



## **Women and Children First: Bravery, love and fate: the untold story of the doomed Titanic**

*Gill Paul*

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**Women and Children First: Bravery, love and fate: the untold story of the doomed Titanic** Gill Paul  
Women and Children First explore the turmoil of the sinking of one of the most famous ships of all time and its aftermath through the eyes of several different characters. The Titanic was the most magnificent ship ever built, offering every possible luxury to her passengers -- yet on the night on the 14th of April, 1912, she sank in the North Atlantic, leaving the lucky ones floating in wooden rowing boats, and the rest struggling for their lives in the icy water. This novel follows the fortunes of Reg, a handsome young steward who works in the first-class dining room; Annie, a gifted Irishwoman who is travelling to America with her four children; Juliette, a titled English lady who is pregnant and unmarried; an American millionaire and his wife who are trapped in a poisoned marriage; and a mystery passenger who never shows her face in public. The sinking of the Titanic not only steals lives but blows apart the futures of those who survive. Coming to terms with the shocking events, survivors form new attachments, make decisions with tragic consequences, and watch all their old certainties crumble. How can life ever be the same again when you have heard 1,500 people dying in the water around you?

## Women and Children First: Bravery, love and fate: the untold story of the doomed Titanic Details

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# From Reader Review **Women and Children First: Bravery, love and fate: the untold story of the doomed Titanic for online ebook**

**Vanessa ♥? says**

3.5 stars

I really love her writing and have read quite a few of her books but this one fell short for me..good but not great, although I loved her take on the Titanic events and focusing on the aftermath.

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**Soo says**

Enjoyed this book. I kept imagining the movie version of Titanic as I read it. Great job giving a historical account of the sinking and bringing in personal life stories to hook the reader.

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**Yellowdreamer says**

I've been morbidly fascinated by the Titanic since I was a 12 year-old and have read many books and watched many movies on the tragedy.

Naturally this fictional account appealed greatly - especially when it promised to take a different angle: what happened to the survivors afterward? How did they cope with PTSD in the aftermath?

I can't say this book delivered for me. Though I suspect that has more to do with the range of excellent material I've already been exposed to.

The only part of the book which held me was the chapters covering the Titanic's sinking. The familiar horrors.

The new angle of the aftermath, in the second half, proved uninteresting. Less PTSD, and more murder-mystery-amateur-detective. I couldn't connect with or care about any of the characters.

I was much more gripped by the author's final summary of Titanic facts. The epilogue seemed pointless. Who even cares what happened many years later to fictional Titanic survivors?

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**Julie Round says**

An interesting take on the story of the Titanic. The steward seemed rather more believable than the passenger but I liked the way it ended.

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**Erin says**

This book makes you think. To be lucky enough to survive a tragedy such as the sinking of the titanic, yet having to live on with guilt and remorse. Sometimes you can't escape what life has in store for you.

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## **Tracey says**

A very interesting read, Set around a heartbreaking story line. The sinking of the Titanic it's a story that everybody knows about me and to read this novel based around this has been an emotive experience. The characters were interesting, likeable and stood out on their own on the page. I think the only Negative thing I would say , is that it was slow being told.

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## **Jennifer Joyce says**

Women & Children First is set on the Titanic and tells the story of Reg, Juliette and Annie.

Reg Parsons is a 21 year old first class steward. He has worked on many ships but he is hoping one day he will save enough money to set up a business of his own and afford some of the luxuries he sees around him on a daily basis in first class.

Juliette Mason-Parker is a first class passenger who is travelling with her mother, Lady Mason-Parker. Her mother is desperate to find Juliette a rich husband on board but Juliette isn't so keen.

Annie is a third class passenger travelling with her children to America where her husband is waiting. She hasn't seen Seamus for 18 months and she can't wait to start their new life together.

The first part of the book centres around the ill-fated voyage and the passengers on board. Reg is intrigued when he sees a beautiful young woman aboard the ship who nobody else seems to have seen. Where is she and why is she hiding? We also discover the reason Lady Mason-Parker is so desperate to find a husband for her daughter.

The second part deals with the aftermath of the sinking of the Titanic, following some of the survivors and seeing how they coped and dealt with life afterwards. Secrets are discovered and nobody's life will be the same.

I really enjoyed Women and Children First. I find stories of the Titanic tragic yet fascinating and what I liked most about the book is it continued their stories beyond the sinking and being rescued. It dealt with the problems and traumas of trying to get back to normal when you have been through something so horrific and lost the people you loved the most. The book has clearly been researched thoroughly, which came across in the details of the ship and the events that unfolded.

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## **Em Elizabeth says**

This had so much promise. Titanic has been done a million times. The idea that this might explore the lives of the passengers after the disaster was really exciting to me. Sadly, not one of the characters were interesting, well-developed, realistic, or even likable.

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### **Jessica Tabraham says**

I have been obsessed with Titanic and her story ever since I was 5 when I found a book about it at my school library. I would constantly look at the pictures in just sheer wonder. Reading this book definitely made me feel as if I was there while the ship was sinking. The only fault I had in the book was how many characters it followed. I really only cared about 2. The others just slowed down the reading till I got to those 2 and then it would pick up again. Overall I did enjoy the book and would recommend it.

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### **Maggie Bermann says**

strangely i enjoyed this book..yes we all know what happens in the end, but this book took the story further by asking what happened next.. though story purely fictional and soem bits were raised eyebrows at.. it was quite a good wee read!

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### **Teresa says**

I enjoyed this book. It begins on the Titanic and then follows some of the survivors who arrived in New York.

The part written on the Titanic was great reading. The lead up and the sinking itself were done extremely well. It dipped slightly after this and the main character we're following, Reg, has so much happen to him, at times it stretched incredulity a bit. Annie, another character we continue on with had a bit of a boring story I thought. There was quite a bit of repetition in it.

However, over all it was a good read and I loved the Epilogue at the end. Always nice when an author wraps up loose ends we get to see what happened to them all.

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### **Ellie says**

I really enjoyed this book; not only because I have a large interest in the Titanic but because it was so beautifully written with a good level of character development, I found myself caring for the characters and becoming anxious about their fates, but this is all down to how lovely the writing was.

The story follows the lives of four characters aboard the Titanic and how their lives are affected after this. I can understand that some people would be put off by the idea of constant switches between character perspective, as a chapter is dedicated to one particular character and although usually I would have found this annoying I feel that Gill Paul pulled it off well.

The lives of these characters are stark opposites of each other; Reg is a steward in first class, Annie a third class Irish woman travelling with her four children, a first class man named Mr Grayling and Juliette a first class, unmarried, pregnant woman travelling with her mother. This is an excellent guide to understanding what the Titanic was like for all degrees of passengers aboard the ship and also helps the reader to relate to

the characters. I, for one, feel that I grew attached to them because of the way they are portrayed. The lives of all the characters actually entwine during multiple intervals throughout the novel which is not only interesting to discover their views of each other but also to contrast their lives and make the book seem more connected than full of separate characters.

All in all, a great read, I would recommend to any Titanic fan or anyone who is interested in life during 1912.

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### **Graceann says**

I thought there couldn't be a new angle on the Titanic story, but I was mistaken. Here, Gill Paul takes a select group of characters and explores how they deal with surviving the disaster. It makes for much more interesting reading than I initially thought it would. How do you live with the memories of struggling for your life and watching others die?

This is largely an ensemble piece, but there is one character who gets more ink than the others, Reg. I think that this is appropriate given that he interacted with all of the rest and that a compelling storyline has been created for him. This started out being a three-star read for me, because I thought I knew what was coming from about page 200 and I found that disappointing and cliched. As it turned out, however, I was quite wrong and got a big surprise. I love it when an author does that, and it lifted my rating to five stars just for sheer enjoyment and appreciation of her ability to provide the unexpected.

Written in an accessible yet classy style, with characters you actually care about (I was especially grateful for the "what happened later" epilogue) and a compelling set of storylines, I thought this novel was a winner. I'm now interested in other pieces from this author.

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### **Diane Koenig says**

I liked the way the author brought the terrifying experience from several characters' point of view. I especially liked the story of the steward and his experience before, during and after the sinking. Fast moving and engaging story.

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### **Nikki Bywater says**

Women & Children First is a touching tale, about what it must have been like to survive the sinking of the Titanic.

Reg Parton is a good looking young steward, who works in the first class dining room. Reg dreams of one day running his own small restaurant.

Lady Juliette Mason-Parker is an English lady who is pregnant and unmarried. She is travelling to conceal her pregnancy in fear of been ostracised from society.

Annie McGeown is a mother of four, travelling with her children to join her husband in New York to start a

new life living there from Ireland.

American millionaire George Grayling and his wife Margaret who have an unhappy marriage and George would like a divorce.

When the Titanic sinks on that fateful day back in 1912, in the North Atlantic, on its maiden voyage Reg, Juliette, Annie and George lives will be shook to the core. The lives of which they have known will change forever. They survived the Titanic, but will they be able to rebuild and survive the lives they now find themselves living?

This is a really moving story that will really touch your heart. The author Gill Paul says that she wanted to explore what it felt like to be on the Titanic and to survive. The main characters are all invented. The main character Reg was inspired by a photograph of a very handsome young man, who was a steward in first class and who died. In real life nothing is known of what happened to him and little is known of his background. Gill Paul created the character of Reg with this picture in her mind. Gill Paul's characters may be fictitious, but many of their experiences are based on real events, which Gill Paul has researched. As a reader you really do get a feel of what it must be like, the book is excellently written so that it creates the build up and creates atmosphere and emotion of what it must have felt like to be on board, and then to have survived such a terrible disaster.

There is also a mystery theme to the story, which gets you as a reader more intrigued in the story. The chapters are written in such a way that leaves the reader in suspense and anticipation that makes you not want to stop reading and to carry on reading to find out what will happen.

I really enjoyed reading this novel by Gill Paul, it is a superb novel.

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