



# Introduction

## *What's an Accidental Leader?*

**Y**ou're in a movie, or a dream. You're a junior member of an airline flight crew. Your usual job is serving drinks and giving safety instructions. But something just happened in the cockpit: the pilot and copilot have come down with food poisoning and are puking their guts out in the lavatories.

Someone has to land the plane, and 120 people in coach—mostly nuns, Boy Scouts, and football players—are all looking to *you*.

Your heart is pounding like a kettledrum as you make your way toward the front cabin and sit down at that galaxy of controls. You've got a good attitude, though. You tell yourself, "I can do it, I can do it! I can—"

**Then the plane goes into a nosedive.**