



Titanicat (True Stories)

By Marty Crisp



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Titanicat (True Stories) By Marty Crisp

Young Jim Mulholland can't believe his good luck: He has signed on as a cabin boy to the world's finest ocean liner, the Titanic, and can't wait for the history-making voyage across the sea to America. As part of his duties Jim is in charge of the ship's cat, a beautiful tortoiseshell that also appears happy to be on board. He calls the cat by the ship's construction number, 4-0-1, certain that she will bring him good luck. And he's delighted when 4-0-1 shortly gives birth to a litter of kittens. But once the ship's trial runs are completed and it's ready to launch to sea, Jim notices that 4-0-1 is nowhere to be found. He's got to find her-the Titanic can't cast off without her lucky cat. Jim is faced with a decision that will affect the rest of his life. A newspaper journalist for 30 years, Marty Crisp often writes about the animals that hold a special interest and place in her heart. She has published many award-winning books for children and adults, including *White Star*, her book about a dog on the Titanic. Marty lives in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Robert Papp's award-winning artwork includes hundreds of illustrations for major publishers across the United States, and his first children's book, *The Scarlet Stockings Spy*, was named an IRA Teachers' Choice in 2005. His other books with Sleeping Bear Press include *The Last Brother* and *M is for Meow: A Cat Alphabet*. Robert lives in historic Bucks County, Pennsylvania.



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Titanicat (True Stories) By Marty Crisp Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #492885 in Books
- Brand: Sleeping Bear Press
- Published on: 2008-06-05
- Released on: 2008-06-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.00" w x 11.00" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 40 pages

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

In the late 1990s, a story came out about an Irishman who had crewed on the Titanic during its trial runs. Assigned to take care of the ship's cat, the superstitious fellow disembarked before the fatal crossing, when the cat left, carrying her kittens. Crisp takes this vignette and turns it into the story of cabin boy Jim Mulholland, a cheerful lad, pleased and proud to be working aboard the Titanic. He cares for the ship's cat, 401 (named for the ship's number) and her multicolored kittens, saving the black one when it almost falls overboard. He's heard that cats bring luck to a voyage, so when 401 disembarks with her kittens, he's startled. Then he notices she hasn't taken the black one, and Jim feels bound to bring it to her, though the ship sails without him—fortunately. The crisp narrative is juxtaposed with lush, painterly artwork that fills the oversize pages. Papp plays with light and perspective and sometimes adds a photorealistic touch to the pictures. An author's note tells readers about the story's origins and lists sources. Grades K-3. --Ilene Cooper

From School Library Journal

Grade 1–4—Jim Mulholland is a young man ready to see the world as a cabin boy on the *Titanic*. He comes from a family with maritime roots; he understands the traditions of life on the sea, as well as its superstitions. When he is charged with taking care of the ship cat while the vessel runs through its trials and prepares for its maiden voyage, Jim takes his job seriously. And when the cat gives birth to four kittens, he becomes extra vigilant. He cannot believe how lucky he is to be working on such a beautiful new ship. But while the *Titanic* is docked at Southampton, Jim spots the cat removing her kittens one by one. Concerned that she has forgotten one, he takes it to her and consequently misses the sailing. His duffle bag, his dreams—gone. Six days later, he learns just how lucky he is. An author's note details how Crisp researched this true story about a ship cat and the boy she saved. Papp's fresh-faced Jim and winsome kittens provide a sense of optimism as they await the great adventure that will never be. The picture-book format works well for this brief episode in the disaster. Reluctant readers will be able to read this amazing tale on their own, while listeners with a taste for longer read-alouds will enjoy hearing it.—Kara Schaff Dean, Walpole Public Library, MA
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shannon Harvey:

The event that you get from Titanicat (True Stories) may be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but Titanicat (True Stories) giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this kind of Titanicat (True Stories) instantly.

Josephine Lowe:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day by means of watching television

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Molly Cooper:

With this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you should do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of several books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely Titanicat (True Stories). This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking right up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

Sunday Richey:

As a university student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library or to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's spirit or real their hobby. They just do what the educator want, like asked to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring and also can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Titanicat (True Stories) can make you truly feel more interested to read.

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