memoir follows his year long contract on Carnival cruise ships. His experience was very unique as he was the first ever American server to finish a full contract in a Carnival dining room. His writing style/ tone was also interesting. Mr. Brun's tone was that of a confidant if not cocky American, but he also comes across as a very likable, "life of the party" type guy. I still couldn't decide if I loved or loathed him by the end of the book.

As a cruise lover, I was looking for insight on ship life and the life of a crew member as well as funny passenger stories from a crew member's point of view. Though Mr. Brun's tell-all tale did frequently highlight his co-workers' and his own daily routines and struggles, it also seemed repetitive as he frequently discussed his exhaustion and his need for food in far more detail than necessary. He also spent a good bit of the novel pining for Bianca, the girl for whom he signed his contract. His one wish was to follow this Transylvanian beauty around the world. While it was a worth while portion of the story, I simply wanted more cruise stories and less personal struggle.

Heather says

It starts well...the author is fun, the people are interesting, and the insider information is great...but slowly you start to realize that he is telling the same story over and over, spiraling into a bitter tornado of drunken, "it wasn't my fault that I lost it" and "I couldn't have had sex with all of them" self-pity. I got over this book after about the first 100 pages.

Jan says

I have never been on a cruise ship, but I have worked with ESL folks from many different cultures, so I regard this narrative as less reality than wishful thinking. That being said, by regarding it as a fanciful tale full of ego and testosterone, I enjoyed it and laughed myself silly! I mean, come on, he is the best at everything? And everyone is constantly bedhopping? Really, he is NOT James Bond! And no one ever gets mal de mer or Traveller's Revenge? But if you take it as humor, it is hard not to enjoy it. Even if only 10% is based in reality, it is still a smudged window into a workplace that many of us never are aware of. Maybe I just enjoyed it more because it was performed with such agility by Gary Furlong who made it even more fun.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Jenny Brown says

Not a very good book. With some editing it would have made a nice long magazine article, but the author went on and on and on, for hundreds of pages, without telling us anything new. The point of the story seemed to be that he was an alcoholic who was irresistible to women.

To be fair he writes well enough that it wasn't painful to keep reading, once I realized it was just going to be more of the same. Fortunately this was one of those weeks when I needed a nice book to lull me to sleep after a day of intense work, and this book filled that niche nicely.

Bonnie Morse says

I really enjoyed this little memoir of crew life on a Carnival cruise ship. It's definitely a job that only a lovesick man in his twenties would undertake. The hours, the labor, the lack of a reasonable social life sound unbearable, but his sense of humor and relentlessly upbeat attitude left me wanting more. Especially since he left us hanging in regards to whether or not he's still with the woman he endured all this for. I'm hoping there's a sequel.

What made me rate it down a star was the way he talked about the women on the ships. Mostly they were beautiful, and that was always the first thing he mentioned. Women he didn't get along with were always ugly and their appearance always figured into any legitimate complaints about their behavior. That just didn't seem necessary. Although I did appreciate that, no matter what he was saying about any given woman, he never resorted to vulgarity. If we had to hear about how big some mean woman's butt was, at least he used the least offensive words possible*.

*This probably doesn't apply to readers familiar with Jamaican and/or Romanian curse words, many of which are no doubt extremely offensive.

Megalion says

Loved it!!

Highly enjoyable like the recently read "Heads in Beds" (by a hotel front desk agent) only without nearly as much swearing. It doesn't bother me either way but I know not everyone feels like I do. FYI, the swearing in

this book comes from recounting of actual conversations with his fellow crew. After all... they are sailors!

What's particularly fascinating about this "behind the scenes" is that on cruise ships, the crew & staff are all from other countries. First world citizens are rare and never an American. I'm referring to a cruise's support staff, not entertainers or management like cruise directors etc.

Brian was an American determined to be on a cruise ship any way he could. Which winds up being an unique experience for being thrown into an incredibly intense mosh pit of cultures and also seeing Americans from their perspective. Which isn't an "Americans suck" attitude but mostly just about the differences between Americans and everyone else, including Europeans.

I was happy to notice midway through reading that there are two followup books by Brian. Was not surprised to see on his Amazon bio page that efforts are being made to turn this into a tv show, etc.

Definitely a recommended read!

David says

A very interesting book. I work in the cruise industry(on land), and take a lot of cruises, so the book was very interesting. Plus, I could picture exactly on the ship he was talking about since I have been on very similar ships. Two criticisms, however:

1. The author seems to continually mention how many hours he worked and the punishment he took. After awhile it just wasn't convincing-in the end he said he worked many 15 hours a day-yet also said he only slept a few hours a night. While 15 hours is indeed a long day, if he slept the rest that is 9 hours of sleep(without taking time for meals, etc). The long hours, hard work, punishment, etc. lost it's shock value after a while.
2. The author didn't mention weather he would do it again-he also didn't say if he why he did a second contract(on his second ship-the Legend). His original goal was to be close to his girlfriend, but even this didn't work out when they were on the same ship. Why he did a second contract when he could have worked on land and earned a lot more money is unanswered(if working there was horrible I would think that is what he would do).

That said, I learned about the long hours and conditions foriegners work on in the ship-plus what they think of Americans, they we overeate and are un-educated in liberal arts(i.e. Shakesphere). I also learned about the atmosphere where gratuitous sex and drinking is almost a necessity to survive.

Joy says

I picked this up after my first Carnival cruise because I didn't pay for the behind the scenes tour of the ship and this looked interesting. Ugh! My fault for not reading the reviews before purchasing it. The writing is horrendous. The dialogue is awful, the author is fond of both cliches and exclamation points, and his habit of using the word cat instead of God (as in cat bless you, or cat-willing) is just plain annoying.

There are a few interesting tidbits about cruise life scattered in between endless stories of broads and booze. But I read the whole thing, and I don't know if (as the author asks) "that makes me stupid or crazy." Maybe it just makes me a cruise fan. I'd say you'd have to really, Really, REALLY love cruising to actually enjoy this book.

Natalie says

2.5 stars. I started it and finished it, but there were several eye rolls in the process. A lot of the story (and I use "story" literally - a lot of the plot points feel contrived) centers on the author patting himself on the back for enduring the mistreatment he endured at the hands of his superiors as well as his good looks that seem to attract EVERY woman he encounters. This was an easy read, though, and the short chapters made it easy to pick up and put down as time allowed. All-in-all, just meh.

Tina says

Sigh. I don't even know how to say how bad this book was. I cruise a lot, and I was expecting more of a behind the scenes tour. What I got instead was a blow by blow of how drunk cruise employees get and how many people they hook up with and how little sleep they get. The "author" is Brian, supposedly the first American to ever finish a contract in a Carnival dining room. Whatever. First of all, Brian is a spoiled, conceited 30 year old. My immediate comparison is the lead on the short-lived NBC series Outsourced. If you've ever seen it, the lead is Brian. He thinks America is better than every other country and thinks he should have advantages. Indeed, he comes into Carnival for a girl. Stupid. And he comes into a management trainee program, supposedly the fast track, and is shocked when things don't go his way. His main expressions substitute the word Cat for God. For the love of Cat! By Cat! If anyone speaks like this in real life, I'd like to punch him. This isn't even the worst part. He uses too many exclamation points! After every other sentence! Where was his editor! Not proofing this book!

Tara says

I love cruises. So when I saw this Kindle book for \$2.99, I figured it would be worth a read. Plus I spent Thanksgiving in Florida with family, so I wanted something light and easy to read by the pool. Well, it was definitely light reading, but not really what I was expecting.

The full title of this book is "Cruise Confidential: A Hit Below the Waterling: Where the Crew Lives, Eats, Wars, and Parties. One Crazy Year Working on Cruise Ships." Uh...yeah. Longest title ever. Basically, Brian fell in love with a gorgeous Romanian who works on a cruise ship. Naturally, he decides to follow her and get a job with Carnival Cruises. The only problem is that no American has ever lasted a full contract in the dining room of a Carnival ship. The book follows Brian's quest to become the first.

I always wondered why Americans never work on cruise ships. Now I know. It's HARD - long hours, tiny living quarters, weird roommates - just to name a few. Americans don't exactly have the highest work ethic in the world, hence mostly foreigners working on cruise ships. I found that aspect of the book interesting. I like seeing what the living quarters were like, what they thought of the passengers, and stuff like that. Unfortunately, those parts are few and far between.

Most of the book is a platform for Brian to brag about how many hot women he has to beat off with a stick and to rate every woman he meets by her physical attributes. It gets annoying really fast. You know how everyone in their 20s has that one friend who constantly stories about crazy times when they're drunk and it's not really interesting unless you were there and/or also drunk? Yeah, this is that friend if they wrote a book. It's page after page of drunk exploits that you probably had to be there to enjoy. A few stories would have been okay, but most of the book was this crap.

Overall, I didn't really like it. I really wanted to read more about crazy guest stories and things like that. I also didn't like how it just abruptly ended. Brian does finish his contract with Carnival (the first American ever!) though. He starts working towards a job as an art auctioneer with Carnival, but the book just sort of ends there. We don't really find out what happens between him and his girlfriend either, which is what a good chunk of the book is about!

Craig says

Started to read it on a western Caribbean cruise in April. Knew it would be awful, but thought it might give me some insight into the lives onboard of the crew I would spend a week with.

It was awful (beyond awful). Just no way to finish it. Yech.

Julie says

I'd give this a 2.5 if the option was available. I like the author's voice but his story was mostly boring with him getting drunk, being pursued by women and how proud he was of being faithful to his girlfriend, all while surviving on 4 hours of sleep a night. I would have rather read a bit more about interactions with passengers - who makes a good passenger vs. the ones from hell. The couple of stories about bad passengers were really interesting, such as the "Roundells" who ordered 6 entrees apiece!

Carrie says

Two stars because it's not quite as bad as LeBron James' book.
