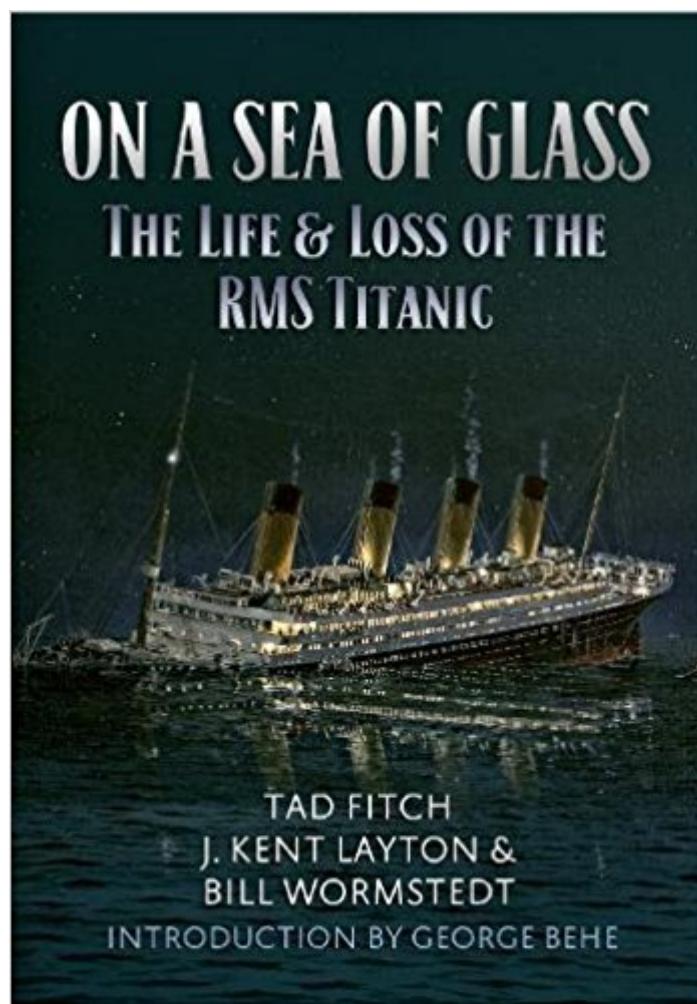


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# On A Sea Of Glass: The Life & Loss Of The RMS Titanic



## Synopsis

On the night of 14/15 April 1912, a brandnew, supposedly unsinkable ship, the largest and most luxurious vessel in the world at the time, collided with an iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage. Of the 2,208 people on board, only 712 were saved. The rest either drowned or froze to death in the icy-cold waters of the North Atlantic. How could this ‘unsinkable’ vessel sink and why did so few of those aboard survive? The authors bring the tragedy to life, telling the story of the ship’s design, construction and maiden voyage. The stories of individuals who sailed on her, many previously known only as names on yellowing passenger and crew lists, are brought to light using rarely-seen accounts of the sinking. The stories of passengers of all classes and crewmembers alike, are explored. They tell the dramatic stories of lives lost and people saved, of the rescue ship Carpathia, and of the aftermath of the sinking. Never again would a large passenger liner sail without lifeboats for all. Despite the tragedy, the sinking of the Titanic indirectly led to untold numbers of lives being saved due to new regulations that came into force after the tragedy. Profusely illustrated, including many rare and unique views of the ship and those who sailed on her, this is as accurate and engrossing a telling of the life of the White Star Line’s Titanic and her sinking as you will read anywhere. Made special by the use of so many rare survivor accounts from the eye witnesses to that night to remember, the narrative places the reader in the middle of the maiden voyage, and brings the tragic sinking to life as never before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

‘A must have book... a definitive source’ \* Mike Poirier, Encyclopedia Titanica \* ‘A chance to

experience Titanic's story like never before' \* Shipping Today and Yesterday \*

In the years and months leading up to the centennial anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, we - the authors of this book - teamed up to write a Titanic volume which, we hoped, would be like none other written up to that point. We wanted to go back to original accounts and sources, and try to uncover and lay-to-rest as much bad data, misinformation, faulty assumptions, and conspiracy theories as we possibly could in one book. The final result, first released in 2012, was a book of which we were very proud. It received rave reviews from those within the Titanic community and readers in general, and sold out quickly. The new Second Edition of On A Sea of Glass has been printed as of July 3, 2013. While the First Edition of the book has enjoyed nearly unanimous praise from everyone who read it, it was not commonly available in the Americas - something this edition happily rectifies. Additionally, we as the volume's authors took the opportunity to thoroughly revise and improve the text, eradicating a number of spelling or grammar errors which had crept into the first volume. We also added or exchanged a few new images from those which appeared in the First Edition. The new Second Edition has a slightly smaller page size and a new layout, and should prove a real treasure trove of information for all Titanic or maritime enthusiasts. - Tad Fitch, J. Kent Layton & Bill Wormstedt. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Over a hundred years have passed since the golden era of Edwardian superliners and we still stand in awe at the craftsmanship of these grand marvels just as those curious before us. They were said to be "practically unsinkable" and you know the ships' names as they were the elite of the Oceans and Seas that drew crowds of wanderers with their advertised newness and grandness to conquer the waves in style and become a story to tell within society circles. Entrancing then and now, we seem to never get enough of the prospect to explore these amazing innovations. Today however we quietly reflect as each unfortunate centennial arrives of these majestic ships that now peacefully rest at the bottom of the oceans and question what went so horribly wrong with these once wonders of the seas? While the names of Olympic, Mauretania, Britannic and Lusitania are a few names mentioned of these scrapped and lost liners, On a Sea of Glass is the Titanic's story and explores the multiple questions and mysteries that will probably forever follow in her wake. A magnificent array of historic facts will greet the reader with On a Sea of Glass: The Life and Loss of the RMS Titanic as they follow the Titanic from impressive ambitious beginnings to her harrowing demise and finally to stirring echoes of the aftermath. About half of the book is dedicated to the narrative of the Titanic as carefully researched facts and the lives of her: innovators, tradesmen, builders,

designers, benefactors, passengers and crew become a unique feature of this book as their shared voices tell the ship's story. The other portion is comprised of essays that reexamine the most well known legends and conspiracy theories attached to the Titanic and another section is dedicated to the survivors and what happened to them long after April 15, 1912. There is also a segment of pictures in the back that shows places of interest, memorabilia and interesting tidbits of trivia.

Stunning photographs fill chapters throughout and it becomes hard to not just stare at the page and imagine a simpler time but also the feel the icy breath of that April night on your neck. In the end, I found this work to be a masterful exploration of historic events pertaining to the Titanic. I would have to say by the time you read *A Night to Remember*, *The Night Lives On: The Untold Stories and Secrets Behind the Sinking of the "Unsinkable" Ship-Titanic* and *On a Sea of Glass: The Life and Loss of the RMS Titanic* you will know and be aware of every little fine detail that can be put forward concerning the RMS Titanic. Even though I have read the above, I still found new details and kept saying to myself (and probably a couple times out loud) "I didn't know that". One of the fun new topics I learned about has led me to put The White Swan Hotel in Alnwick England on my list of places I must see when I travel along with Southampton and Belfast of course. The trove of trivia seemed bottomless for me but still my favorite part of this book was when I felt like I was being tapped on the shoulder to turn around and imagine seeing a hat tipped or a gloved hand being offered or a friendly welcoming smile of a passenger or crew member as they spoke from the pages and shared their experiences aboard the Titanic. It also became very hard not to shed a tear as those same voices spoke as the hours and minutes ticked down on that last cold night and early morning in April 1912. A book with this many depths of entertainment that not only brings the pages alive but is also a magnificent preservation of history is always welcome on my shelves. Highly recommend.

The authors are genuine experts and they bring formidable knowledge to their comprehensive account of the Titanic. I am delighted to have it, though my technical knowledge isn't so advanced as to allow me to appreciate fully the wealth of new material and fresh thinking they offer. In some ways, this volume strikes me as an attempt to cross the technical analysis one can find in the *Report on the Loss of the SS Titanic* (forbiddingly and wonderfully dense) with the more-or-less familiar narrative of the building of the ship and the maiden voyage. I haven't read all of it yet, but it has lived up to its claim to offer a new perspective. The research the authors have done is remarkable, and it enables them to offer a series of alternatives to the usual narratives. Particularly enlightening are the appendices that work through especially controversial issues about the ship

and its sinking. There's a quite fascinating discussion of the break-up of the ship that draws on neglected survivor accounts and correlates them to forensic data from the wreck to suggest a new theory for how and why the ship broke up. The authors are commendably restrained: they tend to criticize claims that Captain Smith was passive as the ship sank without heroizing him, they're humane in their discussion of Ismay, and while they (rightly, in my view) sharply refute those who claim the Californian was far from the Titanic, they're even-handed in their discussion of Captain Lord. There are a few flaws, though. The format of the second edition is apparently reduced in size, and that means very small type. I'm 55 and proud that I don't need corrective lenses, but this book had me reaching for my wife's magnifiers. The size also affects the wonderful illustrations: some are not much bigger than large postage stamps, which is a pity. And the page illustrating the Titanic's deck plans is sheer comedy: the scale is so reduced that even with magnifiers one can hardly make out any detail. An appendix with readable deck plans would have been a very welcome supplement. Finally, the authors generally have quite serviceable prose, but they oddly tend to end many sentences with ellipses rather than a period, for reasons mysterious to me. And there is a tendency to revel in the minutiae of their research: we probably would have managed without knowing the names of Thomas Andrews' household servants. But it's just that love of obsessive minutiae that makes this an indispensable book for the devoted student of the Titanic, who will be delighted by the new data. If there's ever a third edition, though, I encourage the authors to look into getting permission to include Daniel Mendelsohn's superb essay "Unsinkable" from the *New Yorker* on the mythic roots of our fascination with the Titanic. That would create a book that was the dream combination of factual analysis and poetry.

The amount of research and detail that has gone into this writing makes this Kindle version of the book really spectacular. I am only one quarter of the way through the book and I am totally hooked on the story. I'm reading almost all the footnotes too. I love that you can zip back and forth. Even though I know what is to come, I can't put the book down. My critique, disappointed that many of the pictures appear to be missing, then appear as you move back and forth...using the footnotes, or just straight reading. In addition, some of the web links no longer work, the materials have moved. As another reviewer noted, pics are tiny, not small, still a great read.

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