



Kahn, Captain Karen M.
FLIGHT GUIDE FOR SUCCESS:
*Tips & Tactics for the Aspiring
Airline Pilot*
Cheltenham Publishing (288 pp.)
\$19.95 paperback
February 2004
ISBN: 0-9741723-0-8

A new edition of a specialized guidebook, grounded in common sense and the author's experience. Kahn, a career counselor with over 35 years of aviation experience, argues that, above all else, an aspiring pilot must possess passion. Assuming that her readers share her enthusiasm, she systematically but informally leads them down possible paths for pursuing this passion. Many of the author's tips, though addressed to those in a particular field, apply equally to any young professional: Ask a lot of questions during training, learn the potentially boring technical details, make a good first impression on potential employers, present a neat resume, be prepared for an interviewer's tricky questions, etc. The most distinctive section is "Women's Issues," in which Kahn acknowledges that "aviation is predominately a man's world." The author offers strategies for dealing with boys-will-be-boys hangar banter, arguing that women must learn how to "get along with" the boys without "acting like one of them."

Though mostly straightforward, the narrative occasionally relies on stale buzzwords, like "networking factor" and "a win/win situation," as well as aviation jargon and acronyms. Without an entirely helpful glossary (the one following the text addresses only the acronyms), many readers may be baffled by phrases such as, "log his right seat safety pilot ME time as PIC." More specific anecdotes would improve the book, as would more of the author's use of guileless humor to underline her points—for example, her husband's quip that she got her position because of "T and A—talent and ability!" Kahn herself offers the best advice on using her book: Readers should focus on those essays most relevant to their level of experience.

Sound and sensible guidelines for the aviation enthusiast.

—*Kirkus Discoveries*

