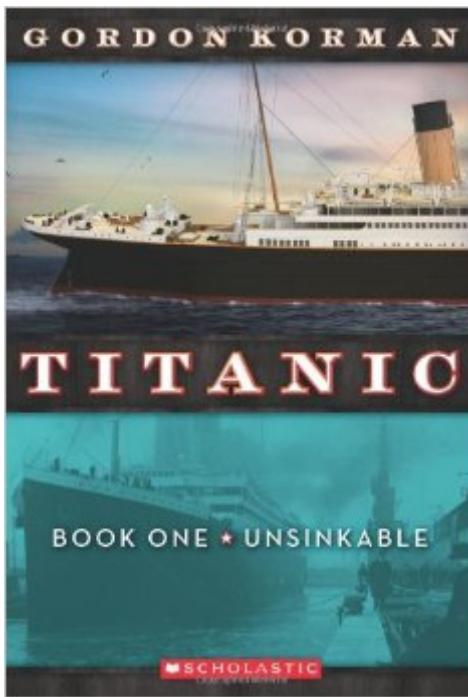


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# Unsinkable (Titanic, No. 1)



## **Synopsis**

The ultimate action/adventure trilogy begins, with #1 bestselling author Gordon Korman plunging readers into the heart of the Titanic. The Titanic is meant to be unsinkable, but as it begins its maiden voyage, there's plenty of danger waiting for four of its young passengers. Paddy is a stowaway, escaping a deadly past. Sophie's mother is delivered to the ship by police - after she and Sophie have been arrested. Juliana's father is an eccentric whose riches can barely hide his madness. And Alfie is hiding a secret that could get him kicked off the ship immediately. The lives of these four passengers will be forever linked with the fate of Titanic. And the farther they get from shore, the more the danger looms. . . .

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Series: Titanic (Book 1)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; 1ST edition (May 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545123313

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Product Dimensions: 0.4 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #54,407 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries #429 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go #618 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Wow! This action packed story starts in Belfast, Northern Ireland and travels to London, Southampton, and the English Channel gathering the main characters of the book as the Titanic starts its maiden voyage. Paddy and Daniel are the first characters to be introduced. They are pickpockets working together to work the streets of Belfast when they see Mr. Thomas Andrews, the designer of the Titanic. Daniel has been infatuated with the building of the ship, believing there has

to be something that will sink the awesome vessel. Mr. Thomas challenges him to find a way and bring it to him on the ship, if he can figure it out. The boys pickpocket a known gangster and that's where the adventure begins. Daniel is brutally beaten while Paddy is hoisted on the Titanic in supplies for the ship. Does Daniel survive and what is Paddy going to do now are questions that leave you wanting to read more. Sophie is the next character introduced. Her out-spoken mother is arrested in London where she is demonstrating for women's rights. Sophie finds herself arrested after she jumps on a constable after he beats on a woman who was defending her mother. They are taken to the Titanic to ensure they leave London and return to America. Two other characters are part of the main plot of the story, Alphonse, a.k.a. Alfie, and Julian Glamm, a socialite. Alfie's mother left him and he had nowhere to go. His father worked in the boiler room of the Titanic so he faked his age to get a job aboard the ship. Julian's father loves adventure. He purchases tickets to board the amazing Titanic for himself and Julian. These four characters come from different backgrounds to create a unique bond. They work together to help Paddy survive an attack from the gangster and his men.

If you are obsessed with everything titanic like me, then this book will definitely catch your attention. There hasn't exactly been an overload of Titanic fiction in the past years...but with the 100th anniversary of the fatal night coming up next Spring, I think they're definitely will be, soon! And this book isn't a bad start. The first of a trilogy (Book 2 and 3 both coming out before fall, so you don't have long to wait) this is a shorter book, roughly 160 pages. But it's still a good story, well written, and exciting. It basically intertwines the lives of 4 young Titanic passengers. From Paddy, a stowaway who thinks gangsters murdered his best and only friend in the world, to Sophie, on the ship with her embarrassing and vocal suffragette mother. Each of these kids are struggling and burdened with something while on the grand ship, and by the end of the novel, their lives criss cross. When Alfie, an underage lad working on the Titanic, finds a scrapbook with collections of articles and pictures all about the famous Whitechapel murders (aka Jack the Ripper), and with criminals chasing after Paddy, things on the Titanic might get a little more frightening than any of these kids expect. This is a basic plot, but I would best describe this book as a mystery, rather than historical fiction. I was expecting more of a historical fiction vibe, I guess, and instead this book is best summed up as a mystery. It was still very good, but by the end it was getting a little slow. I am guessing the second book will cover the iceberg crash and the start of the sinking. Of course, we're all waiting for that moment, which makes this first book a bit slow. But all the characters are unique, well written, and it's fun to see how different they all are and how their lives soon become

intertwined.

OK - who wouldn't have guessed that acclaimed author Gordon Korman was going to write his next 3 books on the most famous ship? Me neither. Yeah - I know that next year will mark the centenary of Titanic's maiden voyage, and sudden demise. And sure, this is an "evergreen" subject that continues to intrigue and mesmerize even after a hundred years. But it is also a solemn subject. Can the fun-loving, often-cheeky Gordon pull it off? The answer is a resounding 'YES'! And he does it not by just writing a fast moving, action-packed tale (which the book certainly is), using Titanic only as a back drop: he does it RIGHT! I was impressed by Mr Korman's sensitive side. Just read the prologue, and you'll sample rich, poignant, lyrical writing. Still, this is not designed to be a stodgy story. The action recalls his On The Run series, only better. We're quickly introduced to the 4 teen protagonists. Paddy Burns is a 14-y.o. street urchin, eking out a living picking pockets in Belfast. Paddy's life is irreversibly changed one day when he and brainy best friend Daniel Sullivan picked the wrong person's pocket - the brute bully brother of Belfast's most notorious gangster. In exchange for the princely sum of 12 pounds, he has Daniel's presumed murderers hot on his trail. Through an unlikely set of circumstances, made believable by Mr Korman's skilful writing, Paddy became a stowaway on the Titanic. There he meets Alfie Huggins, a 15 y.o. English boy, freshly abandoned by his mother. Alfie had to lie about his age to get a job on the ship and be with his father, who minds the boilers. There's also Juliana Glamford, noble and suitably snooty, who goes through an education in life and matures in a hurry.

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