

Wolf, Allan. *The Watch That Ends The Night: Voices From The Titanic*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2011. Print.

If you are searching for a way to mark April 14, 2012, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RMS Titanic's striking of the iceberg, consider settling into a comfortable chair with *The Watch That Ends The Night: Voices From The Titanic*. You may wish to choose a chair with secure footing on solid ground.

Formally, *The Watch That Ends The Night* is a novel consisting of poems, primarily in free verse, along with a variety of other styles suiting the two dozen "voices" who tell the story. This book stands out in large part thanks to Wolf's resonant crafting of these voices. We hear from the crew, including an engine room man, a violinist, and the Captain himself. We hear from a range of passengers, including some of the richest and some of the poorest. We hear from men working in the aftermath of the collision, including a sailor on board the RMS Carpathia, the ship that rescued the Titanic's survivors. The observations of a Nova Scotian undertaker, tasked with cataloguing the bodies and effects of the dead, are interspersed throughout, providing suspense despite the familiarity of the narrative. We read the wireless transmissions, most of which, Wolf mentions, are real: "From: RMS *Titanic*. To: All Ships at Sea. [...] I require immediate assistance".

Wolf enriches the reader's experience further by giving voice to the ominous perspective of the iceberg: "The lookouts on her mast can't make me out". Even "The Ship Rat" appears, scurrying along on a quest for survival whose symbolic importance increases as events unfold.

Taken individually, each poem is an engaging insight into a particular perspective at a given moment within the voyage. Taken as a whole, Wolf's poems build the tension that befits this story while capturing the stratification and diversity that existed on the ship in its time.

The back matter is wonderful. Wolf provides details on each character and clarifies what is fact and what is fiction. There is also an extensive bibliography.

*The Watch That Ends The Night: Voices From The Titanic* has many potential classroom applications. Hopefully, many young adult and adult readers will also read it purely for enjoyment.

Highly recommended: 4 out of 4 stars  
Reviewer: Sarah Polkinghorne

The Titanic is for kids, too. That's the hope of acclaimed poet Allan Wolf, although his latest work of children's fiction, a novel in verse called *The Watch That Ends the Night* (Candlewick Press/\$21.99), will appeal equally to adults, even the most meticulous of Titaniacs. In the form of mostly non-rhyming poetry, Wolf presents the ship and the world of 1912 with an attention to detail and a fluid style all readers will appreciate. His lines are more like lyrics, accessible but powerful, and they paint a vibrant picture of an event that couldn't be more suited to an artistic treatment of this *The Watch That Ends the Night* is a novel by Canadian author and academic Hugh MacLennan. The title refers to a line in Psalm 90. It was first published in 1958 by Macmillan of Canada. George and Catherine Stewart share not only the burden of Catherine's heart disease, which could cause her death at any time, but the memory of Jerome Martell, her first husband and George's closest friend. Martell, a brilliant doctor passionately concerned with social justice, is presumed to have died in a Nazi prison Review. A masterpiece. Wolf leaves no emotion unplumbed, no area of research uninvestigated, and his voices are so authentic they hurt. Everyone should read it. Wolf's novel in verse gives voice, through first-person accounts, to a cross section of passengers and crew on the Titanic: how they boarded, why they're there, and how they face the disaster. . . . The themes of natural disaster, technology, social class, survival, and death all play out here. Verified Purchase. Simply put, *The Watch That Ends the Night* by Allan Wolf is one of the best books I've read all year. Written in verse, it is the story of the Titanic from its launch to its sinking, told in twenty four different voices, including those of third class passengers, first class passengers, crew, and even the iceberg. *Voices from the Titanic.* by Allan Wolf. email. X. "Allan Wolf has imagined his way deep into the cold, dark waters of history and has come back carrying a couple of dozen voices that he discovered there, voices whose authenticity is not only convincing but compelling." - Ted Kooser, former U.S. Poet Laureate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize. This information about *The Watch That Ends the Night* shown above was first featured in "The BookBrowse Review" - BookBrowse's membership magazine, and in our weekly "Publishing This Week" newsletter. In most cases, the reviews are necessarily limited to those that were available to us ahead of publication