


# A First-Class Experience

As you step on *Titanic's* deck, the chief steward welcomes you aboard. Another steward leads you to your stateroom.

Your stateroom is as elegant as a grand hotel. Carved oak lines the walls. Some mirrors are trimmed in gold. Every stateroom has electric light and heat. It makes you feel like royalty.

Once you've settled in, you decide to explore the ship. You spot the ship's grand staircase. Topped by an iron and glass dome, it is dazzling.



The grand staircase connected the first-class areas of the ship.

Around noon, you walk up near the bridge. Captain Edward Smith is there, directing the officers, quartermasters, and pilot. You hear the officers at their stations signal that they are ready. The pilot calls out, "Let go the hold ropes!" Crewmembers relay the orders. Tugboats help the great ship inch out of the harbor.

As the ship heads out to sea, you move to the first-class lounge. There, you meet two wealthy, famous men. John Jacob Astor and Hudson Allison are returning home on *Titanic*.

Astor is an old friend. You haven't seen him since he left for Europe four months ago with his new bride. This Allison fellow seems interesting, too. He speaks with pride of his two young children, who are also aboard. Separately, both men invite you to join them a few nights later for dinner.



*Titanic's reading and writing room was as elegant as a room in an expensive hotel.*

❖ To join Allison, turn to page 17.

❖ To join Astor, turn to page 20.



Hudson Allison was returning to Canada from a horse-buying trip in England.

It is Sunday, April 14, your fifth night on *Titanic*. You join the Allisons for dinner in the first-class dining room. Hudson Allison introduces you to his wife, Bess, and 2-year-old daughter, Loraine. Normally, children aren't present in the dining room, but Mrs. Allison wanted Loraine to see the beautiful room.

A few minutes later, the Allisons' maids, Alice Cleaver and Sarah Daniels, walk up to the table. Alice holds the Allisons' baby son, Trevor. Sarah takes Loraine's hand, and the women leave to put the children to bed.

Also at the table are two of Hudson Allison's friends from Canada, Harry Molson and Arthur Peuchen. Soon, the talk turns to the *Titanic*.

Turn the page.

"I've crossed the ocean 40 times, but never quite as comfortably as on this ship," Peuchen says. "There's only one thing that worries me."

"What's that?" you ask.

"I'm not sure that Captain Smith is up to the job," he replies. "He's too old, and his record isn't spotless. I don't know if I'd trust him with my life."

"Don't worry, my friend," Hudson Allison says to Peuchen. "The journey has gone well so far. In a few days, you'll be home with your family."

After a delicious meal and several hours of conversation, it is time for the night to end. You shake hands with the other men and head to your stateroom. You quickly dress for bed and fall asleep.

Suddenly, someone knocks loudly on your stateroom door. How long have you been asleep? Your watch says it's midnight—just one hour. The steward at your door calls out, "I'm sorry to inform you that the captain has ordered all on deck with life jackets."

✦ *To take the warning seriously and leave your room, turn to page 22.*

✦ *To stay in your room, turn to page 26.*





Madeleine and John Jacob Astor were returning from their honeymoon.

On Sunday, April 14, you arrive for dinner with the Astors. John Jacob Astor greets you in the entryway to the dining room. He is dressed neatly in a tuxedo, and his beautiful young bride is wearing an elegant dress.

As you sit down to dinner, Astor entertains you and the others at the table with tales of his business deals in New York and in Europe. It is a fun, festive night. You all eat your fill.

After dinner, you and the other men move to the smoking room. You spend the next few hours playing cards before returning to your stateroom.

As you get ready for bed, there is a pounding on your door. A steward calls, "I'm sorry to inform you that the captain has ordered all on deck with life jackets."

What's this? Is it a drill, or a serious problem? You aren't sure what to do. Suddenly, you think of the Astors. If there is trouble, they should be warned.

❖ *To go warn the Astors, turn to page 33.*

❖ *To follow the instructions and head out on deck, turn to page 34.*

You dash around your room, trying to decide what to bring. You grab your life jacket, a heavy coat, and \$200. You follow the steward toward the boat deck. People stumble out of staterooms, whispering about what might be the trouble. You realize that the rumble you've grown used to is no longer there—*Titanic's* engines have stopped.

On the boat deck, the atmosphere is calm. The man next to you says, "All this trouble for nothing, I'm sure. Nothing can sink *Titanic*." The crew begins filling a few lifeboats with passengers. Several crewmembers are calling out, "Women and children first!"

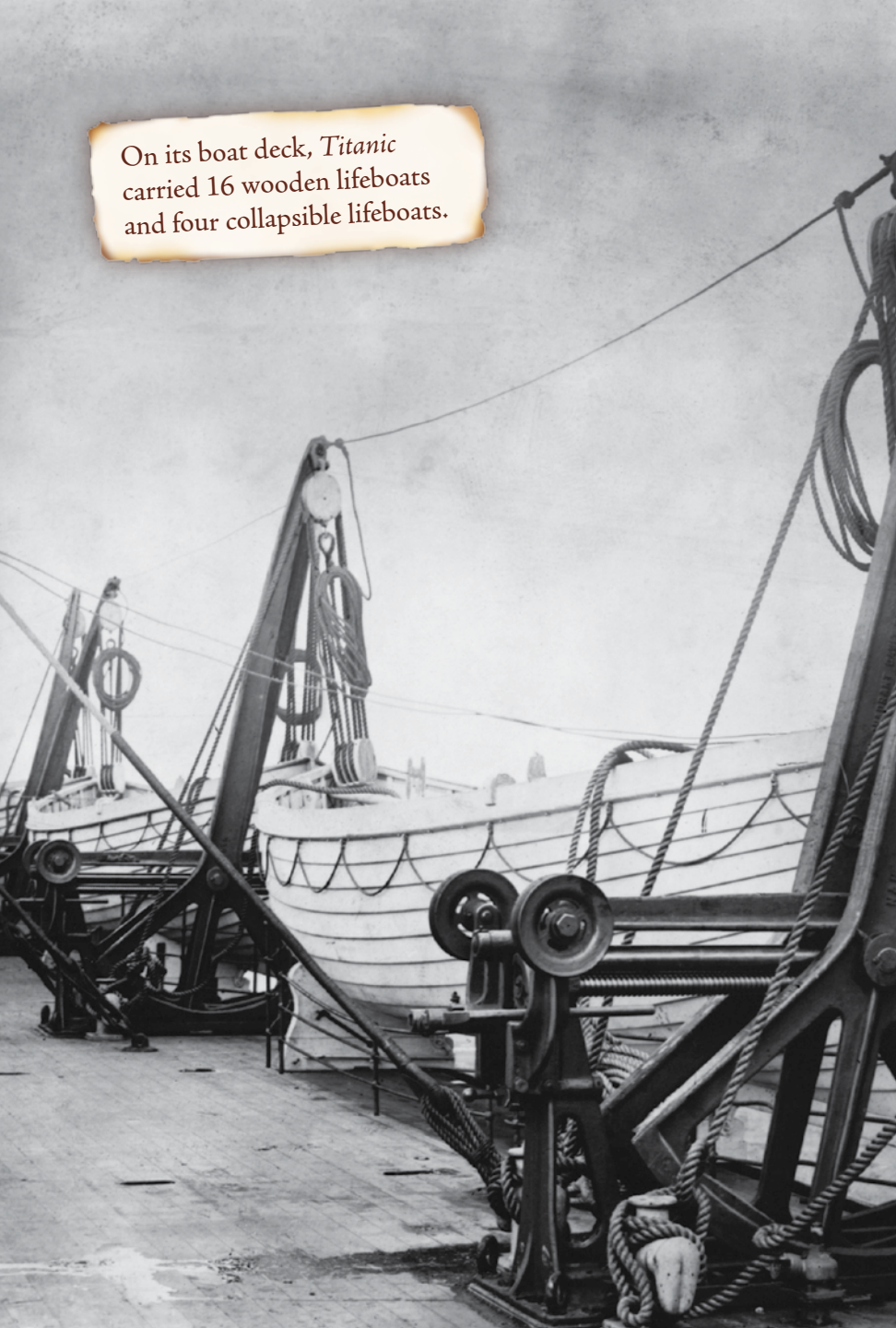
You hear a couple of crewmembers talking. "Earlier tonight we received a warning of ice in the area," one of them says. "Sure enough, we've struck ice."

You peer over the railing to the decks below. There, young people are playing with chunks of ice that have landed on deck. Some passengers cheer them on, but you feel uneasy.

You move back along the deck. There, you see Sarah Daniels, the Allison's maid. You call to her, and she rushes over to you.

Sarah explains that she had awakened the Allison's to tell them to come to the deck. Instead, they became angry with her for waking them. Sarah then left to investigate. Now, she was being forced into a lifeboat.

"It's just a precaution, ma'am," a crewmember says. Then he whisks Sarah into lifeboat number 8.



On its boat deck, *Titanic* carried 16 wooden lifeboats and four collapsible lifeboats.

You glance down the railing at the other lifeboats. Most hold a few passengers, but many of the first-class passengers don't want to leave *Titanic*.

You quickly count the lifeboats. There doesn't appear to be enough of them for all the passengers and crew aboard. Even worse, the ones that are being lowered aren't close to being full.

The crew launches rockets into the black sky to alert other ships. As Sarah's half-full lifeboat is lowered, she calls to you. "Please, sir, find Mr. and Mrs. Allison. They need to know they're in danger!"

❖ To find out more about the lifeboat situation, turn to page 28.

❖ To search for the Allisons, turn to page 29.

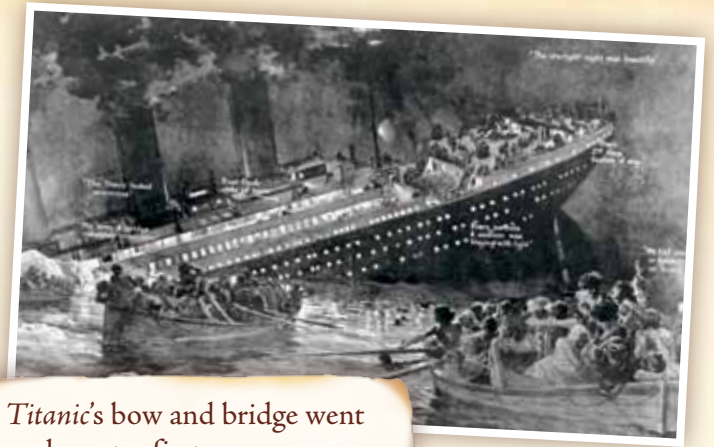


Startled, you sit up straight. “What’s that?” you yell into the darkness. There is no response. You tiptoe to the door and open it a crack. Passengers are leaving their rooms, some still in their nightclothes. Most of them are unhappy. “I don’t see why we should take part in your lifeboat drill,” one woman complains.

You close your door. You will not be bothered with any boat drills, either.

Later, another noise jars you from your sleep. It feels like a thud or a crack.

Stepping out of bed, you slide on your slippers and pull on a robe. Remembering the steward’s call, you grab a life jacket. You crack open the door to the lit passageway. It is empty. You have no idea what’s happened, but you know you need to get up on deck.



*Titanic's bow and bridge went underwater first.*

The view from the second-highest deck is frightening. Under the moonless sky, tiny boats row away. Crewmembers scramble about. You move to the rail.

You look to the boat deck above you, but all the lifeboats are gone. Ropes hang from the side of the ship. The deck tilts forward at an odd angle. Suddenly, you feel the ship lurch up. Screams come from the decks above and below you. You have only one choice now.



Crewmembers are lowering lifeboats on both sides of the ship. You make your way to the starboard, or right, side of the deck. There, an officer is directing a group of passengers into a half-filled boat.

“Sir!” the officer calls to you. “We have room for one more!”

“Shouldn’t we wait to see if there are more women and children onboard?” you ask him.

“My instructions are to lower this boat,” he replies. “If you want a seat, take it now.”

Reluctantly, you step into the boat.

More people crowd the decks. As crewmembers continue to call for women and children, some men also take seats in the lifeboats. Meanwhile, some women refuse to leave their husbands behind. Some male passengers lift women into the boats. You see one panicked woman screaming and fighting the men. She then breaks away and runs back inside the ship.

As you head for the Allison’s stateroom, you spot Alice Cleaver. She is near the ship’s edge, holding baby Trevor. You call to her, but she can’t hear you over the growing noise on the deck. It is getting harder to walk on the deck now, because the ship is tilting forward.



Bess and Loraine Allison became separated from baby Trevor during the disaster.

You fight your way through the crowd to Alice and Trevor. By the time you reach them, Alice is stepping into a lifeboat. She holds Trevor in her arms. She sees you and calls your name. "Come quickly!" she says. "*Titanic* is sinking!"

You climb into the boat and sit next to Alice. She clutches Trevor to her chest. Instantly, the lifeboat is lowered toward the icy waters of the Atlantic. You can feel the water's chill in your bones as you get nearer to it.

When the lifeboat touches the ocean, you and the other men aboard grab oars. You try to row away from the ship as fast as possible. The crewmember commanding the lifeboat urges you on, as he also rows. "We must get away, or we'll be pulled down with her!" he yells.

Suddenly, you hear a loud noise. It appears *Titanic* has split in two. The great ship is headed for the ocean floor.

The crowd of people coming out to the deck is getting steady now. It is growing harder to get back inside. You worry that you won't reach the Allisons in time. You get swept up in the crowd, and end up on the other side of the ship.

You spot the Allisons. Mrs. Allison is holding Loraine's hand as they board a lifeboat. Hudson remains on deck.

Before the lifeboat can be lowered, though, Mrs. Allison fights her way to the edge. Clutching Loraine to her, she climbs back onto the deck. "I will not leave without my baby!" she cries. The family then heads off toward the other side of the ship. You follow, hoping that you can lead them to where you saw Alice and Trevor.

You grab your life jacket and leave your stateroom. When you finally find the Astors, they are in the gym. They greet you as you walk in, but there's little time to talk. A crewmember calls into the room, urging everyone to go up on deck.

On deck, a crewmember tells you that all the lifeboats are being loaded. Astor doesn't believe the passengers are in serious danger. "I'm sure we'll be fine aboard the big ship," he says. It doesn't matter, as the crew is loading women and children first.

Mrs. Astor isn't sure that boarding a lifeboat is a good idea. But her husband asks her to get on the boat as a precaution. As her lifeboat is lowered, he calls to her, "We'll meet in New York!"



You grab your life jacket and strap it on quickly. You also put on warm socks, trousers, and a sturdy pair of shoes. Whatever's happened, this doesn't seem like a time to be dressed for dinner. It feels more like your training as a yachtsman might come in handy.

On deck, crewmembers are scrambling around to prepare lifeboats. There are a few passengers on deck, but many are not wearing their life jackets. You grab a crewmember as he goes by. "Is this a drill?" you ask. "No, sir," the crewmember says. His eyes tell you there is trouble. "I assure you it is not a drill."

You move over near the lifeboats and offer your help. "I'm a skilled sailor," you tell the crewmember working there. "Good," he replies. "We can use all the help we can get."



Cables and ropes helped lower the lifeboats to the sea.

You calm worried passengers and help them into boats. You help an officer prepare to lower one of the boats. Just then, the officer realizes there isn't a crewmember nearby.

*Titanic's* end is painful to watch. Husbands call out to their wives in lifeboats. Some men leap for the water, hoping to swim to safety. Others stand calmly and await their fate as *Titanic's* stern lifts higher into the air. Then, what is left of the great ship disappears into the Atlantic. All you can do now is to wait and hope for a rescue. You shiver against the cold night air.

As you wait, an argument brews on your lifeboat. Some want to row back toward the spot where *Titanic* sank to look for survivors. Others disagree. "There's not a person alive in these icy waters," one man says.

Soon, you all notice the silence around you. There are no more calls for help. There is no point in going back.



Survivors moved their boats together as the ship sank.

About 4 o'clock in the morning, the steamer *Carpathia* arrives. You are one of 705 people to survive the sinking of *Titanic*. More than 1,500 others are not so lucky.

  
**THE END**

To follow another path, turn to page 11.  
To read the conclusion, turn to page 101.

Panic grows on deck. The bow of the ship steadily sinks beneath the water's surface. Everyone runs for the ship's stern to escape. You fight to keep your balance as the stern rises until it is almost straight up in the air.

Suddenly, you hear a loud noise. The ship is breaking in two! As the decks turn upright, you cling to the railing. All around you, people lose their grip and fall hundreds of feet to the frozen waters below.

There is no safety for you and the Allisons now. All that lies ahead is the icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean. As the giant ocean liner sinks, you catch the eye of another passenger. It is the last sight you will ever see.



**THE END**

*To follow another path, turn to page 11.  
To read the conclusion, turn to page 101.*

You stand near Astor and watch as boat after boat is loaded. Soon, it becomes clear that there aren't enough lifeboats for all the passengers. Unless a rescue ship arrives quickly, you, Astor, and many others will go down with *Titanic*.

As the final lifeboats are lowered, sounds swirl around you. Husbands and wives call to each other. The ship's band continues to play ragtime music, then changes to a hymn.

In the confusion, you make one last decision. You return to your stateroom. You take in the luxury all around you, knowing that your fate is sealed.



**THE END**

*To follow another path, turn to page 11.  
To read the conclusion, turn to page 101.*



The officer turns to you. "Can you command a boat, sir?" he asks. You nod. The officer motions for you to board the boat. Within minutes, your boat is lowered down the side of *Titanic*. You begin to row away from the ship as quickly as possible. The women and children in the boat sob quietly.

Many of them have left loved ones aboard *Titanic*. And the farther you row, the more it becomes clear that *Titanic* is headed for a watery grave. You move your boat close to the other lifeboats drifting by.



The crew of *Carpathia* rescued *Titanic* survivors the morning of April 15.

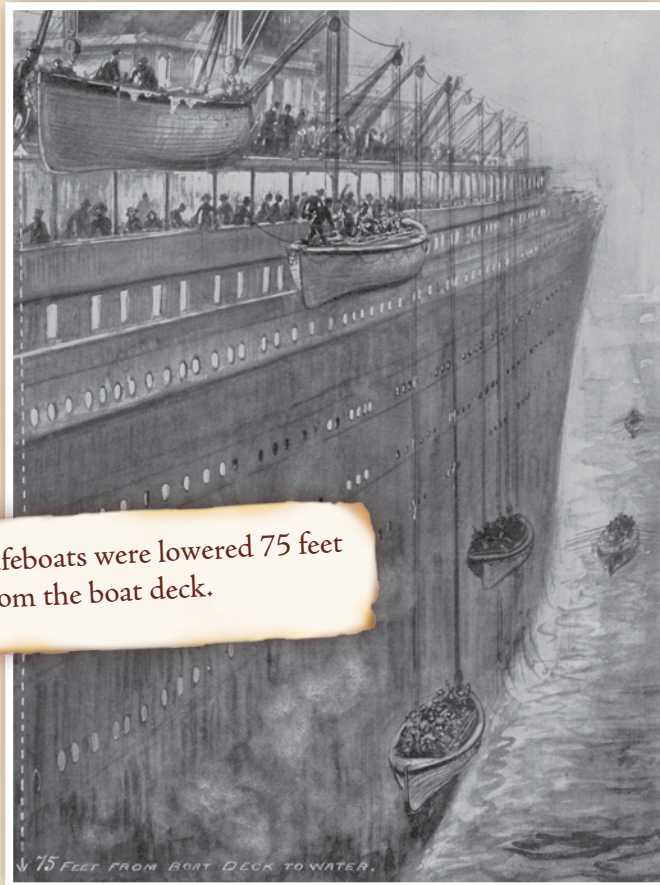
Two hours later, another passenger spies the lights of the steamer *Carpathia*. You and the people you helped are saved.



**THE END**

To follow another path, turn to page 11.  
To read the conclusion, turn to page 101.

Lifeboats were lowered 75 feet from the boat deck.



As your boat is lowered about 75 feet to the water, you look around. Your boat is among the first to reach the Atlantic. A crewmember rows you away from the giant ocean liner.

From a distance, you watch the horrible sight as *Titanic's* bow disappears underwater. The stern is almost straight up in the air.

Screams tear through the air as people still aboard jump to escape the doomed ship. After what seems like forever, the lights of the ship go out. All is silent.

The crewmember turns your lifeboat around and rows back toward the spot where *Titanic* once floated. Together, you search the area for survivors.

Most of the bodies in the water are frozen and lifeless. But you do find a few people still alive. You help them into the boat and keep them warm until help arrives.

  
**THE END**

To follow another path, turn to page 11.  
To read the conclusion, turn to page 101.

You strap the life jacket around your chest.  
You pause for a moment and take a deep  
breath. Finally, you jump.

It seems like forever before you strike  
the freezing water. When you do, the shock  
takes your breath away. You plunge deep into  
the water. You swim hard for the surface,  
struggling to hold your breath.

At last, you break into the cold night air,  
gasping for breath. You swim with all your  
might away from *Titanic*.

The cold water quickly takes away your  
strength. No lifeboats are nearby. As the  
mighty ship sinks, you cling to a floating piece  
of wood. But you can't stop shaking, and you  
know you won't last long in the icy water.

Suddenly, you see a light flashing over the  
water. "Is anyone there?" a man calls.

"I'm over here!" you croak with the last  
of your strength. The lifeboat rows over and  
pulls you aboard. Just when it seemed all hope  
was lost, you are rescued.



## THE END

*To follow another path, turn to page 11.  
To read the conclusion, turn to page 101.*