

Knightsbridge Hotel
671 Fox Lane
Manhattan
New York
USA
PA 17847

Wednesday 17th April 1912

Dear Uncle Simon and Aunty Lucy,

Hello from America! I wanted to write to you and let you know that we're safe - Mum, Jack, Freddie and I managed to escape the horrors of the Titanic! Luckily, we are some of the very few survivors from that dreadful day and we hope to come and visit you both soon in person.

It started like any other day on the ship. I sat in my bunk in our cabin finishing off my plum pudding whilst listening to my brothers play. I remember the crew talking about icebergs in the area amongst themselves but didn't think much of it. We were unsinkable, remember?

After 11pm, I felt the thud of something against the hull of the ship. I remember mum giving me a worried glance but I thought she was overreacting, as she didn't enjoy sailing on the best of days. I decided I needed a walk to get some fresh air. It was then that I noticed the large chunks of ice scattered over the deck of the ship. My mind derived a conclusion, had we hit an iceberg? I felt a chill run down my spine when I saw crewmembers running about the deck carrying life jackets. Were they for us? Surely, they would not be needed on an unsinkable ship?

It was at 12am that I started to feel the slight tilt of the ship. It was tipping towards the bow of the ship, as if an invisible force was pulling it down. By this time, crewmembers were asking everyone to come on deck with their warmest clothes and lifejackets. Of course, first class arrived first, followed by second class and only a few third class. Everyone looked concerned and freezing. No one would tell us what was happening, but it all made sense when the lifeboat started to fill with women and children.

I remember hearing the whizzing and glaring lights of a flare shooting into the moonless sky. I knew at that point that we were in serious trouble as flares were only used to signal for help. Desperately I tried to find my friend in the overcrowded deck to make sure he was awake and in his life jacket but he was nowhere to be found. I clung to my brothers and mum so we didn't lose each other in the violent pushing and shoving of the passengers as everyone tried to get to the lifeboats.

After several minutes, my family and I were at the front of the deck near a lifeboat. Luckily, we were let onto the small boat, surrounded by other crying mothers and their children. Gently the boat was lowered into the black, icy waters and rowed slowly into the night.

We watched anxiously from our boats as the great Titanic's bow plunged deeper into the Atlantic. It was almost like watching a giant seesaw in slow motion. The propellers of the ship started to raise out of the water as the Titanic's lights blacked out.

I will never forget the sound that came next... an almighty crunching and grinding noise was heard from the middle of the ship. I knew what was happening by the resounding sound it made. The ship snapped in the middle from the immense pressure she was under. I gripped the side of the boat as I saw the bow sink completely into the ocean and out of site. Water flooded rapidly into the back end of the ship; causing it to turn vertical and plunge into the Atlantic.

I could see passengers clinging onto the ship, desperately trying to stay out of the water for as long as possible. In the distance, I could see struggling swimmers heading for lifeboats, but sadly the water was too cold. I felt so helpless. How could this be happening?

It wasn't until about 4am that we were finally rescued by the Carpathia and taken out of the life boat.

We feel so lucky to be able to still be here today and to share our story, I know so many people are not so fortunate.

I hope you are both well, and we will be in touch again shortly with our plans for our time in America.

With love from,

Emily