



Plane Insanity

Elliott Hester

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Make sure your seatbacks and tray tables are in their full upright and locked position for these shocking, bizarre, hilarious, and outrageous stories of airplane travel.

You're belted into a middle seat with burly businessmen on either side. It's ninety-two degrees in the cabin and someone forgot to use deodorant. A baby screams. A kid kicks the back of your seat. After two hours you haven't even left the taxiway. Welcome to modern airline travel! In *Plane Insanity*, Elliott Hester delivers stories that could only come from someone who "rides tin" for a living---a flight attendant.

You'll hear about:

- * the passenger from hell
- * a smuggled python
- * prostitutes working the lavatories
- * a riot in coachclass
- * a \$500,000 heist
- * the anatomy of a carry-on bag
- * a malodorous couple
- * the Mile-High Club
- * and much more!

Fasten your seatbelts. After *Plane Insanity*, you'll never think of air travel the same way again.

Plane Insanity Details

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Author : Elliott Hester

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Genre : Nonfiction, Travel, Humor, Autobiography, Memoir, Aviation, Writing, Essays

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From Reader Review Plane Insanity for online ebook

Andreas Porwanto says

DAMN! This was entertaining AF! I couldn't stop laughing.

Bea Lathrop says

This was written pre-9/11 so it would be interesting to see how the author would portray his interactions with the flying public after 9/11. They were bad before; must be worse now. This book was an easy read.

Tim Williams says

Beach read.

Jane Davis says

If you read Free For All about the goings on in libraries you will like this book---and keep an eye out for Jonathan.

Jeffrey says

This book is about a male flight attendant's experience of angry passengers, babies screaming, drunk people, fist fights in the cabin, lousy hotels, old pilots, etc. It is extremely hilarious and made me feel a little sympathy for flight attendants.

Brittany says

I love learning about the inside world of jobs. Makes me so glad I don't work customer service anymore. Some people are NUTS!!!!

Lauren says

Elliott Hester is a flight attendant for a major American airline. He flies all kinds of routes, though many of his stories seem to include routes to South America. He lets us know what it's like to be a flight attendant and all the quirky stories that go along with it. The stories range from funny to gross. It's an interesting look in to this life, which you would normally only see for a few hours at a time.

Having just finished a book that looked inside the world of waiters (Waiter Rant), it's hard not to draw comparisons to this book. And unfortunately for this book, I found Waiter Rant better. There were a couple of reasons for this.

First, I found like Hester had no passion for what he was doing. He worked this for a job and then expected us to care about what he did in his job. As a result, you only care about the stories but not much about Hester himself. Some of the responses he gave customers I would consider unprofessional given the industry he's in. Sure, some of the customers are jerks and deserve worse, but in the service industry you still need to be polite to people (up to a certain point, I guess). Hester seemed snippy with most everyone and it just made me glad that I've never been on a flight with him before.

The second is Hester's continuous negative description of people. For example, there was an incident on one of his flights where a flyer has a heart attack so they call for a doctor. There is a doctor, but apparently he's fat. So Hester says the doctor waddles down the aisle like a pregnant lady and then every time this doctor is mentioned again, he's called some form of fat. Why? The doctor wasn't even a major player in the story, nor had he treated anyone poorly.

All in all, I think Hester's a bit of an ass himself, which made it hard for me to like this book.

Jenni says

Solid three star book for me. Kinda silly, pretty informative but fairly amusing anecdotes of life as a flight attendant. It wasn't laugh out loud funny for me - more like small chuckle or occasional smile funny. But still a good read.

The only drawback is that it's a bit dated - written pre 9/11 so a lot has changed. I've also read Heather Poole's book "Cruising Attitude" and preferred that one, for its humor qualities and because it was published more recently (2012). But both are fun, mindless entertainment.

Eva Leger says

I wanted to read this because my Mom is a flight attendant for some time and she's shared some funny stories. Apparently they all have to deal with idiots because Hester's book is truly good for some laughs.

I can't lie - toward the ending it drags a bit. Like he needed a certain amount of pages or chapters and was running empty. I skipped a little. I try not to do that but sometimes it can't be helped.

I liked the inclusion of the articles in the beginning and middle but again, by the end, they all read the same and I found myself skipping those too.

Hester obviously has an awesome sense of humor though and that does shine through.

Rachel says

Cute, but outdated. Meals were still served in coach. Also, nowadays, this is so suited to being Facebook clickbait... "The flight attendant opened the lavatory door and couldn't believe what he saw!" or "12 things flight attendants say never to do in an airplane!"

What? I never follow those links.

Michael Pazillo says

Well written book

This is a well written book. I now have a greater understanding of what the flight crews have to deal with as far today's flying public are acting. I have a friend who is a flight attendant and will compare notes with her.

Michael Sova says

A while back, I wrote a Turn the Page book review of *The Skies Belong to Us: Love and Terror in the Golden Age of Hijacking* by Brendan I. Koerner. I also published an interview with the author. It's called *Meet Mr. Know-It-All* and it's well worth reading because Mr. Koerner is an award winning journalist and a fascinating guy.

The Skies Belong to Us is about the rash of airline hijackings that occurred from 1961 to 1972. People's reasons for hijacking airplanes ranged from a desire to defect to one man who took over an airline simply because he missed his mom's cooking. True story. Of course, it was far easier to get away with that stuff back in the days when airport security was virtually nonexistent. Those days are thankfully long gone, but if you are under the impression airline travel has gotten boring you've been grossly misinformed.

In the book *Plane Insanity: A Flight Attendant's Tales of Sex, Rage and Queasiness at 30,000 Feet*, travel writer Elliott Hester paints a sometimes humorous, sometimes ridiculous and often horrifying picture of his years flying the not-so-friendly skies. By the way, if you're not familiar with Hester, he's definitely worth reading up on. In his most recent book, *Adventures of a Continental Drifter: An Around-the-World Excursion into Weirdness, Danger, Lust, and the Perils of Street Food*, the author discusses why, in 2002, he sold off all his worldly possessions to enjoy a keyless existence and travel the world. I haven't read that one yet but I definitely plan to. For now, we'd better get to the gate because our flight is ready to board.

If you've flown more than twice in your life, it's a good bet you've suffered through at least one bad flight. That might have been due to a crying baby, a seat kicker, an incessant talker, a fidgeter, a complainer, a gas passer, or that person who selects a window seat but has to visit the bathroom three times during a two hour flight. Other problems can arise too: inclement weather, mechanical issues, lost luggage, and any number of other things. I once spent an entire night at the Charlotte airport. We got in late. There was an ice storm. There were no cabs or hotel rooms to be had and no more flights would be going in or out until the following morning. All the airport amenities had long since closed up shop. As compensation, each passenger was given a cracker-thin blanket, a juice box, a package of nuts, and a rock hard section of floor on which to try to get comfortable. It was miserable any way you slice it, but after reading *Plane Insanity*, I think I got off light.

Hester spent over a decade and a half as a flight attendant. In *Plane Insanity*, he describes the abuses he suffered almost on a daily basis. You might think flight attendants do little more than review safety instructions, deliver drinks, and stalk the cabin to verify that seats and tray tables are properly positioned for takeoff and landing. Read *Plane Insanity* and you'll come away with a fuller appreciation of a mostly

thankless job. You've heard of the "mile high club." You'll be amazed how many people try to join, even those sitting in coach. Along with debauchery, often brought on by excessive alcohol consumption, Hester has dealt with rudeness, belligerence, paranoia, extreme body odor, projectile vomit and the list goes on. In Plane Insanity, he discusses all that and a whole lot more. It's a great read; but if you're going to be flying anytime soon, you might want to save this one until you get home. On the other hand, if you're considering smuggling a python onboard a commercial flight in your carry-on, read Plane Insanity now for some valuable

Carianne Carleo-Evangelist says

I **loved** this book. It was passed on to me by another traveller this morning at JFK and it was one of those times I **really** wish I had pre-numbered labels as this could have been the perfect non-security area release--ie on to another passenger or in the plane's book rack--yes, Air Canada has them!

Some bits I liked:

-OK, I'm odd and I read the dedications and title pages and what not--this really struck me so I'm glad I did. Plane Insanity was written, edited and sent to press prior to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. As victims rest in peace, why can't we learn to live in it? So so true.

-"...air travel in its purest main-cabin form, is little more than public transportation. Greyhound at thirty thousand feet. Amtrak with wings." **Giggle** so so true, though I was pleasantly surprised by AirCanada. And because the long-haul flight was to and from Osaka, there is some innate courtesy in the Japanese and I didn't see/hear anyone behaving too badly.

A great laugh, especially while travelling cattle class, but I can say for sure I'd never want to be a flight attendant!

Red says

A fun read that made me a much more considerate airline passenger!!

Joe says

This is a flight experience you never knew between the obligatory announcements. From the hilarious to the disgusting, this book is bound to keep you casually entertained, perfect reading material for when you happen to be waiting on your own next flight.

Growing up I used to watch the Travel Channel and Discovery for their excellent coverage of behind-the-scenes of fascinating industries. I think there's a variation of one of those shows today, Modern Marvels, but it lacks the depth of the shows I remember.

Anyway, these are snapshots from a veteran flight attendant's experience here and abroad, in air and on land,

and although you will find it difficult to read it through in one sitting, it makes for the perfect little reading companion between more involved books. It's easy enough to read a few chapters, put down and resume in a few weeks without missing a beat.

3.5 stars.
