

Abandon Titanic!

Parts:	Robert Hitchens	Quartermaster (very grumpy)
	Molly Brown	'Unsinkable Molly' (amazingly cheerful)
	Bruce Ismay	The shipping manager (a broken man)
	Lady Toffernay	A first class passenger (snooty and bossy)
	Little Norbert	A small boy (a Titanic expert!)
	Norbert's Granny	Covered in shawls and very quiet

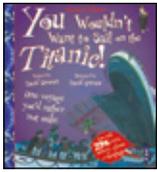
2.00am on 15th April, 1912 – on board lifeboat 6 as The Titanic sinks. All sit huddled in the lifeboat, staring back at the sinking ship...

- Robert: She's going down. Find the oars and row like mad.
- Molly: But this lifeboat is half empty. There are hundreds of people in the water.
- Bruce: We must save as many as we can.
- Robert: It's too late for them now. If we don't row clear of the ship she'll take us down with her. We'll get sucked right under.
- Bruce: It's like a nightmare. This can't be happening.
- Molly: Then row everyone. Come on... one, two, three, four....
- Robert: Hey, I'm in charge, not you. You're just a woman – and as rough as a hedgehog.
- Molly: So I might be, but I won't be beaten. Unlike the Titanic, my spirit is unsinkable. Come on... get rowing... one, two, three, four....
- Robert: That's MY job. One, two, three, four....



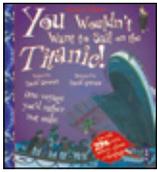
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- Molly: So why aren't you rowing, then?
- Robert: I'm in charge so I must steer the boat. I must man the rudder. That's the most important job.
- Lady T: This is ridiculous. I demand my money back. I didn't pay good money for a first class ticket only to end up in a freezing little rowing boat with no waiter service.
- Bruce: She was meant to be unsinkable. I'm ruined.
- Molly: It's no use crying over your ship, Mr Ismay. Think of the people still on board.
- Lady T: I blame the waiter for all this nonsense. I simply asked for extra ice in my drink and a massive lump arrived with a crash. He went totally overboard.
- Robert: Like the rest of us.
- Bruce: The captain was warned of icebergs but we had no idea this could happen.
- Norbert: I did.
- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Norbert: But it's true. I know everything about that ship. I told the captain about icebergs. I told him there weren't enough lifeboats. No one listens to me.
- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Bruce: We were supposed to have lifeboat drill yesterday.



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- Robert: Captain Smith changed his mind. We were too busy.
- Lady T: I shall write a letter of complaint to the management. I left my handbag onboard ship and I demand it is returned immediately.
- Molly: Keep rowing, everyone. One, two, three, four...
- Robert: I told you that's MY job. One, two, three, four....
- Lady T: And I shall write a very strong letter to the managing director of the White Star shipping line.
- Norbert: You can save the stamp - he's sitting right there (*points to Bruce*)
- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Lady T: That's disgraceful. We were told it was 'women and children first' when we abandoned ship. So why is a man on this lifeboat?
- Norbert: Well I can tell you something else, too...
- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Robert: You need a few men on this boat to row us away from the ship. She's about to sink forever.
- Molly: But the band is still playing. Look, they're right up there on deck, while everyone is jumping off into the sea. Poor souls. The captain said it's everyone for themselves. Come on, row harder everyone: one, two, three, four.
- Robert: I told you that's MY job. One, two, three, four....
- Lady T: It's very cold. I demand someone brings me a hot water bottle. Can someone ask a waiter for a jug of coffee? And someone fetch



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my evening gloves.

Molly: Grab an oar and row, love. That'll warm you up.

Lady T: How dare you. Do you know who I am? I am Lady Toffernay.

Robert: More like Lady Toffee-Nose.

Lady T: I shall write a letter of complaint about you. My husband is Lord Toffernay. He's very big in Africa.

Robert: So are elephants but they don't brag about it.

Lady T: How very dare you!

Molly: Keep rowing, everyone. One, two, three, four...

Robert: Stop keep putting your oar in! I'm in charge. Women can't row.

Molly: Rubbish! Women should row as well as men. It's all hands on deck... Look – the ship is sliding below the waves.

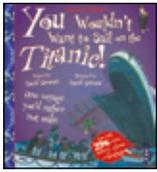
Bruce: *(The boat rocks)* I don't believe it – she's gone. Forever. My dream is dead in the water. The world will never be the same again. All is lost. LOST!

Norbert: I told you that would happen.

Lady T: I shall definitely demand a refund now. I left my jewels in my cabin.

Robert: If we're lucky we'll get picked up by a rescue ship. Eventually.

Lady T: Somehow I don't think luck is on our side tonight. It's disgraceful. I want a diver to go down there and get my diamonds.



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I need my maid.

Molly: We're much luckier than the hundreds who didn't make it to the lifeboats.

Robert: We sent out a radio signal and fired distress flares. All we can do is wait.

Molly: I think we should keep rowing to keep warm. We need to keep our spirits up.

Bruce: Impossible. I've hit rock bottom.

Norbert: So has the Titanic now.

Granny: Not now, Norbert.

Molly: We need to think positive. Can anyone sing?

Lady T: Don't be ridiculous. This is a tragedy, not a musical.

Norbert: I spy with my little eye something beginning with W...

Granny: Not now, Norbert.

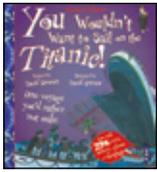
Molly: That's a good idea, Norbert. We need something to keep our minds off the cold and dark. Is your word 'water'?

Norbert: Nope

Bruce: Wreckage?

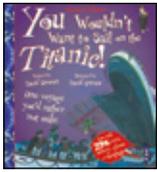
Norbert: Nope

Lady T: Wind?



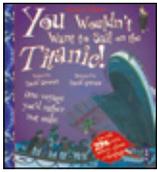
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- Norbert: You can't see wind, actually.
- Robert: Waves?
- Norbert: Nope
- Granny: Wet?
- Norbert: Nope. Give up?
- Molly: Go on, then – tell us.
- Norbert: Woman in a wig.
- Lady T: How dare you. This is all my own hair and besides, I am not a woman, I am a lady. I have never had to mix with lower class people before. It's disgraceful. I'm sitting with commoners! It was never meant to be like this.
- Norbert: That's true. The Titanic was never meant to sink but it did. The lifeboats are meant to carry over a thousand passengers but they're not. My Granny is meant to be...
- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Molly: You seem to know a lot about The Titanic, Norbert.
- Granny: He's a bit of an expert, I'm afraid. He knows everything.
- Norbert: The captain told me the ship burned 600 tonnes of coal a day – hand shovelled into its furnaces by a team of 176 men. Almost 100 tonnes of ash were ejected into the sea each day.
- Bruce: Not any more. (*Sobs with his head in his hands*)



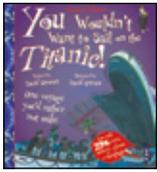
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- Robert: Look on the bright side, sir. You've still got Titanic's sister ships.
- Norbert: Olympic and Gigantic, also built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast.
- Bruce: My Titanic was the largest ship in the world when she was launched.
- Norbert: 269 metres long, 28 metres wide and 32 metres high.
- Bruce: With ten decks, three anchors and four funnels.
- Norbert: But I happen to know only three of the funnels were real. One was just for show to make the ship look better.
- Bruce: (*Breaking down*) You're right – but it was all just a waste of time.
- Norbert: Six boiler rooms made steam to power five engines.
- Bruce: To drive three huge propellers measuring seven metres across.
- Norbert: Actually, one of them was smaller at five metres across. And I know something particularly interesting about the rivets...
- All: Not now, Norbert!
- Robert: As quartermaster, I know a lot about ships, too. And I say we should row towards the lights in the distance. It could be a rescue ship.
- Molly: Start rowing, everyone. Women, too. One, two, three, four...
- Robert: Will you be quiet? I am in charge!
- Norbert: Can I ask a question, Mr Ismay?



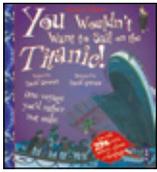
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- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Bruce: If you must.
- Norbert: Why did Titanic only have sixteen wooden lifeboats and four collapsible ones?
- Bruce: That's more than required by law.
- Norbert: But that's only enough for one third of all the passengers.
- Bruce: I know... (*Sobs again with his head in his hands*)
- Lady T: I call it gross incompetence. I spent a fortune on having my hair done last night and now look at it. I shall be saying some well-chosen words to the king about this.
- Molly: What words will you say exactly?
- Lady T: I haven't chosen them yet.
- Norbert: I spy with my little eye something beginning with D.
- Granny: Darkness?
- Norbert: Nope
- Bruce: Despair?
- Norbert: Nope
- Lady T: Death?
- Norbert: Nope



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- Robert: Dogs? There were nine dogs on board and two made it to one of the lifeboats.
- Norbert: Nope
- Molly: Driftwood?
- Norbert: Nope. Shall I tell you?
- Bruce: If you must.
- Norbert: Daddy.
- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Molly: Where is your daddy, Norbert?
- Norbert: Here.
- Granny: Not now, Norbert.
- Lady T: Look – there’s a ship in the distance!
- Robert: It’s the SS Carpathia. We signalled her earlier.
- Bruce: It’s coming closer. We’re going to be rescued at last.
- Molly: I’m going to make sure everyone from all the lifeboats gets on board safely, with a hot drink and blankets. I shall organise a survivors committee. There’ll be a lot of women and children needing help.
- Norbert: Including my Daddy... *(He pulls the shawl off Granny to reveal a bearded man)*



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Granny: Not now, Norbert.

Molly: Your Granny is a man! I suppose that's because they said 'women and children first'. That was before the captain told everyone to save themselves however they could. I saw him standing on the bridge as the ship finally went down.

(The haunting sound of wind and waves)

The Captain stood where a captain should
As Titanic went right down...
Below those waves to the watery graves
Where the brave and lonely drown.

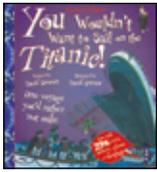
Robert: The Owner fled from the sinking dead
By making his escape
In a lifeboat bound for secure dry ground
And a new life, all shipshape.

Norbert: The Captain stood where a captain should
As Titanic went right down
While the Owner ran, a broken man,
With women like Molly Brown.

Granny: As the quartermaster steered.
What bleak hours passed, until at last
Carpathia then appeared.

Lady T: Once hauled aboard, with their hope restored,
The survivors cast their eyes
Over empty seas in the icy breeze
Where still The Titanic lies.

Bruce: The wind still blows over sea ice-floes
And the deathly bleak sunrise, As the grey waves roll with each



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lost soul...
Where still The Titanic lies.

Which all goes to show – with hindsight... **YOU REALLY
WOULDN'T WANT TO SAIL ON THE TITANIC...**
(Sobs again with his head in his hands)

The RMS Carpathia arrived around 4am and took the survivors to New York. A crowd of 40,000 people greeted its arrival at Pier 54. By the time the Carpathia docked, Molly Brown had set up The Survivor's Committee, been elected the chair and raised almost \$10,000 for those who had lost everything. It is thought some men dressed as women to be allowed on the lifeboats. Only twenty percent of Titanic's male passengers survived the tragedy that night in 1912.