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Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage: The Titanic, Her Passengers, and Their World (Thorndike Press Large Print Biography Series)

Hugh Brewster

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Hugh Brewster : Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage: The Titanic, Her Passengers, and Their World (Thorndike Press Large Print Biography Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage: The Titanic, Her Passengers, and Their World (Thorndike Press Large Print Biography Series):

51 of 53 people found the following review helpful. Misfortune Does Not Evade The WealthyBy R PRIUSQuite a few good books have been released recently in anticipation of the centennial of the sinking of the luxury steamship Titanic. This book looks at the gilded age which essentially gave birth to this ship, the passengers who were part of strata of society that traveled first class, the sinking of the Titanic, the lives lost, and the survivors. This book profiles many of the prominent and wealthy first class passengers, providing background information as well as the reason for their being on the Titanic. For many, they were returning to the United States following a grand tour of the capitals of Europe or returning after stays in their second homes (a practice favored by many Americans of wealthy circumstances). The names that popped up on the passenger list were either legendary or would become so. Astor and Strauss are among the most prominent, while J. Pierpoint Morgan managed to avoid the Titanic only to die the next year. Margaret Brown, a Denver socialite, became known as unsinkable and "Molly". There are interesting and often gossipy stories imbedded in the narrative. We find that Benjamin Guggenheim is booked on the Titanic with his newest mistress located a respectable distance down the hall. Writer Helen Candee is romantically involved with a

younger scoundrel. They both survive, but her love interest soon moves on to a younger woman. This book is loaded with great stories and small vignettes related to the sinking, the search for victims, and the fates of the living. It also looks at the sinking as a harbinger of a world in flux; the gilded age would soon come to an abrupt end with the introduction of an income tax, the world would be at war, and a depression would greatly diminish personal fortunes. The accounts of the sinking and the later recovery efforts are chilling and haunting and stand in stark contrast to the golden lives of the first class passengers. Despite the fact that little is mentioned regarding the third class passengers who had little to no chance of survival or the reasons why the unsinkable sunk so quickly and without mercy, this is an interesting book that delivers on what is promised: gilded lives and a fatal voyage.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book was pretty interesting, I liked getting to know the passengers ...By Deanna H. This book was pretty interesting, I liked getting to know the passengers better. I especially liked the pictures of various places on the ship. Wow, the layers of richness in the designs almost hurt the eye, they really were into "a lot more is better" back then. Seeing the likenesses of a lot of the privileged made the reality more human. I really think that most of the people thought they were going to be saved, or there would have been a lot more fighting for the lifeboats. Nobody pays much attention to the fact that 2/3 of the steerage class perished, and that the gates were locked to keep them below! I am from Denver, and I was heartened that Molly (Margaret) Brown worked hard to help the poor survivors after being rescued. This was a well researched and interesting book!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, slow to get goingBy Mark A. Wilson This was an illuminating look at the lives of various first-class passengers on the Titanic: who they were, why they were there, how their lives intertwined before, during and after the disaster. It takes a while to pick up steam (much like a large ocean liner), but accelerates as it takes us closer to the calamity. We are shown how the people we have come to know react, and eventually how even the survivors are often haunted by this "night to remember".