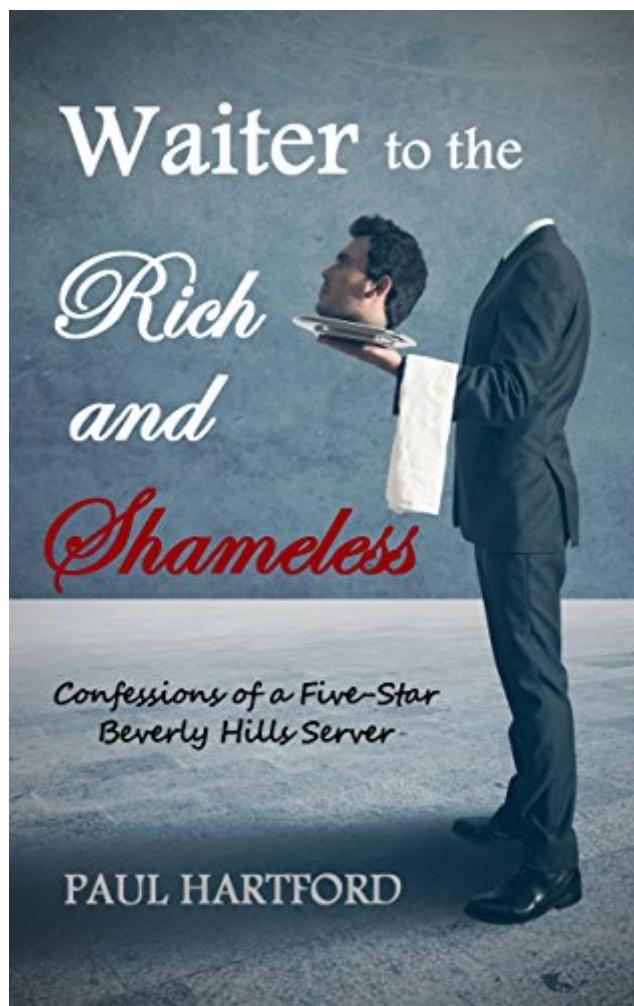


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Waiter To The Rich And Shameless: Confessions Of A Five-Star Beverly Hills Server



Synopsis

A down-and-out musician chops off his hair to become a server at the top of the Hollywood food chain, discovering a cloistered world of money, fame, bad behavior and intrigue. Waiter to the Rich and Shameless is not just a peek into the secretive inner workings of a legendary 5-star restaurant; it is not just a celebrity tell-all or a scathing corporate analysis. It is a top-tier waiter's personal coming-of-age story, an intimate look into the complicated challenges of serving in the country's most elite, Hollywood-centric dining room while fighting to maintain a sense of self and purpose. Of the many millions of food service workers around the globe, only a tiny number ever ascend to a top-level position at a world-renowned restaurant catering to iconic celebrities, moguls and politicians. As one of those select few, Paul ("Pauli") Hartford is the first waiter to open the door into a cloistered, coveted world of money, fame, bad behavior and intrigue. He peels back the veneer of civility and culture at the nation's most preeminent celebrity hangout, the Cricket Room, in Beverly Hills, California. He exposes the epic human foibles of its elite clientele, the dining room's corrupt corporate culture, its clandestine culinary practices, and the heartbreaking struggles of its beleaguered waitstaff. This keenly-observed story also traverses Pauli's ten-year evolution from a jaded, party-hungry rock musician who moonlights as a bartender, into a snobbish and pretentious waiter, and finally into a polished and sophisticated server who takes his job so seriously that it drives him to the brink of illness. Pauli finds himself at first seduced by his famous guests' glamour and self-indulgence, then accustomed to it, and finally appalled by it. For obvious reasons, some details and specifics about the real Cricket Room have been cleverly disguised, but discerning readers will easily connect the dots.

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Customer Reviews

As a restaurant owner I'm reading more books about the business but still trying to be entertained and this book clearly did that. You will get great setup information of the roles of the different players in the restaurant industry and great descriptions of how this service can make a difference. This is what I came for. But what makes this book entertaining is this "almost rock star" who enjoys his high paying bartender job which turns in to a top waiter job at the Polo Lounge in Beverly Hills. Or at least that's my guess. I've made stops there but always for drinks, never for dinner which I will definitely do soon due to this great description. Ok, if you want to hear about stars, who is good to wait on, who is not, this is the book for you. He has personal favorites and does a good job in great detail showing how so many stars are really good people and, some who are not. And I must admit, some of the bills for dinner absolutely astounded me. I've paid \$4,000 dinner bills for business. But I cannot imagine taking a family of four to dinner and a bill of \$8,000! I think I'll pass on the expensive \$4,000 bottles of wine. But what is very compelling is the pride in this distinguished restaurant which eventually turns in to disdain as he views their foreign corporate owner as destroying their previously great culture. How this plays out and how well he conveys this in words is exceptional and I thoroughly enjoyed and recommend. Favorite part? The author looks up to one professional waiter who after hours turns in to a sexual/drug induced deviant. Well, at least in a good way and these stories are very entertaining. I strongly recommend this book.

I wasn't really sure what to expect when I read the title, but I found "Waiter to the Rich and Shameless" to be rather uniquely entertaining. Paul not only shares his personal experiences waiting on celebrities, but his personal life struggles and desires as well. If you've never waited on people before, it can be a very difficult and humbling experience. Yet you loose yourself doing it, after a while you meld with your regulars, but in reality you're not really part of their life - so the jokes

on you. I was glad to read that Paul finally broke away from all of it in the end and is rediscovering what he loves about life. The journey in between is a fun read, Paul writes in a very personal manner, onw which I have never experienced before.. swear words, slangs and all! So many; life lesson between the pages, it's worth a read for just about everyone. And if your into celebrity details... I think you will quite enjoy this!

I was surprised to find that this book focuses more on being a waiter, rather than on how celebrities act. I thought this might've been more of a stance against the famous treating other people poorly. To my delight, it actually depicts a picture of a waiter who starts out proud of his job, but at the end becomes burned out as the restaurant falls into cooperate regulation. The thing I enjoyed most about this book was the staff that Pauli interacts with. Paul does a great job in making the reader feel like they're actually hearing these people talk, how they act, and what they might be like in the Cricket Room. Jens is a personal favorite of mine, and the stories of his little escapades made me chuckle from time to time. These stories make it even sadder when Jens gets fired for seemingly little reason. There is a few instances where the reader sees how celebrities act. The reader will quickly realize that the author likes some celebrities more than others, and he's definitely not shy about sharing his opinion on them. But things like that don't really bother me, so I found it entertaining. One thing to note, however, is that the book goes a little too much into detail about the food. While I realize it can help us get a sense of what the Cricket Room serves, I think there's a little too much of it here. But that's just a minor note. The book isn't set in a traditional story arc. But that's okay. What you do get is snippets of what it would be like to work at the Cricket Room. Also, I firmly believe that anyone who's ever worked in the food industry will love this book. And even if you hadn't, it's worth a look.

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