



A Night to Remember

By Walter Lord

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#1 New York Times Bestseller: The definitive account of the sinking of the Titanic, based on interviews with survivors.

At first, no one but the lookout recognized the sound. Passengers described it as the impact of a heavy wave, a scraping noise, or the tearing of a long calico strip. In fact, it was the sound of the world's most famous ocean liner striking an iceberg, and it served as the death knell for 1,500 souls.

In the next two hours and forty minutes, the maiden voyage of the *Titanic* became one of history's worst maritime accidents. As the ship's deck slipped closer to the icy waterline, women pleaded with their husbands to join them on lifeboats. Men changed into their evening clothes to meet death with dignity. And in steerage, hundreds fought bitterly against certain death. At 2:15 a.m. the ship's band played "Autumn." Five minutes later, the *Titanic* was gone.

Based on interviews with sixty-three survivors, Lord's moment-by-moment account is among the finest books written about one of the twentieth century's bleakest nights.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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.

From Library Journal

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., OR

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Review

"[*A Night to Remember*] is a book that I will never forget." —Edward S. Kamuda, Titanic Historical Society President

"A stunning book, incomparably the best on its subject and one of the most exciting books of this or any year." —*The New York Times*

"Absolutely gripping and un-put-downable." —David McCullough, author of *John Adams*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jordan Sena:

With other case, little men and women like to read book A Night to Remember. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important some sort of book A Night to Remember. You can add expertise and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can understand everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will be known. About simple thing until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, you can open a book or searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You can use it when you feel bored stiff to go to the library. Let's learn.

Paul Williams:

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Willie McCorkle:

A Night to Remember can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing A Night to Remember however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Pat Tran:

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