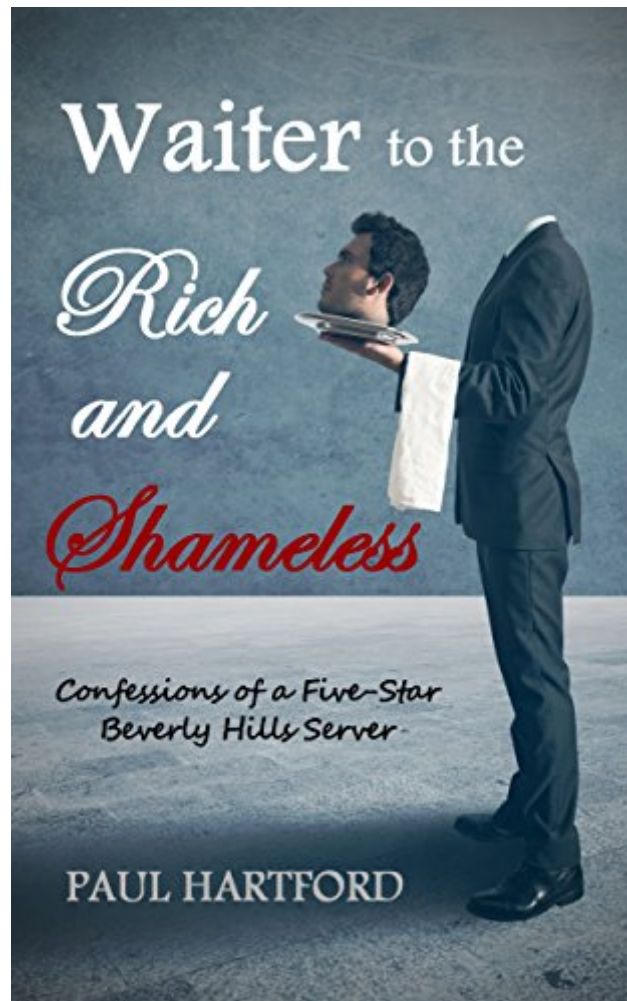


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Waiter To The Rich And Shameless: Confessions Of A Five-Star Beverly Hills Server



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

The Waiting Game "Waiter to the Rich and Shameless" is an insider's look at what really goes on behind the scenes at a legendary Beverly Hills watering hole at the epicenter of the Los Angeles entertainment establishment. Savvy observers will be able to easily identify the venue. Hint: "The Cricket Room" is not its actual name. "The Cricket Room" is THE place where celebrities go to see and be seen. It's where they relax far away from the watchful eyes of a prying public. It's where they make deals and prove they can spend more money for a meal and beverages than the patrons of Morton's of Chicago ever would. Some civilians pop in when they're in town for a rare in-person glimpse of their favorite A-listers. "Paul Hartford" knows the scene well. He was part of it as a bartender, and then a waiter, for more than a decade. He gives you a picture of what goes on inside people's heads "the famous, infamous, and those who serve them." It was cool during my training to learn that the Cricket Room bar uses the old-fashioned, classic "Club Service," says Paulie, the book's narrator. "The whole presentation of even the simplest drink was one of elegance, class, and sophistication." This is what the patrons expect but Paulie also reveals the way the sausage of elegant service is made. He also shows us the raw commercial considerations that are hidden agenda of the establishment's corporate overlords. As far as the patrons are concerned, Paulie describes them, essentially, as swimming in an "infinite sea of sin." If the Hotel California had a room like this it would be something very close to "The Cricket Room." A typical night might include a visit by Brad Pitt during the filming of Troy.

"Check please!" This satisfying serving of celebrity dish and meaty "where is my life going" angst will fill the bill for a delicious tale. Follow "Paulie" on his journey of discovery from rock musician with lots of boy band hair and attitude to haughty server to the rich and shamelessly obnoxious. Meet celebrities without the protective handlers and camera lens that separate them from reality. Try to figure out the real name of the restaurant/bar in Hollywood; accompany Paulie to

orgies and the Italian adventure of a lifetime. Only the names are changed to protect the author from legal consequences. That's okay. You'll figure it out. Buon appetite! This is a true story but told through the eyes of a pseudonymous main character and a disguised (due to legal consequences) setting. The rich and shameless are exposed and you'll recognize all of them, even though they will be without their publicity agents and handlers. You'll be trying to figure out the real name of the restaurant and the real identity of the waiter, like a detective solving a crime. Clues abound so pay attention. Follow Pauli along an evolutionary 10-year journey from disillusioned rock musician to semi-invisible waiter in Hollywood's premier celebrity haunt. As a waiter, he's in a position to get up close and personal with stage and film luminaries. He is witness to their behavior, sometimes abhorrent, often obnoxious, but occasionally classy and kind. If you've ever wondered how your favorite superstar behaves when there's no camera or spotlight, you'll grab this book and devour it like candy.

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