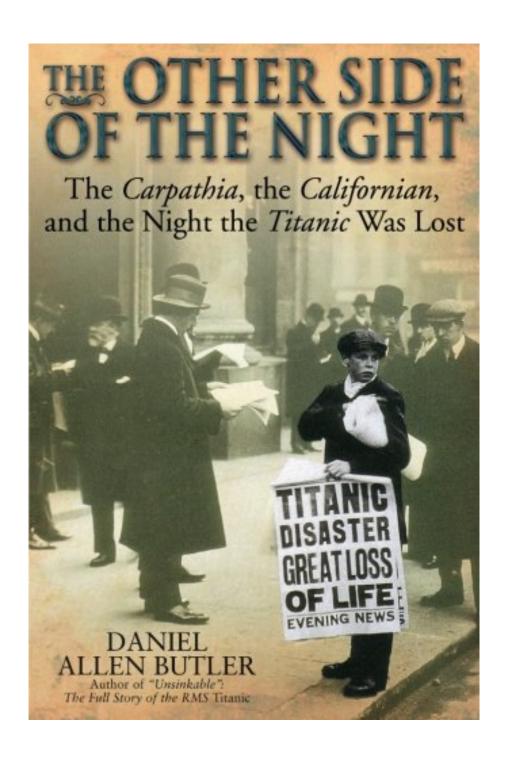


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### Review

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### About the Author

Daniel Allen Butler, a maritime and military historian, is the bestselling author of "Unsinkable": The Full Story of RMS Titanic, Distant Victory: The Battle of Jutland and the Allied Triumph in the First World War, and The First Jihad: The Battle for Khartoum and the Dawn of Militant Islam. He is an internationally recognized authority on maritime subjects and a popular guest-speaker for several cruise lines. Butler lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

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After every disaster, someone has something to hide . . .

A few minutes before midnight on April 14, 1912, the "unsinkable" RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage to New York, struck an iceberg. Less than three hours later she lay at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. While the world has remained fascinated by the tragedy, the most amazing drama of those fateful hours was not played out aboard the doomed liner. It took place on the decks of two other ships, one fifty-eight miles distant from the sinking Titanic, the other barely ten miles away. The masters of the steamships Carpathia and Californian, Captain Arthur Rostron and Captain Stanley Lord, were informed within minutes of each other that their vessels had picked up the distress signals of a sinking ship. Their actions in the hours and days that followed would become the stuff of legend, as one would choose to take his ship into dangerous waters to answer the call for help, while the other would decide that the hazard to himself and his command was too great to risk responding.

After years of research, Daniel Allen Butler now tells this incredible story, moving from ship to ship on the icy waters of the North Atlantic?in real-time?to recount how hundreds of people could have been rescued, but in the end only a few outside of the meager lifeboats were saved. He then looks alike at the U.S. Senate Investigation in Washington, and ultimately the British Board of Trade Inquiry in London, where the actions of each captain are probed, questioned, and judged, until the truth of what actually happened aboard the Titanic, the Carpathia and the Californian is revealed.

Daniel Allen Butler, a maritime and military historian, is the bestselling author of "Unsinkable": The Full Story of RMS Titanic, Distant Victory: The Battle of Jutland and the Allied Triumph in the First World War, and The First Jihad: The Battle for Khartoum and the Dawn of Militant Islam. He is an internationally recognized authority on maritime subjects and a popular guest-speaker for several cruise lines. Butler lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

### **REVIEWS**

"A bold and powerful account of the most incredible disaster in the annals of maritime history. Daniel Allen Butler's in depth narrative is exactingly researched, admirably written and forcefully presented. He has revealed the true controversy between the Titanic, the Carpathia and the Californian, and laid to rest the enigma behind that fateful drama of April 14, 1912. Very, very well done."

Clive Cussler

- "...A very much alive, gripping and well-written book."
- F. Gavard- Perret, French Titanic Society, Spring 2009

"... a must for maritime enthusiast or for anyone who wants to know the truth about the events leading up to and after the sinking of the most famous vessel in history...RMS Titantic!

White Star Memories, 05/2009

- "...impeccable, even handed research... This is a book anyone (even landlubbers) can read, comprehend and learn from. I heartily recommend this book even if you think you know all about the tragedy". IPMS, 05/2009
- "...informative...and (most importantly) entertaining...fast paced...will keep the reader... on the edge of their seat, eager to learn what happens next."

Encyclopedia Titanica, 06/2009

"...careful attention to detail and thorough analysis of the evidence makes this an excellent addition to Titanic historiography."

Internet Modeler, 06/2009

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  The Northern Mariner, 10/2009
- "After the Titanic sank, the captain of Carpathia responded immediately to the sinking liner's calls for help, but the captain of the California, which was also close to the sinking, decided it was too risky to respond...examines the reasons behind this decision and looks at the American and British inquiries into the sinking..."

Ships Monthly

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Most helpful customer reviews

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

If you're a Titanic buff,

By lisatheratgirl

don't miss Mr. Butler's books. I collect every book I can find on the subject, and this author not only is very readable and interesting (I'm plowing through this one as fast as the Carpathia rushing to pick up survivors) but he always manages to add new facts and ideas that weren't in other books. I find it really intruiging that he considers Captain Stanley Lord of the Californian, who didn't bother to come to the aid of the sinking Titanic, to be a sociopath. I haven't seen this theory anywhere else, but it is certainly plausible and would go a long way to explain Lord's behavior in the situation. In fact, Mr. Butler reveals more about Lord's character than I have previously read. In 1912 it's likely that the concept of sociopathy was not fully known. Lord is compared with Captain Rostron of the Carpathia, who was the hero of the hour, and whose career really took off after the Titanic rescue. I also would like to recommend Mr. Butler's earlier book, Unsinkable. I hope he will write more about the Titanic, maybe about Captain Edward Smith or Bruce Ismay. My only complaint, which is not the author's fault, is that this book went to press full of typos and printing errors. This is the second new book I've read in a few weeks that is this sloppy. What is the matter with the publishers today? I'm an editor, I notice these things.

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Well Done!

By Joost Kiefte

While Capt. Rostron's gallant and courageous behaviour is beyond criticism, Captain Lord's activities, or rather inactivities, that fateful night the Titanic hit an iceberg, have been a stone of contention ever since. Many have sought to excuse Lord's not coming to the aid of the foundering leviathan by pointing at inconsistencies in chart positions, relative distances, other ships that may or may not have lain between Lord's Californian and the Titanic, and many books have been written to defend him, despite the overwhelming weight of evidence against him. In this book, D.A. Butler gathers all the threads, puts them on the loom and, strand after strand, inexorably weaves them into the carpet of Lord's guilt. But then, Lord's guilt had already been painfully obvious since the first book by a non-survivor appeared, "A Night to Remember" by Walter Lord, an account which mostly contented itself with describing what happened that night. Butler carefully looks at all the evidence at hand and draws the inescapable conclusion, refutes the arguments Captain Lord's defenders have been brandishing to prove his innocence and applaud his prudence and, more importantly, dissects and indicts the defender's lopsided and devious ways of neglecting certain unwelcome evidence. Butler also finds an answer to the mystery as to why Lord acted the way he did during the night, explains his erratic behaviour after the disaster and why he issued so many conflicting statements

during the subsequent inquiries (which I will not give away here, of course). And last but not least, Butler compares the relative merits of the American and the British inquiries into the disaster and, surprisingly for an American, gives the British one more credit than many others have done (such as Wynn Craig Wade, who revelled in calling it a whitewash on almost every page).

I couldn't put the book down and was sorry to have finished it, which, considering the fact that the outcome of the disaster is not unknown, is quite a feat. Well done!

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

"A ship is not going to fire rockets at sea for nothing."

By E. Bukowsky

The sinking of the RMS Titanic in April, 1912, has captured the public's imagination for more than a century. In numerous articles, books, and films, many have speculated about how and why this luxurious liner went down so quickly, taking over fifteen hundred lives with her. In "The Other Side of the Night," maritime historian Daniel Allen Butler compares two captains who were aware of the Titanic's distress, were in a position to help, but reacted in opposite ways. Arthur Rostron of the Carpathia did not hesitate to marshal his crewmen and sail as quickly as possible to aid the foundering Titanic. Thanks to his quick response, hundreds were rescued who might otherwise have frozen to death and/or drowned. Stanley Lord, the skipper of the Californian, on the other hand, turned a blind eye to what was happening, and his intimidated subordinates dared not oppose him.

Butler, in lucid prose largely free of jargon, educates us about the perils of the North Atlantic. Dense fog, towering waves driven by heavy winds, rain and sleet, and of course, ice have long posed serious threats to oceangoing vessels. However, when Marconi introduced wireless telegraphy, communication at sea became "a practical proposition." Marconi believed that ships should have the ability to send messages to one another in case of emergency. Why, on that fateful night when the Titanic hit an iceberg, did only one ship hasten to reach her?

"The Other Side of the Night" is a fascinating, informative, and well-researched book that answers this and other provocative questions. Its detailed and riveting narrative illuminates the events surrounding the loss of the Titanic and offers a compelling account of the hearings held in the United States and England in the wake of the disaster. Investigators concluded that Rostron was "a conscientious officer," justifiably respected for his bravery, competence, and decisiveness. He was the right man in the right place at the right time. His quick thinking, amazing seamanship, and compassion propelled him to immediate and effective action.

On the other hand, Stanley Lord did nothing to assist the Titanic's passengers and crew. Daniel Allen Butler demonstrates that greed, arrogance, ineptitude, and negligence all played a part in this now legendary catastrophe. There is plenty of blame to go around; Lord is just one of many individuals who committed egregious errors in judgment. For example, the Titanic's Captain, Edward J. Smith, "took only minimal precautions" to avoid hitting an iceberg. In addition, "there had been no clear-cut procedure for handling wireless messages on the bridge," so "most of the warnings the Titanic had received on April 14 had gone unnoticed." Making a bad situation worse, there were too few lifeboats to hold every passenger and crewman. This enlightening work of non-fiction is enhanced by its excellent black and white photographs, riveting epilogue, appendices, author's note, and useful index.

I am deducting one star because the author applies a label to Stanley Lord: sociopath. Such speculation is not helpful; it has no place in a book that purports to be factual. Lord may have been misguided, lazy, cowardly, and/or overly-cautious. We will never know for sure what his motives were, and it is irresponsible to diagnose a man posthumously.

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