

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 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 feels like
the luckiest kid alive to be on the
Titanic, the greatest ship ever built.
But then disaster strikes!

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

Scene 1

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

Historian 2: The *Titanic* is 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, heading back to New York after an adventure in London.

Phoebe: Come on, 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 inch of this ship by now.

IC



The *Titanic* was considered “unsinkable” until it hit an iceberg on April 14, 1912. It sank just two hours later in the North Atlantic Ocean. Even today, it is considered one of the most shocking disasters in history.

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 explores the huge engine rooms and the luxurious 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.

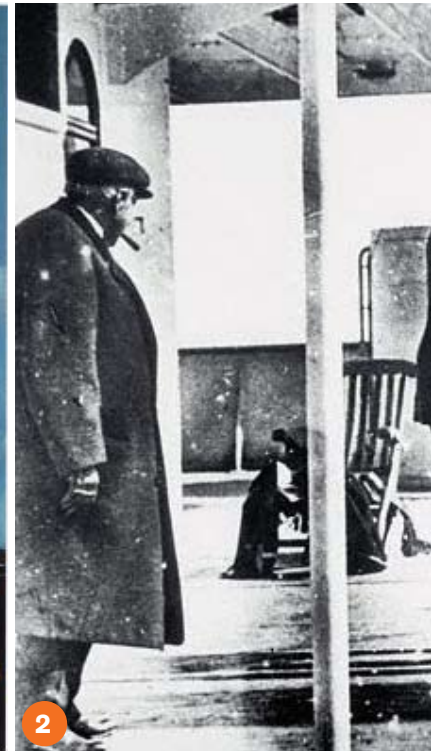
Narrator 1: George and Marco talk for two hours, until George notices how late it is.

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 hit an iceberg. Suddenly,



3

1) Longer than four city blocks and ten stories tall, the *Titanic* was the biggest moving object ever built. 2) A little 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 passengers enjoyed far better food and service on the *Titanic* than those on other ships.

water begins to pour through gashes in the side of the severely damaged ship.

Historian 2: Few people realize the ship has been irreparably broken.

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

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

Narrator 1: George barely gets back to his cabin and into bed when there's a 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.

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

Historian 3: Because of where they're situated, these people know something is 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 1: 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 2: Marco leans over and whispers something to Enzo. The boy nods.

Enzo: Phoebe! Phoebe!

Narrator 3: His voice booms through the crowd.

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**TITANIC SINKS FOUR HOURS AFTER HITTING ICEBERG;
866 RESCUED BY CARPATHIA, PROBABLY 1250 PERISH;
ISMAY SAFE, MRS. ASTOR MAYBE, NOTED NAMES MISSING**



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



Narrator 1: Phoebe staggers forward.

Phoebe: Thank goodness I found you!

Narrator 2: George doesn't argue over who found whom.

Narrator 3: There is another deep groaning sound as the ship catapults forward. People fall like dominoes.

Narrator 1: The stairways to the upper decks are blocked by locked gates.

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

Historian 2: First-class passengers are already being loaded onto the lifeboats, but third-class passengers are 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. He was right!

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!

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

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.

Scene 5

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

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

Marco: Georgio! There's no other option! 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. There's a massive explosion before the ship disappears into the water, bringing many passengers who couldn't evacuate in time along with it.

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

Historian 1: The water is 30 degrees, too cold for a human to survive for long.

Historian 2: Hundreds of screaming people cling to bits of wreckage.

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

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. This time, he hoists himself up and tumbles over a bunch of exhausted and frightened passengers. Marco is in bad shape, but somehow 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 3: The ocean liner *Carpathia* had heard *Titanic*'s distress call when the accident happened and had raced to aid the ship.

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

Narrator 2: *Carpathia* had 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 1: Tragically, of approximately 2,200 people on board, only about 700 survived.

Historian 2: For decades after the sinking, there was a rumor that there was a mummy on board, and that it cursed the ship.

Historian 3: 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.

