

First Class or Bust

Introduction

In a world obsessed with comfort and convenience, we often find ourselves entangled in a web of first-world problems that can drive us to the brink of despair. From the indignities of coach class to the torment of low thread count sheets, the never-ending quest for artisanal olive oil to the perils of online dating, we are constantly bombarded with a barrage of minor inconveniences that can make us question the very meaning of life.

In this laugh-out-loud collection of essays, Pasquale De Marco takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the absurdities of modern life, offering a hilarious and relatable account of the everyday struggles we all face. With wit and charm, Pasquale De Marco explores the peculiar

customs, bizarre trends, and social faux pas that define our era, leaving us both entertained and enlightened.

From the perils of public speaking to the agony of jury duty, the horrors of home improvement projects to the challenges of modern parenting, Pasquale De Marco leaves no stone unturned in their quest to uncover the hidden humor in the mundane. Whether you're a seasoned traveler who has endured the horrors of lost luggage or a reluctant homeowner battling a leaky faucet, you're sure to find solace and laughter in these pages.

Pasquale De Marco writes with a keen eye for detail and a knack for storytelling, bringing to life the everyday annoyances that can send us spiraling into a vortex of frustration. With a healthy dose of sarcasm and a dash of self-deprecating humor, Pasquale De Marco guides us through the minefield of modern living, helping us to see the lighter side of even the most trying situations.

So, if you're ready to embrace the absurdity of life and find the humor in the everyday, then step into the world of First Class or Bust and prepare to be entertained. From the first page to the last, you'll find yourself nodding in agreement, laughing out loud, and wondering how you ever took these first-world problems so seriously.

Book Description

In a world where comfort and convenience are often taken for granted, *First Class or Bust* offers a hilarious and relatable look at the absurd and often infuriating problems that plague our modern lives. With wit, charm, and a keen eye for detail, Pasquale De Marco explores the peculiar customs, bizarre trends, and social faux pas that define our era.

From the indignities of coach class to the torment of low thread count sheets, the never-ending quest for artisanal olive oil to the perils of online dating, Pasquale De Marco leaves no stone unturned in their quest to uncover the hidden humor in the mundane. With a healthy dose of sarcasm and a dash of self-deprecating humor, Pasquale De Marco guides us through the minefield of modern living, helping us to see the lighter side of even the most trying situations.

Whether you're a seasoned traveler who has endured the horrors of lost luggage or a reluctant homeowner battling a leaky faucet, you're sure to find solace and laughter in these pages. Pasquale De Marco writes with a knack for storytelling, bringing to life the everyday annoyances that can send us spiraling into a vortex of frustration.

From the perils of public speaking to the agony of jury duty, the horrors of home improvement projects to the challenges of modern parenting, Pasquale De Marco explores the absurdities of modern life with a unique blend of humor and insight. You'll find yourself nodding in agreement, laughing out loud, and wondering how you ever took these first-world problems so seriously.

First Class or Bust is a laugh-out-loud collection of essays that will resonate with anyone who has ever been driven to the brink of despair by the indignities of modern life. With a keen eye for detail and a gift for

storytelling, Pasquale De Marco transforms the everyday annoyances we all face into a source of amusement and laughter.

So, if you're ready to embrace the absurdity of life and find the humor in the everyday, then step into the world of First Class or Bust and prepare to be entertained. From the first page to the last, you'll find yourself questioning the very meaning of life, all while laughing out loud at the hilarious and relatable misadventures of Pasquale De Marco.

Chapter 1: High-Flying Horrors

The Agony of the Middle Seat

Trapped in the dreaded middle seat, surrounded by strangers, with barely enough room to breathe, let alone stretch your legs. It's a scenario that can turn even the most seasoned traveler into a ball of anxiety.

The middle seat is the Bermuda Triangle of air travel, a purgatory where comfort goes to die. You're sandwiched between two fellow passengers, each with their own unique set of quirks and annoyances. The person on your left insists on reclining their seat all the way back, crushing you against the window. The person on your right is a fidgety flyer, constantly shifting and jostling you. And if you're unlucky, you'll be seated next to someone who spends the entire flight coughing, sneezing, or talking loudly.

But it's not just the physical discomfort of the middle seat that makes it so unbearable. It's the psychological

torture. You're trapped, with no escape. You can't get up to use the restroom without disturbing your seatmates. You can't reach your carry-on luggage without contorting your body into an unnatural position. And if you need to get something from your seat pocket, you have to ask your seatmates to move so you can access it.

To make matters worse, the middle seat is often the last to be served food and drinks. By the time the flight attendant reaches you, the only thing left is a sad, congealed sandwich and a lukewarm cup of coffee.

If you're ever unfortunate enough to find yourself in the middle seat, there are a few things you can do to make the experience a little more bearable. First, try to book your seat in advance so you can choose a window or aisle seat. If you're stuck with a middle seat, try to arrive at the airport early so you can board the plane first and choose the least undesirable middle seat.

Once you're on the plane, try to make friends with your seatmates. A little conversation can help pass the time and make the flight go by faster. You can also bring your own entertainment, such as a book, magazine, or tablet, to help you stay occupied.

Finally, remember that the middle seat is just a temporary inconvenience. Eventually, the flight will end and you'll be free to stretch your legs and breathe easy once again.

Chapter 1: High-Flying Horrors

The Perils of Overhead Bin Tetris

Overhead bin Tetris is a game of skill, strategy, and a whole lot of frustration. It's a game that you're forced to play every time you board a plane, whether you're a seasoned traveler or a nervous flyer.

The goal of the game is to fit all of your carry-on luggage into the overhead bin, while also ensuring that it's evenly distributed so that the plane doesn't tip over. This sounds simple enough, but it can be surprisingly difficult, especially when the overhead bin is already half-full.

First, you have to decide which bag to put in first. Do you start with your heaviest bag? Your most fragile bag? Your most awkwardly shaped bag? There's no easy answer, and the wrong choice can lead to disaster.

Once you've chosen your first bag, you have to start playing Tetris. You have to rotate and twist your bag so

that it fits perfectly into the available space. You have to be careful not to block the aisle or the emergency exit. And you have to make sure that your bag doesn't fall out when the plane takes off or lands.

If you're lucky, you'll be able to fit all of your bags into the overhead bin without too much trouble. But if you're not so lucky, you may have to gate-check your bag. This means that your bag will be taken away from you and stored in the cargo hold of the plane.

Gate-checking your bag is a major inconvenience. You have to wait at the baggage claim carousel after the flight, and you run the risk of your bag being lost or damaged. That's why it's so important to pack light and try to fit all of your belongings into your carry-on luggage.

If you're struggling to fit your bags into the overhead bin, there are a few things you can do. First, try to arrive at the airport early so you can board the plane first and choose a bin that's not already full. Second, try

to pack your bags in a way that maximizes space. And third, don't be afraid to ask a flight attendant for help.

Chapter 1: High-Flying Horrors

Crying Babies, Talkative Seatmates, and Other In-Flight Annoyances

Air travel is a necessary evil for many people, but it can also be a very unpleasant experience. In addition to the stress of security lines and flight delays, there are also a number of in-flight annoyances that can make your journey even more miserable.

One of the most common in-flight annoyances is crying babies. There's nothing worse than being stuck on a long flight next to a baby who won't stop crying. The crying can be disruptive and make it difficult to sleep or concentrate. And if the baby is sitting in front of you, you may also have to deal with the smell of dirty diapers.

Another common in-flight annoyance is talkative seatmates. Some people seem to think that airplanes are the perfect place to have a loud conversation. They

talk and laugh incessantly, even when the other passengers are trying to sleep or read. And if you're seated next to one of these people, there's nothing you can do but suffer through it.

But crying babies and talkative seatmates are just the tip of the iceberg. There are a number of other in-flight annoyances that can make your journey a living hell. These include:

- **The person who reclines their seat all the way back, even though you're tall and your knees are already hitting the seat in front of you.**
- **The person who gets up to use the restroom every few minutes, even though the flight is only an hour long.**
- **The person who brings a strong-smelling food item on the plane and then proceeds to eat it, even though everyone else on the plane can smell it.**

- **The person who watches videos or plays games on their phone without headphones, even though everyone else on the plane can hear it.**
- **The person who brings a pet on the plane and then lets it roam free, even though it's against the airline's policy.**

If you're lucky, you'll be able to avoid all of these in-flight annoyances. But if you're not so lucky, you may have to endure one or more of them on your next flight.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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