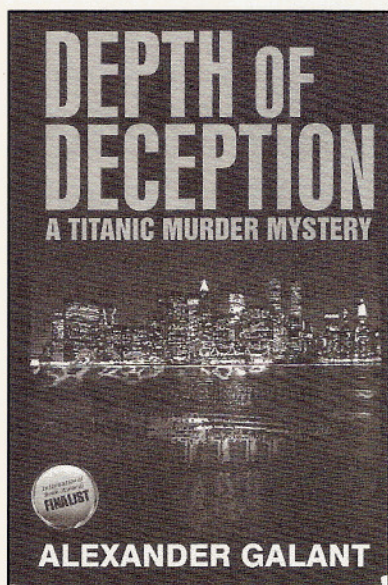


Fictional and factual, new *Titanic* books debut



Depth of Deception, A Titanic Murder Mystery, by Alexander Galant. Self-published. © 2012. Paperback, 272 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9879835-1-0. \$13.99. Available from amazon.com (\$13.99 plus shipping) and through the author at his website, www.alexandergalant.com.



This *Titanic* mystery novel features a new ship patterned after the original and combines it with the concept of time travel. We've all seen the supermarket tabloid headlines shouting "*Titanic* survivor found alive in North Atlantic." The author took this idea and ran with it. In his novel, it's 1982, and a young woman wearing Edwardian clothing is found floating in the North Atlantic. In her possession is a *Titanic* boarding pass. What's her real identity?

We also have an insurance investigator looking into the case of a missing diamond brooch that was stolen during an unsolved 1909 murder in Glasgow.

These two story lines intersect but it would probably be giving too much of the story away to detail just how they do so.

The novel moves between America and the U.K., as the maiden voyage of the new *Titanic* replica (named *Titan*) approaches. Murder and mayhem ensue. We go from thinking the mystery *Titanic* survivor is definitely traveling in time to thinking the whole thing is a big hoax. The plot twists and turns enough times to keep any fan of suspense happy.

I will confess, though, that for me, sometimes the twists were hard to keep up with, but that could be because I didn't have the luxury of reading it within a few days or a week. I kept having to put it down for several days or longer, and when I picked it up again, had to refresh my memory about what was going on and who the characters were. But the novel is a pretty good page-turner and is an enjoyable read, so for *Titanic* buffs who also like mysteries, I would recommend it.

Titanic itself (the old and the new replica) doesn't play a *huge* role in the story, unlike some other *Titanic*-themed novels I've read. It's part of the plot, but the action, for the most part, does not take place on the ship.

The author spent some time checking out *Titanic* information (he contacted TIS, in fact) in an effort to make it accurate. I did notice one tiny error in which he refers to the April 10 beginning of the maiden voyage as the "launch date." As we know, the *Titanic* was *launched* when the hull of the unfinished ship was floated for the first time in Belfast. He should have said the "April 10 sailing date."

— Review by Mary Ann Whitley

Titanic: A Fresh Look At The Evidence By a Former Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents by John Lang. Published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Lanham, MD 20706 and by Seafarer Books, Ltd., Rendlesham, Suffolk IP12 2TE, England. © 2012. Hardbound, 299 pp. 20 b&w photographs, diagrams and illustrations. ISBN 978-1-4422-1890-1. Available from amazon.com, \$35 or \$19.24 (Kindle); from amazon.co.uk, £20.85 or £16.43 (Kindle).

After a 33-year career in Britain's merchant navy and the Royal Navy, John Lang in 1997 was appointed head of the U.K.'s Marine Accident Investigation Branch, responsible for investigating modern-day ship accidents. In this volume, he calls on this experience to create a thoughtful analysis of the *Titanic* disaster's many aspects