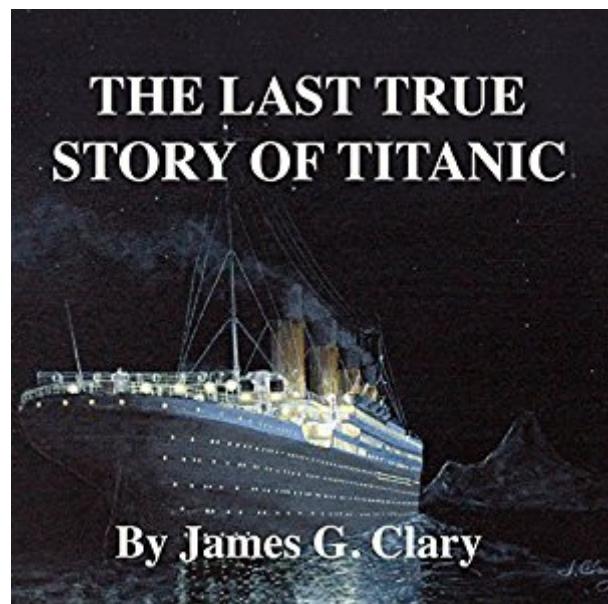


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The Last True Story Of Titanic



Synopsis

Although many denied it, a giant ocean liner was dying. The superstitious nodded their heads, knowing her fate had already been sealed. The freezing Atlantic crept up to the forecastle head as the massive vessel, with all her lights aglow, slowly, almost imperceptibly, sank at the bow.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a fascinating story of the sinking of the great ship, with details and facts not previously published. The author was the resident artist and historian on the mission that located the wreck, and he knows of which he writes. Very good book - not to be missed.

This is the best account of the events of the Titanic I have read. The book is short (156 pages) but packed with facts and interviews with survivors.

I learned a lot about Titanic in this book and even shared the little known stories with my friends. I was confused when I was only halfway through the book and Titanic had already sunk. I don't like to read interviews, so I struggled a little through that part. Still, this was a very good read, and I definitely recommend it.

This is an excellent and true account of the events as we can determine. An excellent read. It presents the facts of that fateful night and sheds light on the myths.

Wonderful book - extremely interesting and fact-filled. This is the 2nd book I've read by this author, and I'm again impressed with his level of maritime knowledge. I commend Mr. Clary for packing so much information into a mere 149 pages (paperback edition), yet still having this book be so engrossing. I especially enjoyed learning about the building and launching of the ship prior to the tragedy itself. The writing style is both very succinct and very thorough (not easy to do): I came away from this with a far better understanding of what happened than I had gained from other good books on the subject. Included also was a fascinating phone interview that the author had with a survivor in 1981. Those observations, including recollections of the final moments, really added a great personal touch to the whole narrative. I picked this book up because it looked like an interesting addendum to what I had already read. But I finished the book with a much better understanding of what happened and why it happened. It wasn't just a chronology of the tragedy - it presents great analysis too (e.g. - was inferior metal used for the hull, did the Titanic restart and proceed forward after striking the berg, and more). And I got a better appreciation for the heroics and stupidity that mankind can exhibit. I highly recommend Mr. Clary's book.

I enjoy good non fiction works that exhibit the author's commitment to relating facts and supporting evidence. This book does both. I particularly value the author's interviews with the last of the survivors though as might be expected, the memories were clouded by decades since the night of the disaster. Mr. Clary certainly did his research and documented a number of critical factors in the building practices and materials of the Titanic that may have contributed to the rapid sinking and extensive loss of life. However, he refrains from making one final definitive determination of the root cause. The facts seem to point to a number of factors which find their way into this book. Mr. Clary rewards the reader with the spirit of the disaster as it occurred over one hundred years ago but also leaves us with a sense of the analysis of the wreck in terms of today's technologies.

Maritime artist and historian Jim Clary's new Titanic book is a neatly self contained history of that most famous of all shipwrecks. The book's first half is a concise narrative of Titanic's short life. The conception, construction, sea trials, voyage and disaster are all well presented. This section's straightforward approach will appeal to both newcomers and long time enthusiasts alike. Then, things get interesting. Mr. Clary analyzes several theories and "what if" scenarios that have been popular Titanic topics for 86 years. His primary sources are the testimony and writings of Second Officer Charles Lightoller and passenger Lawrence Beesley who are generally considered accurate

and comprehensive witnesses to the disaster. The coverage of the Titanic theories is brief but what is lacking in depth is made up in clarity, a quality often lacking in printed Titanic discussions. An interview with a 96 year-old Edwina Troutt McKenzie was also interesting. The ending chapter called "The Last True Story" is an original thesis claiming the Titanic resumed sailing underway after hitting the iceberg. Mr. Clary gives us a compelling case for this scenario and I believe it deserves consideration and more research. I recommend this book for both new and old Titanic buffs. It's brevity and personal style are easy to approach while the theories and arguments bring new thought to old issues. Many will find these thoughts controversial, but the Titanic legacy is fueled by controversy.

Could the life of the Titanic been extended so that the Carpathia could have saved people in the water? Perhaps. Mr. Clary has documented an eyewitness who said that Captain Smith put the engines ahead to half speed after the Titanic had stopped. Others collaborate that the ship resumed its course after coming to a stop. With a hole in the bow as well as along the side, the forward motion of the ship acted to virtually plow water into the ship thereby exacerbating flooding. However, had the ship stayed motionless in the water after the collision there may have been enough time for the Carpathia to arrive and save some of the people in the water. Clary's short work is written with exceptional detail. It relives the superstition, the myth, the fact, the night. It culminates in the theory that the fatal blow may have resulted from a little known action of the captain, a captain's decision buried deep in the mountain of details on this tragedy. Fascinating.

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