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# The Watch That Ends The Night: Voices From The Titanic



## Synopsis

Arrogance and innocence, hubris and hope--twenty-four haunting voices of the Titanic tragedy, as well as the iceberg itself, are evoked in a stunning tour de force. Millionaire John Jacob Astor hopes to bring home his pregnant teen bride with a minimum of media scandal. A beautiful Lebanese refugee, on her way to family in Florida, discovers the first stirrings of love. And an ancient iceberg glides south, anticipating its fateful encounter. The voices in this remarkable re-creation of the Titanic disaster span classes and stations, from Margaret ("the unsinkable Molly") Brown to the captain who went down with his ship; from the lookout and wireless men to a young boy in search of dragons and a gambler in search of marks. Slipping in telegraphs, undertaker's reports, and other records, poet Allan Wolf offers a breathtaking, intimate glimpse at the lives behind the tragedy, told with clear-eyed compassion and astounding emotional power. Extensive back matter includes: Author's note, Morse code with messages to decipher, Titanic miscellany, Bibliography, articles, periodicals, government documents, discography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A masterpiece. Wolf leaves no emotion unplumbed, no area of research uninvestigated, and his voices are so authentic they hurt. Everyone should read it. *Booklist* (starred review) Wolf constructs a richly textured novel in verse that recreates the Titanic's ill-fated journey, predominantly through the voices of her passengers... Wolf's carefully crafted characters evolve as the voyage slides to its icy conclusion; readers may be surprised by the potency of the final impact. *Publishers Weekly* (starred review) Twenty-four voices of passengers, rats and even

the iceberg—evoke the human tragedy of the ill-fated voyage. Wolf brings the history and, more importantly, the human scale of the event to life by giving voice to the players themselves . . . A lyrical, monumental work of fact and imagination that reads like an oral history revved up by the drama of the event. —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Wolf's novel in verse gives voice, through first-person accounts, to a cross section of passengers and crew on the Titanic: how they boarded, why they're there, and how they face the disaster. . . . The themes of natural disaster, technology, social class, survival, and death all play out here. —The Horn Book (starred review)

Allan Wolf, an expert poet and storyteller, is the author of the award-winning novels *NEW FOUND LAND:LEWIS AND CLARK'S VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY* and *ZANE'S TRACE*. He lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

Simply put, *The Watch That Ends the Night* by Allan Wolf is one of the best books I've read all year. Written in verse, it is the story of the Titanic from its launch to its sinking, told in twenty four different voices, including those of third class passengers, first class passengers, crew, and even the iceberg. We learn of the hopes of young third class teens, the desperation of a second class father, the con artist in first class, the valiant musicians, and the new Marconi wireman, plus many more; with the exception of only one, all were real passengers aboard the ship, and all were changed forever when destiny met a silent, waiting iceberg in the dark of the ocean. Creative and captivating, Mr. Wolf keeps the action steady as the stories of the passengers race toward a struggle with life and death. I was equally enthralled with young Frankie Goldsmith's ice dragon adventures as I was with Captain Smith's realization that this final voyage would not be to his anticipated retirement. Wolf's research is detectable in all his details, and this Titanic buff was pleased to read his illuminating author's note in the final pages. I could easily have inhaled this novel in one long breath, but I made myself savor each word, right down to the lines falling off the pages as Thomas Andrews takes his final plunge with the ship. As 2012 is the centenary of the sinking of the great ship, there will doubtless be lots of information and many books available, but this one should definitely be the one literature and history lovers should seek out. Highly, highly recommended. Thanks to the Historical Novel Society for providing me with a copy of this wonderful novel.

This book has so many things going for it. It is both historical fiction and poetry. Allan Wolf made the characters true to life and the stories from different classes, nationalities adds to the depth of the

story. I listened to it as an audio book first. I was crying as I drove listening to the undertaker as he describes the work that they had to do in the icy seas after the sinking. I also appreciate that the author adds a last section that explains which things were from historical evidence and which he added for the story. Because of all of these things I'm using it in a university Children and Young adult literature class. Even though it's out of print it's well worth getting used. I also recommend the audio version.

I applaud the author for doing a fantastic job capturing the voices of twenty-four real live people and giving them dignified voices to tell their individual stories. This was a very thoughtful and highly creative work. I cried--the story of the Titanic will always be a sad one, no matter how many times it's told and no matter how it's told--yet, I cried more personally with this one. The experience of loss was more personal and personally felt. And the sense that I lost someone that I sort of came to know and to truly sympathize with was stronger here. Great job done in making the Titanic story still a modern story and a very much human one.

The author mixes the emotions of the crew and passengers of the Titanic through varying rhyming schemes. The events in the book play out as the same events in reality, and even though there are a few made up characters, those characters are complex enough and believable enough you would not be surprised to find them on the real Titanic. The author does a better job at describing the heart-wrenching sinking of the Titanic better than the movie Titanic. The scenes in the book are from three periods in time: Before the Titanic launches, the actual voyage/sinking, and then the survivors and their stories. I would recommend this book to all who are Titanic fans.

Just as described.

Can't wait to read this book, but because it is my daughter's favorite book this year, I decided to add it to my list of reads.

This book was purchased to add to my collection of work by Jon Klassen. He was the creator of the cover art. This is a first printing. It arrived in perfect condition. I have waited a very long time for this book to become available and could not be more pleased.

I was lucky enough to have a voice class that invited Allan to come and workshop some of his

poems from this book with our class. Therefore, I picked it up because I love having first edition prints, especially when I have the chance to meet the author. What I wasn't expecting was for this book to blow me out of the water. Allan wrote this book based on reality - people who were actually on the ship, the undertaker who picked up the bodies, the rats who lived in the bed of the ship, and the iceberg itself. I found this book hard to look away from and my copy is covered in flags so that I can go back and really envelop myself in his work. Some of his most poignant pieces in the book were based on things that probably happened. Allan himself was wonderful. He's been writing poetry for a while but when he directed our class, you could really see his stories come to life. If you ever were to sit down with a theatre troop and read the poems, I think you would understand how beautiful and how interesting all of his poems are. Each person has a voice, a perspective and paints an image of the Titanic that was (mostly) real. Overall, I loved this book and would recommend it highly, for anyone. For Titanic lovers it's another insight to what happened in a unique way. For someone who doesn't know as much, it's an introduction to real people, as opposed to Jack & Rose.

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