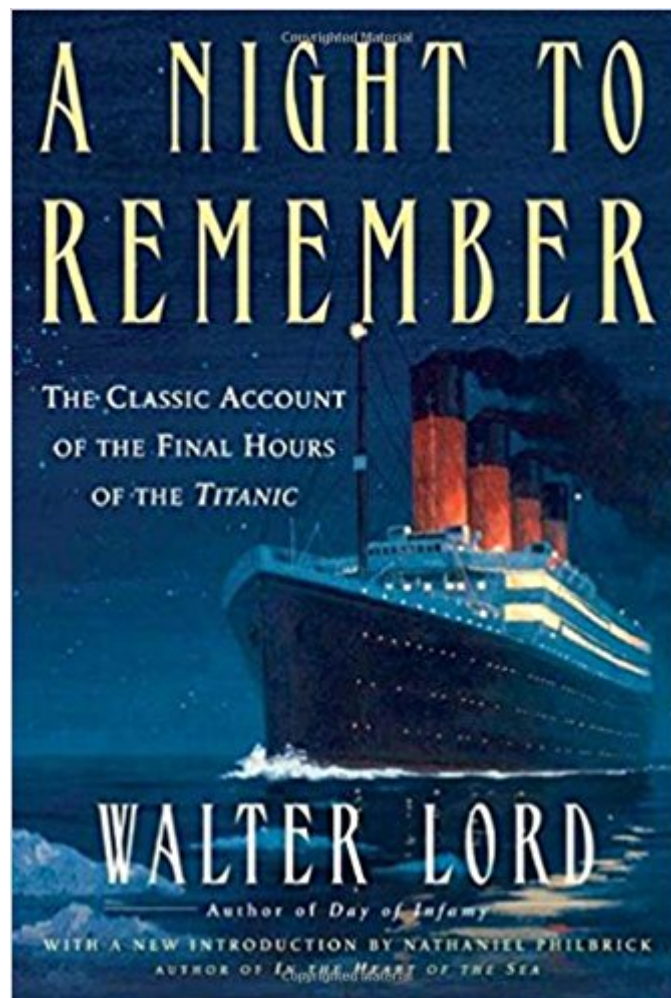




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# A Night To Remember: The Classic Account Of The Final Hours Of The Titanic (Holt Paperback)



## Synopsis

The classic minute-by-minute account of the sinking of the Titanic, in a 50th anniversary edition with a new introduction by Nathaniel Philbrick First published in 1955, *A Night to Remember* remains a completely riveting account of the Titanic's fatal collision and the behavior of the passengers and crew, both noble and ignominious. Some sacrificed their lives, while others fought like animals for their own survival. Wives beseeched husbands to join them in lifeboats; gentlemen went taut-lipped to their deaths in full evening dress; and hundreds of steerage passengers, trapped below decks, sought help in vain. Available for the first time in trade paperback and with a new introduction for the 50th anniversary edition by Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *In the Heart of the Sea* and *Sea of Glory*, Walter Lord's classic minute-by-minute re-creation is as vivid now as it was upon first publication fifty years ago. From the initial distress flares to the struggles of those left adrift for hours in freezing waters, this semicentennial edition brings that moonlit night in 1912 to life for a new generation of readers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James Cameron's 1997 Titanic movie is a smash hit, but Walter Lord's 1955 classic remains in some ways unsurpassed. Lord interviewed scores of Titanic passengers, fashioning a gripping you-are-there account of the ship's sinking that you can read in half the time it takes to see the film. The book boasts many perfect movie moments not found in Cameron's film. When the ship hits the berg, passengers see "tiny splinters of ice in the air, fine as dust, that give off myriads of bright

colors whenever caught in the glow of the deck lights." Survivors saw dawn reflected off other icebergs in a rainbow of shades, depending on their angle toward the sun: pink, mauve, white, deep blue--a landscape so eerie, a little boy tells his mom, "Oh, Muddie, look at the beautiful North Pole with no Santa Claus on it." A Titanic funnel falls, almost hitting a lifeboat--and consequently washing it 30 yards away from the wreck, saving all lives aboard. One man calmly rides the vertical boat down as it sinks, steps into the sea, and doesn't even get his head wet while waiting to be successfully rescued. On one side of the boat, almost no males are permitted in the lifeboats; on the other, even a male Pekingese dog gets a seat. Lord includes a crucial, tragically ironic drama Cameron couldn't fit into the film: the failure of the nearby ship Californian to save all those aboard the sinking vessel because distress lights were misread as random flickering and the telegraph was an early wind-up model that no one wound. Lord's account is also smarter about the horrifying class structure of the disaster, which Cameron reduces to hollow Hollywood formula. No children died in the First and Second Class decks; 53 out of 76 children in steerage died. According to the press, which regarded the lower-class passengers as a small loss to society, "The night was a magnificent confirmation of women and children first, yet somehow the loss rate was higher for Third Class children than First Class men." As the ship sank, writes Lord, "the poop deck, normally Third Class space ... was suddenly becoming attractive to all kinds of people." Lord's logic is as cold as the Atlantic, and his bitter wit is quite dry. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Publicity surrounding the Academy Award- winning motion picture Titanic makes this a sure-to-circulate choice. Lord's classic time-travel tale drawn from survivors' accounts remains the best Titanic story after all these years. The analysis of the event moves from reports of pretrip hype through the ambiance of the fated last evening to first reports of trouble, loading life boats, and rescue efforts. Though the recording features no atmosphere music or sound effects, Fred Williams's reading sounds so like a news report that the immediacy engages the reader from the start. Highly recommended for all collections. ASandy Glover, West Linn P.L., ORCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have always been fascinated by the Titanic tragedy. I think this is the ultimate Titanic book. Lord interviewed survivors to put together the events factually and chronologically. Of course, at the end, he gives some differences on accounts as people's memories (or just to make their part of the story better) may not agree. I just kept shaking my head as I was reading this book over everything that

happened. Everything that could go wrong....went wrong. I read this on my Kindle app on my iPad which was good because there were so many people referenced, and I could go back to the X-ray feature to refresh my memory on who they were. I'm pretty sure I got this as a Kindle daily deal and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in a true account of what happened that awful night.

First published in 1955, time has not diminished the power of this classic account of the final hours of the Titanic to capture the imagination and interest of the reader. It was turned into an award winning hit movie of the same name in the late 1950s. Not only is the book a well-written, riveting account of the Titanic's final hours, it also tells the personal stories of some of the passengers and crew members that survived that harrowing time. It is also a peek into a bygone time, that of the Edwardian era, when class distinctions were more marked and the concept of women and children first prevailed. Although the story of the Titanic is a tragic one, out of its debacle arose improved shipboard safety, and the practice of having enough lifeboats to accommodate all passengers became the standard. No longer would an ocean going vessel ever market itself as unsinkable. This is a marvelous book that those with an interest in the Titanic or stories of survival will love. I was positively riveted from start to finish.

I felt this book was as honest and real as it could be. It seemed to play fair with the truth and non truths that have haunted the Titanic legend. I appreciated the dedication to tell as many stories as possible no matter someone's classification on the ship. Too many times the 3rd class passengers and crew members are forgotten about or ignored all together. This book did a better job than most in exposing the corrupt nature of society during this time. It allowed the reader the opportunity to learn new facts about this story and decide for themselves what they wanted to believe as truth or fiction.

This is a GREAT read and even after all these years is still considered the Titanic Bible! Walter Lord's writing draws you right into the Edwardian Era, and since he wrote much of this book in the 1950's, he was able to interview many Titanic survivors. Lord writes in such a way that he can tell many individual stories yet tie them all together as tragedy and the iceberg strike. Seriously, you won't want to put it down.

It's a little dated and lacking in details. Not a bad read for someone wanting a quick hit on the

doomed ship's brief life and how tragedy was compounded by incompetence and stupidity in letting the lifeboats cast off often less than half full.

The sinking of the Titanic and subsequent rescue of survivors in semi-condensed version, as seen from the viewpoints of the survivors. Unlike similar "historical" accounts, not much in the way of conjecture is added. Discrepancies in some stories are acknowledged, making the overall description believable and factual.

The tragedy of the RMS Titanic is certainly the most famous ship sinking in history. Sailing across the Atlantic from Europe and bound for New York in April 1912 with about 2,200 people aboard, the ship would hit an iceberg and sink in the middle of the night. The tragedy was only worsened by several events: there were not enough lifeboats aboard for everyone, the women and children first principle is thought to have needlessly cost the lives of many men aboard, and the inaction of the Californian which was the closest ship to the Titanic at the time. About 1,500 people lost their lives in the disaster. In the mid-1950s, author Walter Lord began writing *A Night to Remember*. He was able to directly interview more than sixty survivors whose own experiences were invaluable to the book. The book itself is mainly a look at the sinking of the ship itself and the subsequent rescue. It starts off right as the Titanic is about to strike the iceberg and continues through the events of the night and into the morning when the survivors were rescued by the Carpathia. Throughout, Lord uses the direct experiences of many people on board to create a vivid image of the chaos. These include experiences from every class (first, second, and third) and many crew members from the officers down to the stokers working in the boiler rooms. There are two minor problems with the book, however. First is that it covers only the sinking of the Titanic itself. Aside from a few brief facts here and there, there is little background information on the ship. The second is that the book is now somewhat dated. Facts that were presumed to be correct when the book was published in 1955 are now known to be wrong. The iceberg did not tear a huge gash in the vessel, the Titanic was not the first use of the SOS distress signal in history, and the Titanic did not sink intact but rather broke in two before foundering. However, overall, the book is a very good account of the Titanic sinking and certainly one of the most definitive books available on the disaster. This is required reading for anyone interested in the Titanic.

I found this book by accident and it finally gave me a picture of what my grandmother would have endured if she had rushed and sailed on the Titanic. A very good recounting of that horrific event

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