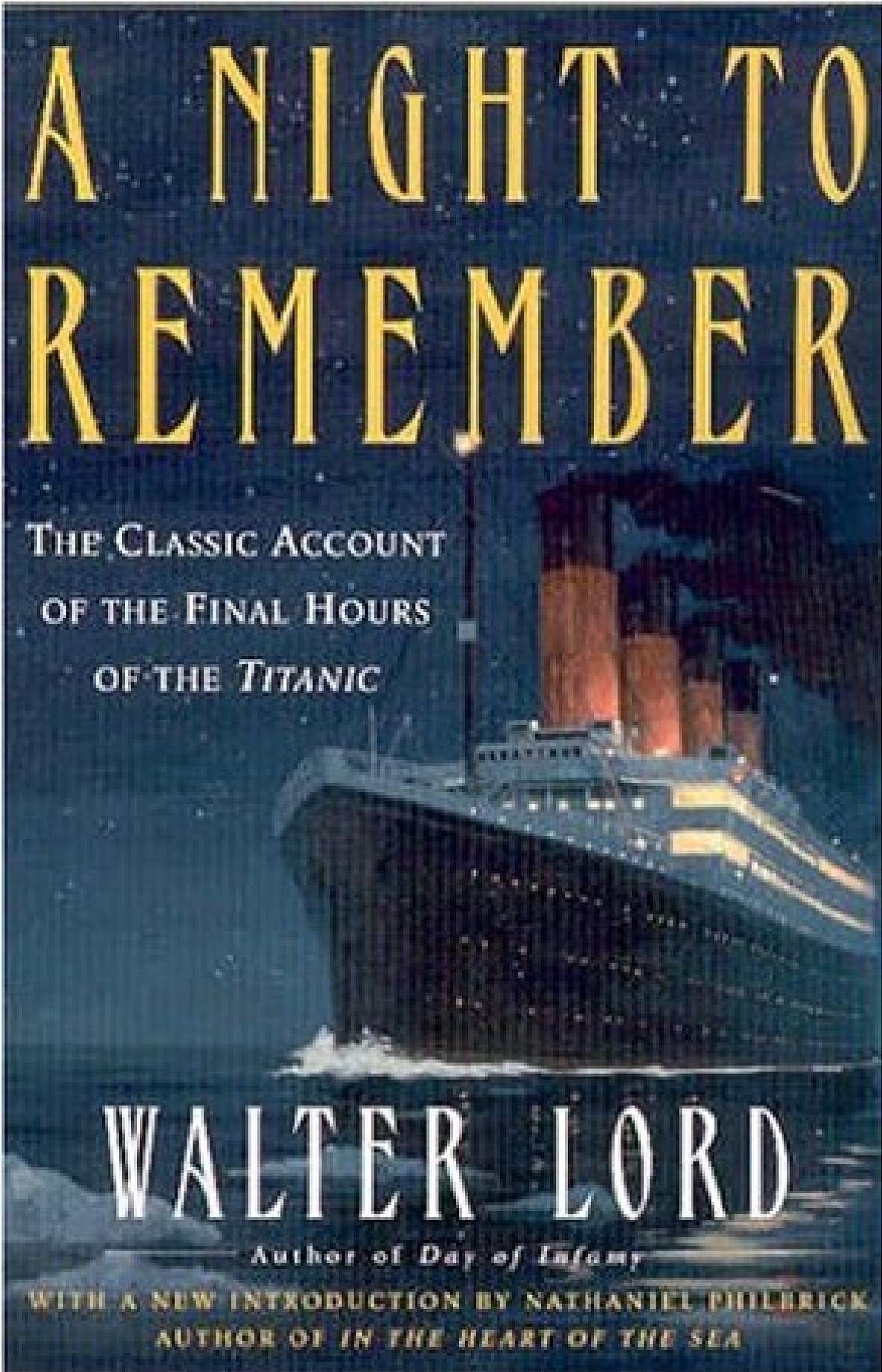


# A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



THE CLASSIC ACCOUNT  
OF THE FINAL HOURS  
OF THE *TITANIC*

WALTER LORD

*Author of Day of Infamy*

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY NATHANIEL PHILBRICK  
AUTHOR OF *IN THE HEART OF THE SEA*

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# A Night to Remember by Walter Lord

Walter Lord

The vintage minute-by-minute account of the sinking of the Titanic, in a fiftieth anniversary variation with a brand new advent via Nathaniel Philbrick First released in 1955, an evening to recollect is still a very riveting account of the Titanic's deadly collision and the habit of the passengers and crew, either noble and ignominious. a few sacrificed their lives, whereas others fought like animals for his or her personal survival. better halves beseeched husbands to affix them in lifeboats; gents went taut-lipped to their deaths in complete night dress; and enormous quantities of steering passengers, trapped lower than decks, sought assist in vain. on hand for the 1st time in exchange paperback and with a brand new advent for the fiftieth anniversary variation by means of Nathaniel Philbrick, writer of within the middle of the ocean and Sea of Glory, Walter Lord's vintage minute-by-minute new version is as shiny now because it was once upon first booklet fifty years ago. From the preliminary misery flares to the struggles of these left adrift for hours in freezing waters, this semicentennial variation brings that moonlit evening in 1912 to existence for a brand new new release of readers.

James Cameron ruined the Titanic. Now, somebody who is ever been attracted to the topic needs to deal with sideways glances from those that suppose your interest used to be piqued by way of Kate Winslet observing at Leonardo DiCaprio together with her enormous doe eyes. numerous books, documentaries, or even games have been published to A Night to Remember coincide with the ill-fated ship's meteoric popularity. this isn't to assert that Cameron's mammoth used to be totally irredeemable. Indeed, there are numerous elements of the movie the place you could suppose Cameron's ancient impulses warring along with his wisdom that the single manner he will get away financial disaster is to entice the fourteen year-old ladies of the area (and the fourteen year-old woman inside of us all). yet set the motion picture aside. As an said mammoth fanatic, i will be able to optimistically recommend that you simply rather basically want 3 books to appreciate the subject: A Night to Remember Robert Ballard's the invention of the Titanic; Don Lynch and Ken Marschall's Titanic: An Illustrated History; and the best of them all, Lord's an evening To Remember. (Of course, as a fanatic, i'd by no means recommend purely interpreting 3 books at the subject. you could spend a high-quality existence arguing approximately shoddy rivets, lacking ice warnings, and A Night to Remember the secret send that missed Titanic's misery rockets). My curiosity A Night to Remember in substantial strains again to 1986, the yr after Bob Ballard stumbled on the damage at the ocean floor. In its December issue, nationwide Geographic featured a ghostly, now-famous picture of the submersible Jason, Jr. peering into one in every of Titanic's open windows, surrounded through the blackness of the sea. the following was once a six year-old's final subject, which mixed a tender boy's curiosity in substantial machines with a tender A Night to Remember boy's morbid and burgeoning interest with death. or even even though my mother ultimately made me throw away the entire magazines i might accrued (that she knew about, ha ha), I nonetheless have that variation of the nationwide Geographic. Eventually, I grew to become so captivated with Titanic, i made a decision to put in writing a booklet approximately it myself. This used to be whereas i used to be in excessive school. In 1997. So my timing was once impeccable. earlier than i would gotten part manner through, James Cameron had ceaselessly altered the topic of

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the famed ocean liner by means of including Leonardo DiCaprio and a ten-cent screenplay. Undeterred, I stopped my novel, in most cases as a catharsis for all of the colossal trivialities I had saved in my brain. The booklet was once over six hundred pages long. you may wonder: how may somebody write six hundred pages a couple of four-day ocean cruise? Well, begin with twenty pages dedicated to the technological know-how at the back of iceberg formation, double the standard quantity of affection triangles in one work, and end with a lifeboat-by-lifeboat reconstruction of the sinking. At this point, it kind of feels like I am *A Night to Remember* evaluating myself to Walter Lord. Which I am. yet merely to indicate that I completely did not show in six hundred pages what Lord superbly captures in 152. Walter Lord defined himself in his personal phrases as a author of "living history." I'd name him an anecdotal historian. He didn't forget about the massive picture, yet he approached nice sweeping occasions during the people who lived them. He used their memories, their experiences, and infrequently their very own words, to inform his story. Lord used this system throughout a number of subjects, together with Pearl Harbor, the conflict of Midway, and the siege of the Alamo, yet by no means so successfully as in an evening to Remember, his certifiably vintage telling of the sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic. Lord's sort is encompassed within the first paragraphs: High within the crow's nest of the hot White famous person Liner Titanic, Lookout Frederick Fleet peered right into a wonderful night. It used to be calm, transparent and bitterly cold. there has been no moon, however the cloudless sky blazed with stars. The Atlantic was once like polished plate glass; humans later stated that they had by no means noticeable it so smooth. This was once the 5th evening of the Titanic's *A Night to Remember* maiden voyage to New York, and it used to be already transparent that she used to be not just the most important but in addition the main glamorous send within the world. Even the passengers' canine have been glamorous. John Jacob Astor had alongside his Airedale Kitty. Henry Sleeper Harper, of the publishing family, had his prize Pekingese sunlight Yat-sen... Right away, you will see that the superb storytelling constitution that Lord employs. He begins within the crow's nest, moments sooner than the collision with the iceberg. He identifies one among his major characters, Fred Fleet, after which segues right into a brief riff on firstclass pets. In a next paragraph, Lord circles again to Fred Fleet recognizing the iceberg. Fleet warns the bridge and a demanding 37 seconds elapse prior to the send moves the berg on its port side. At this point, Lord's tale starts off to flower and expand. He leaves Fleet and the crow's nest to inform the tales of different humans on various elements of the ship: a quartermaster at the aft docking bridge; a steward in first class; an evening baker baking rolls; passengers from all 3 classes. Lord does not persist with a straight, linear narrative. Instead, an evening to recollect resembles a mosaic. An overarching photo of the tragedy is created out of dozens of person stories. Lord's genius is in weaving some of these strands right into a cohesive whole. He has a willing eye for dramatic moments and telling quotes. whilst he describes the ship's break-up, he does so via directory and contrasting all of the assorted goods breaking free and crashing together, from the 29 boilers to a jeweled replica of the Rubaiyat, from 30,000 eggs to "a little mantel clock in B-38." Lord can also be a powerful writer, which permits him to take care of the integrity of the non-public observations of the survivors, whereas nonetheless offering a thrilling narrative. (It might be famous that Lord interviewed sixty three survivors ahead of the book's unique 1955 publication). Down, down dipped the Titanic's bow, and her stern swung slowly up. She relocating ahead *A Night to Remember* too. It used to be this movement which generated the wave that hit Daly, Brown, and dozens of others because it rolled aft... Lightoller watched the wave from the roof of the officer's quarters. He observed the crowds backing out up the deck prior to it. He observed the

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nimbler ones hold clear, the slower ones overtaken and engulfed. He knew this type of retreat simply lengthy the agony. He became and, dealing with the bow, dived in...A evening to recollect is natural narrative, eschewing research and debate. For instance, instead of have interaction in a dialogue in regards to the band's ultimate song, Lord easily chooses the Episcopal hymn Autumn, rather than closer My God To Thee. when you wish to comprehend why Lord made that choice, you A Night to Remember could learn his persist with up The evening Lives On, that's an in-depth therapy of a couple of attention-grabbing (if finally meaningless) questions (including First Officer William Murdoch's alleged suicide, an occasion blithely took place as gospel in Cameron's Titanic, a lot to the chagrin of Murdoch's surviving relatives). i used to be 5 years previous whilst gigantic used to be discovered, and doubtless ten whilst I learn this booklet for the 1st time. again then, the tale of immense had actual magic. Yes, it's human tragedy first and foremost; however it is usually tragedy within the dramatic sense: the noblesse oblige of "women and kids first"; Guggenheim dressing in his most sensible to "die as a gentleman"; A Night to Remember Isidor Strauss refusing to go away her husband, who was once no longer allowed in a lifeboat; Madeleine Astor claiming "God went down at the Titanic". Today, the single time colossal is pointed out is while a few new booklet or documentary (I'm wagging my finger at you, Titanic's final Secrets) makes use of leading edge technological know-how to focus on a few trivial new piece of facts that's then blown out of all proportion. i guess this is sensible from a advertising standpoint. by means of my final count number there are forty five iterations of CSI; clearly, humans crave a forensic reason behind everything, together with the lack of Titanic. i'm going to admit, i am not completely immune. everyone is fallible. They forget, they mishear, they misremember, they mislead, they fabricate and so they imagine. technological know-how is chilly and dispassionate and truthful. Such an atmosphere isn't really favorable to a Walter Lord, simply because he relied nearly completely at the participants, with all their flaws. Lord tells the colossal tale the way in which i am hoping it happened, and how that the survivors remembered it. realizing what we do approximately witness perception, and the tendency to embellish, Lord could have been a section extra serious of his interviewees. I mean, did Guggenheim particularly make the effort to alter into his dinner jacket prior to drowning? Did Captain Smith particularly step off the plunging bow and swim off into the night? nobody can say for certain, but a few of these tales simply sound too sturdy to be precise (again, I suggest "good" within the dramatic sense, no longer "good" within the feel that a large send sank with great lack of life). at the different hand, most of the witnesses became out to be lovely darn perceptive. the good secret that Ballard solved in 1985 used to be that significant had damaged in two. Of course, younger Jack Thayer had already stated that, seventy three years earlier, since it had occurred sooner than his seventeen year-old eyes. So take that science.

## **A Night To Remember**

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