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The New Age of Working Women

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Young female engineers and managers at Airbus often "play blonde," a tactic that has helped them gain acceptance in this bastion of maleness.

These testimonials collected over the course of five years of research reveal a new phenomenon: younger generations of women managers are highly pragmatic in their strategies to seize opportunities offered by new workplace equality policies. With a healthy dose of humor and modesty, they reflect on and analyze everyday experiences of domination, both at work and at home, developing capacities for action, even empowerment, that may spread to all the women at Airbus. Although they are aware of the fragility of their accomplishments, sometimes hiding their successes even from their own families, these women are extremely clear-sighted about how much work still needs to be done.