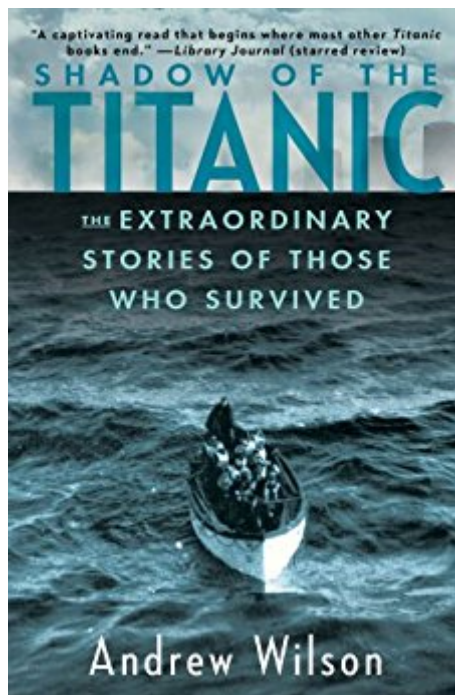




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# Shadow Of The Titanic: The Extraordinary Stories Of Those Who Survived



## Synopsis

IN the early morning hours of April 15, 1912, the icy waters of the North Atlantic reverberated with the desperate screams of more than 1,500 men, women, and children—passengers of the once majestic liner Titanic. Then, as the ship sank to the ocean floor and the passengers slowly died from hypothermia, an even more awful silence settled over the sea. The sights and sounds of that night would haunt each of the vessel's 705 survivors for the rest of their days. Although we think we know the story of Titanic—the famously luxurious and supposedly unsinkable ship that struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage from Britain to America—very little has been written about what happened to the survivors after the tragedy. How did they cope in the aftermath of this horrific event? How did they come to remember that night, a disaster that has been likened to the destruction of a small town? Drawing on a wealth of previously unpublished letters, memoirs, and diaries as well as interviews with survivors and family members, award-winning journalist and author Andrew Wilson reveals how some used their experience to propel themselves on to fame, while others were so racked with guilt they spent the rest of their lives under the Titanic's shadow. Some reputations were destroyed, and some survivors were so psychologically damaged that they took their own lives in the years that followed. Andrew Wilson brings to life the colorful voices of many of those who lived to tell the tale, from famous survivors like Madeleine Astor (who became a bride, a widow, an heiress, and a mother all within a year), Lady Duff Gordon, and White Star Line chairman J. Bruce Ismay, to lesser known second- and third-class passengers such as the Navratil brothers—who were traveling under assumed names because they were being abducted by their father. Today, one hundred years after that fateful voyage, *Shadow of the Titanic* adds an important new dimension to our understanding of this enduringly fascinating story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have always been interested in the Titanic, however I have not read many books on the subject. When I hear the word "Titanic" I instantly picture in my mind the physical ship itself; the luxurious first class accommodations, the band playing while the ship was sinking, the lifeboats being lowered away, etc. For a long time I had ignored what made the story of the Titanic so compelling and unique; the passengers themselves on the ship's maiden (and only) voyage. Andrew Wilson's "Shadow of the Titanic: The Extraordinary Stories of Those Who Survived" is just that; a collection of extraordinary stories of a select number of people who survived the sinking of the Titanic. Andrew Wilson truly did an outstanding job in research for this book. I really enjoyed his writing style. The way that he told the stories of the survivors made it hard for me to put this book down. There were no reviews for this book at the time that I ordered it, as it was released in early March of this year. As a result, I was skeptical. I'm so happy that I trusted my instincts and decided to order it anyway. Although I haven't read a lot of books pertaining to the Titanic, I would not give a moment of hesitation to say that I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and will probably read select chapters in the book over again in the future. I was especially interested in the extraordinary stories of Edith Rosenbaum, Renee Harris, John Jacob Astor IV and his eighteen-year-old bride, Madeleine Force Astor, Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff Gordon, Bruce Ismay and Dorothy Gibson, just to name a handful of the interesting people discussed throughout the pages and chapters in this compelling and utterly fascinating book. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Titanic or even for those who would be interested in learning more about people living in America's Gilded Age and England's Edwardian Era.

This is well researched and written study of "survivors" of the Titanic, before there was such a thing as a diagnosis of PTSD. It makes for very interesting reading although tragic in many cases. The

book chronicles the lives of many of the survivors of the Titanic long after the ship went down. I had no idea that 10 survivors committed suicide in the years after the ship wreck. This book takes any "romance" out of the Titanic story....this was a tragic event that scarred the survivors for the rest of their lives long before there was counseling and antidepressant drugs. Well worth the time to read.....

I bought this on a whim when thinking about our upcoming trip to Halifax where many of the victims are buried, just wanted some more background beyond the usual movies about the disaster. I wasn't expecting much, just some casual reading, but I thoroughly enjoyed the book. Much harder to put down at night than most books. The back stories are just fascinating; the idea of following survivors from the time they got on the ship through their survival, rescue, and the rest of their natural lives is very interesting. I certainly have a new perspective of the whole disaster after reading this.

This is the first book I read that talked about what happened to the survivors of the Titanic and in detail. Most books and movies are about the voyage before and during the disaster. I have always wondered how the sinking of the ship affected the people who survived. There are many sad stories about how people could not get over what happened that night. It goes into detail about many of the survivors. It was well researched. If you like books about the Titanic, this is one you should read. I love anything I can get my hands on about the Titanic and this is one of the best.

I have been a Titanic enthusiast for the past 25 years, reading everything I could get my hands on over the years. What I like most about this book is that for the first time we find a collection of the stories of some of the survivors in one place, rather than having to read individual autobiographies or biographies of the various survivors. I think that the tragedy of the Titanic often overshadows the lifelong struggle so many of the Titanic survivors and this book poignantly points this out. That alone makes the book worth reading. The book is well researched and flows very smoothly from chapter to chapter. Now, what I didn't like: 1. The author makes a lot of leaps in logic to explain what he sees as obvious inferences between behavior and motive. I think another reviewer already mentioned that he puts thoughts into one of the survivors' head just before she commits suicide that he really would have no way of knowing, but instead infers these thoughts by what he assumes the woman must have been feeling and thinking. To me it's not as obvious and I don't think it's necessarily smart to make assumptions about what people are thinking. 2. He demonizes many of the traditional Titanic villains. I.e. Bruce Ismay and the Duff Gordons. He makes the inference that because of

Ismay's behavior he must have been a masochist, which to me is an invisible leap in logic. No proof was given that Ismay was a masochist, but instead plenty of proof was given that he suffered from PTSD for all of his life after the Titanic. Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon would not have thought it necessary to go back to the ship for more people because he probably made the assumption that there were plenty of lifeboats for everyone. I would guess that 99% of the passengers were completely unaware that there weren't enough lifeboats for everyone. Why would the Duff Gordons be concerned at all about those they left behind when they really had no idea of the reality of the situation? I think you get my drift here. But these could really just be my own pet peeves coming out. The book overall is totally worth reading and absolutely presents a rarely thought about aspect of Titanic's history.

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