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Call of the
TITANIC

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*To all those who put themselves
in danger to help others.*

Also by Lindsay Galvin

Darwin's Dragons
My Friend the Octopus
The Secret Deep

RMS *Titanic* set sail on her maiden voyage
on 10th April 1912.

She sank at 2.20 a.m. on 15th April 1912
in the North Atlantic.

There were not enough lifeboats for
all the passengers and crew. One thousand
four hundred and ninety-six died.

Over seven hundred survived,
escaping in eighteen lifeboats.

The *Titanic* survivors were rescued
by RMS *Carpathia*.

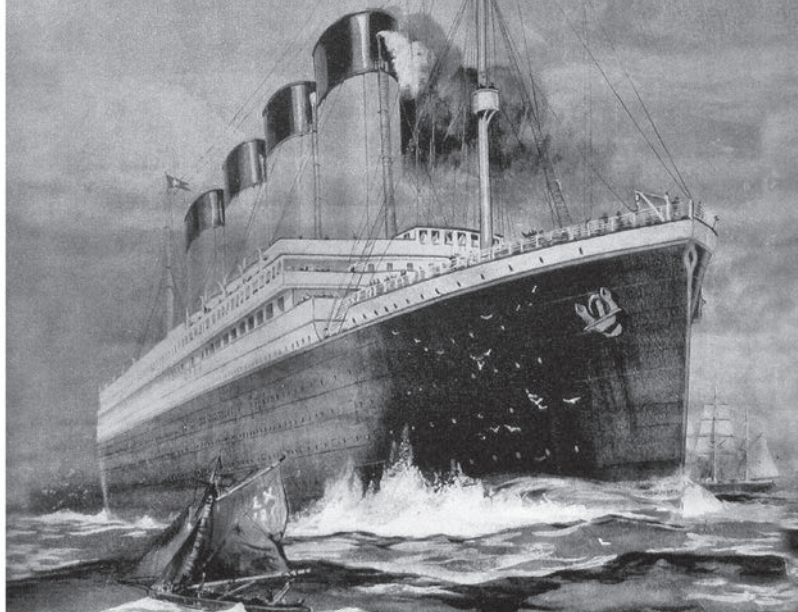
Many survivors of the disaster were required to give evidence at inquiries in New York, Washington DC and London, to find out why so many people died. Young steward Sidney Daniels escaped *Titanic* but was never called for evidence. I have written his fictionalized story guided by the style of the many witness statements I read for research.

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27th April 1912

(Twelve days after RMS *Titanic* was lost)

UNITED STATES SENATE INQUIRY

Day 9 - 27th April 1912

Testimony of Sidney Daniels

(The Witness was Duly Sworn by Senator
Bourne)

SENATOR BOURNE: Please be seated, Mr Daniels.
My name is SENATOR BOURNE and this is my
stenographer, Mrs Perry, who will be taking a
record of your testimony in shorthand. She
will then type up the testimony for you to sign
so it can be added to the official record.

- Yes, sir, I understand.

SENATOR BOURNE: All I ask is that you answer
my questions in full and truthfully. Leave no
detail out.

- Yes, sir.

SENATOR BOURNE: Then I think we are ready to
begin. For the record. Is your name Sidney
Daniels?

- Yes, sir.

SENATOR BOURNE: Were you a third-class stew-
ard on the Titanic?

- Yes, sir.

SENATOR BOURNE: How old were you when serving
on the Titanic, son?

- Fifteen, sir.

SENATOR BOURNE: What were you doing at the
time of the collision?

- I was off duty and in my bunk, sir.

SENATOR BOURNE: On which deck was your cabin?

- E deck, sir. Off the main working corridor
we called Scotland Road.

SENATOR BOURNE: Is it a cabin in which a
number of third-class stewards are berthed
together? A dormitory-type arrangement?

- Yes, sir.

SENATOR BOURNE: What is it you are holding in
your hand, Mr Daniels?

- It's just some letters I wrote my ma, sir. I
never got a chance to post them and I thought
if you ask me about the days running up to the
disaster . . . well, I might not remember with
all that's happened, but it's in here.

SENATOR BOURNE: I think it might be helpful for an impression of how third class was operating before the incident.

Mrs Perry, please clearly mark when Mr Daniels is reading from his private correspondence.

- You want me to read out loud? Sorry, sir, it's just . . . well, it's a letter to my ma. And you know, she worries. So it might not be any use, it's not all official like . . .

SENATOR BOURNE: I understand, but I would like to hear all the same. What mattered to you matters to this inquiry. Would you prefer Mrs Perry to read?

- Goodness no, sir! She probably couldn't make sense of my handwriting, sir, Ma always does say I have a bit of a scrawl.

SENATOR BOURNE: Very well. And remember, Mr Daniels, we are not judging you or anyone else at this stage before the accident; this was just one more ship, full of people with mothers, just like yours.