



I Survived the Sinking of the

TITANIC

CHARACTERS

*Historians 1, 2, 3

*Narrators 1, 2, 3

Phoebe: George's 7-year-old sister

***George:** A tall 10-year-old boy from New York

***Aunt Daisy:** George and Phoebe's 22-year-old aunt

Enzo: Marco's 4-year-old son

Marco: A young man from Italy

Mr. Stead: A famous writer from England

Henry: A steward who helps first-class passengers

Officers 1, 2

Man: A stranded passenger

*Indicates large speaking role

George thinks he's the luckiest boy alive to be on the *Titanic*. But then disaster strikes, and George and his family must fight for their lives.

BY LAUREN TARSHIS, ADAPTED FROM
HER BRAND-NEW BOOK SERIES "I SURVIVED"

Scene 1

Historian 1: It was April 14, 1912, and the *Titanic* had been at sea for four days. It was almost through its first sea voyage, from Southampton, England to New York City.

Historian 2: The *Titanic* was the most **elegant** ship ever built.

Historian 3: And the safest too. The *Titanic*'s designers said it was unsinkable.

Narrator 1: George, Phoebe, and Aunt Daisy are traveling in first-class back to New York after an adventure in London.

Phoebe: Georgie, don't you want to come for tea?

George: I've seen enough fancy ladies and millionaires. I'm heading out to explore.

Aunt Daisy: George, you must have seen every



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The *Titanic* was considered by many to be “unsinkable.” But on its first voyage in April, 1912, it hit an iceberg. In only two hours, the ship was swallowed by the icy sea.

Illustration by Steve Stone; www.shutterstock.com (file preserver)

inch of this ship by now.

George (*excitedly*): Yesterday I found some escape ladders in the crew's dining hall.

Aunt Daisy: What were you doing in the crew's . . . actually, forget I asked. Enjoy your adventure. Just don't be late for dinner!

Narrator 2: George sets off to prowl the enormous ship. He discovers the engine rooms and the first-class swimming pool. Soon, he finds himself on the third-class deck. A little boy comes up to him.

Enzo (*pointing to himself*): Enzo!

George: George.

Enzo (*thrilled*): Giorgio!

Narrator 3: The kid has the loudest voice George has ever heard.

Marco: You're Enzo's first American friend. We're from Italy, but soon we'll be American.

Narrator 1: George and Marco talk for two hours, until George notices how late it is.

Narrator 2: He jumps up.

Enzo (*grabbing George's legs*): No go, GIORGIO!

George: Sorry! I hope we'll see each other again!

Marco: Something tells me we will.

Scene 2

(First-class dining room)

Aunt Daisy: Georgie, I thought you'd been snatched from the deck by a sea monster!

Phoebe: Don't worry, Aunt Daisy. From now on, I won't let George out of my sight.

Narrator 3: George is **devouring** his fourth dessert when a man comes to their table.

Aunt Daisy: Mr. Stead!

Mr. Stead: Hello! Why, it seems everyone important is on this voyage. I hear there's even an Egyptian princess onboard.

Phoebe: Oooh! I *have* to meet her!

Mr. Stead: She's traveling in the first-class baggage room. She's more than 2,500 years old.

Aunt Daisy (*confused*): Pardon me?

Mr. Stead: She's a mummy! Belongs to a man



named Mr. Burrows. He dug her up in Egypt. People are saying he sold the coffin and then packed the princess in a wooden crate.

Phoebe: But isn't it bad luck to take a mummy from its tomb? I hope our ship isn't doomed!

Mr. Stead: Not to worry. Nothing can harm the *Titanic*, dear, not even a curse.

Phoebe (*whispering to George*): Don't even *think* about trying to see that mummy!

Scene 3

Narrator 1: But George can't resist. The minute Aunt Phoebe and Daisy are asleep later that night, he quietly sneaks out of their suite.

Narrator 2: He heads down five flights and easily finds the first-class baggage hold, thanks to his previous wanderings. The crate with Mr. Burrows's name on it is in the corner.

Narrator 3: Carefully, he tries to **pry** off the lid.

Narrator 1: But then he hears a low rumbling noise and the floor begins to shake.

Historian 1: The ship had hit an iceberg. Water poured through gashes in the side of the ship.

Historian 2: Few people realized the ship had



1) Longer than four city blocks and ten stories tall, the *Titanic* was the biggest moving object ever built. 2) A boy spins a top on the first-class deck. 3) First-class passengers enjoyed luxurious meals in four different dining rooms. But even third-class food and service on the *Titanic* was better than on other ships.

been irreparably damaged.

Narrator 2: George is spooked and rushes from the room without seeing what's in the crate.

Narrator 3: Meanwhile, Aunt Daisy is fast asleep. All is quiet in first-class.

Narrator 1: George barely gets back to his cabin and into his bed when there's a loud knock on the door.

Henry: Hello? Hello?

Aunt Daisy: It's after midnight, Henry!

Henry: We've bumped an iceberg, ma'am. The captain wants everyone out on deck.

Aunt Daisy (groggy): Is this some kind of joke?

Henry: Do hurry. You'll need your life vests.

Narrator 2: Henry leaves, and Aunt Daisy flings open Phoebe's bed curtains. The bed is empty.

Aunt Daisy: George! Where is your sister?!

Narrator 3: A chill comes over George as he remembers what Phoebe promised at dinner—that she wouldn't let him out of her sight.

Narrator 1: He realizes that Phoebe must have woken up when he left—and that she had gone to the baggage hold looking for him.

George: Aunt Daisy! I'm sorry, but I think I know exactly where Phoebe went!

Scene 4

Narrator 2: George leads Aunt Daisy down four flights of stairs to the G Deck.

Historian 3: A crowd of panicked third-class passengers were in the hallway, desperate to get to the upper decks.

Historian 1: These people knew something was wrong with the ship. Many woke up to find their rooms flooded with seawater.

George: We'll never find Phoebe in this crowd!

Enzo: Giorgio! Giorgio!

Narrator 3: It's Enzo and Marco.

Aunt Daisy: George, who is this boy?

Marco: We are friends of Giorgio.

George: Marco, we can't find my sister.

Narrator 1: Marco leans over and whispers something to Enzo. The boy nods.

Enzo: Phoebe! Phoebe!

Narrator 2: His voice booms through the crowd.

Narrator 3: Phoebe staggers forward.

Phoebe: Thank goodness I found you!

Narrator 1: George decides not to argue over who found whom.

Historian 2: The ship groaned as it catapulted forward. People fell like dominoes.



Historian 3: The stairs to the upper decks were blocked by locked gates.

Historian 1: And the ship didn't have nearly enough lifeboats for everyone onboard.

Historian 2: First-class passengers were loaded onto the lifeboats, but third-class passengers were forced to wait.

Marco: We must find another way up!

Aunt Daisy: It's up to you, George. You know this ship better than anyone.

Narrator 2: George closes his eyes, trying to remember the hidden passageways he discovered on his adventures.

George (*pointing down the hall*): This way!

Narrator 3: They hurry down the hall, splashing through water that is rising quickly.

Narrator 1: George pulls them into the crew's dining room, where he remembers seeing a ladder leading up two decks. It's right where he thought it would be.

Narrator 2: They scramble up and through a maze of hallways to the packed boat deck.

Officer 1: There's a lifeboat about to leave! The lady and the children must come at once.

Officer 2 (*to Marco*): Sorry, sir, women and children only.

Narrator 3: Marco speaks quietly to Enzo, then hands the boy to George.

Aunt Daisy: We will watch out for him. I promise you that.

Narrator 1: George, Phoebe, and Aunt Daisy fight tears as they leave Marco in the crowd.

Narrator 2: The officer helps Phoebe, Enzo, and Aunt Daisy into the boat. But when George tries to follow, the officer blocks his way.

Officer 1: Women and children only, sir. No room for you. Lower away!

Aunt Daisy: No! Wait! He's only a boy! He needs to come with us!

Narrator 3: Aunt Daisy and Phoebe both stand up. Passengers scream as the lifeboat rocks and Phoebe almost falls into the water.

Officer 2: Sit down, or I'll throw you off!

Narrator 1: George stands in shock as the lifeboat is lowered into the dark sea.

"All the News That's
Fit to Print."

The

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TITANIC SINKS FOR 866 RESCUED BY



The world reacted with shock at the news of the *Titanic's* sinking. A lifeboat rows toward the *Carpathia* (right).

Scene 5

Historian 3: The *Titanic's* bow was completely underwater. Water washed over the deck.

Narrator 2: George is frozen in fear, until he feels a hand on his shoulder.

Marco: Giorgio! There's no other choice! We must get off this ship!

Narrator 3: Marco pulls George to the rail. They both climb over and clasp hands.

Narrator 1: They leap into the freezing water.

Narrator 2: Marco grabs a door floating by. He helps George climb on top of it. Then he finds a small crate to keep himself afloat.

Narrator 3: Swimming with all his might, Marco pulls George away from the wreckage.

Narrator 1: George sees the *Titanic* in the distance, its lights flickering out, black smoke pouring out of the smokestack.

Historian 1: There was a big explosion before the ship disappeared into the water, bringing many trapped passengers along with it.

Narrator 2: Marco is so exhausted that he closes his eyes and barely moves.

Historian 2: The water was 30 degrees, too cold for a human to survive for long.

Historian 3: Hundreds of screaming people clung to bits of wreckage.

Narrator 3: George is almost out of hope when he hears voices behind him.

OUR HOURS AFTER HITTING ICEBERG; CARPATHIA, PROBABLY 1250 PERISH;



Narrator 1: It is a lifeboat, just 20 yards away.

George: Marco! Wake up!

Narrator 2: Marco doesn't move and George realizes that it's up to him.

Narrator 3: He pulls Marco through the water, which is so cold it burns his skin.

Narrator 1: He reaches the boat, but nobody helps him climb inside.

Man: There's no room!

George: You have to help us!

Narrator 2: George pulls Marco around to the other side of the boat. He hoists himself up and tumbles over some exhausted and frightened survivors. Marco is in bad shape, but George manages to pull him into the boat too.

Narrator 3: They float in silence in the icy sea.

Scene 6

Narrator 1: George huddles close to Marco, trying to keep him warm. Marco barely breathes. But then . . .

Man: Look there! Is that a ship?

Historian 1: The ocean liner *Carpathia* had heard *Titanic*'s distress call before it sank.

George: Marco! It's a ship! Marco!

Narrator 2: *Carpathia* has already picked up hundreds of *Titanic* survivors from lifeboats. Many of the rescuees are lined up at the rails, waving and shouting at George's boat.

Narrator 3: One voice rises up over the others.

Enzo: Papa! Papa! Giorgio!

Marco (weakly): Enzo!

George: They're safe, Marco! And so are we.

Historian 2: Tragically, of approximately 2,200 people on board, only about 700 survived.

Historian 3: For decades after the sinking, there was a rumor that there was a mummy on board, and that it cursed the ship.

Historian 1: But it was not a curse that doomed the *Titanic*. It was an iceberg—and the false belief that the ship was unsinkable. 🚢

WRITE TO WIN!

The *Titanic* had its own post office. Imagine yourself as a passenger or crew member. What would you write home? Using details from the play, write a letter about life onboard. Send your entry to "Titanic Contest" by Oct. 15, 2010. We'll send 10 winners Lauren Tarshis's book about the *Titanic*. See page 2 for details.

