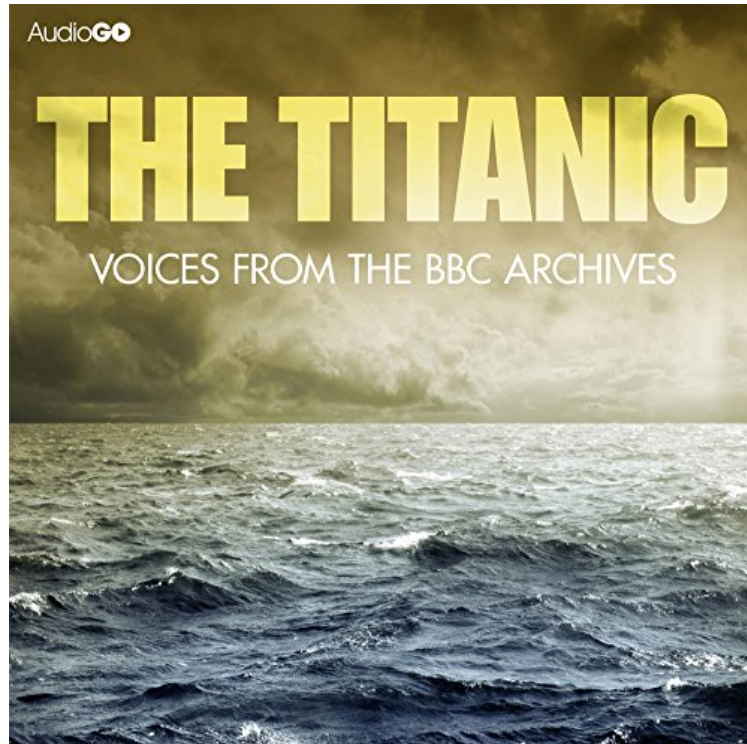


Titanic, The Voices From The BBC Archive

Mark Jones

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Mark Jones : Titanic, The Voices From The BBC Archive before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Titanic, The Voices From The BBC Archive:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More Titanic Voices, Less Narration Bias By J. Jensen Having been a Titanic historian for 25 years who has personally interviewed Titanic survivors, I was highly excited to obtain a recording of interviews from some survivors whom I interviewed personally and others who were already gone before my interest began (I did not record any of my interviews). I have had cassette copies of interviews available through the Titanic Historical Society many years ago and have listened to them repeatedly. The BBC's collection of interviews provides a nice sampling of interviews from a wide variety of individuals, and they have organized their interviews well in a chronological manner that mirrors the story of the Titanic. Overall, a well organized and professional presentation which really shines when it lets the survivors do the talking. When the survivors are not talking, however, which is much too often, the narration is only sub par at best. Not only is there too much narration (the amount of narration is nearly equal, or perhaps even slightly more, to the amount of time given to voices of Titanic survivors), but it goes beyond what should be a subtle, neutral role limited merely to providing background to the survivors interviewed and perhaps offering some contextual information. That is not the case. The narration too often strays far from a position of neutrality and strays into areas of opinion that are easily proven wrong. One such example is their view of Captain Smith. If one was to formulate their opinion of the Captain based solely on this

album, it would be a miracle if they felt any remorse for his death at all due to his extreme, even criminal, negligence. One piece of evidence they use in their condemnation of Smith is his cancellation of the lifeboat drill on Sunday morning, the very day the Titanic hit the iceberg. They claim that Smith cancelled this drill due to his negligence, pride, and overall careless and reckless attitude. They fail to mention that the drill was, in fact, cancelled for safety reasons. There was a strong breeze that Sunday morning, and as the drill consisted of swinging one of the cutter lifeboats out away from the ship, this would have been extremely dangerous in high breezes. Furthermore, they imply that if the lifeboat drill had been held, it would have actually influenced the disaster in some positive way, perhaps saving more lives. They also fail to acknowledge that, at that time, the lifeboat drill merely consisted of swinging a lifeboat out, and running a few tests to check the lifeboat equipment and lowering apparatus. It was a small affair attended only by crewmen, not passengers, and not many crew at that. Even if the drill had been held, passengers would have still not known where to go and what to do as the ship was sinking. Lifeboat drills are what they are today because of the Titanic, they were not that way before the Titanic (i.e. passengers knowing where to go and how to proceed). Nonetheless, this is still a great album to own, just be aware of some overt bias and presentation of opinions that are not founded in fact and that can often be proven wrong through the application of facts. This problem is, of course, completely mute if you simply focus on the voices of the survivors and others interviewed. They are at the heart of this album, and listening to their own voices is a moving experience. Hearing Charles Lightoller discuss the Masaba's ice warning, and stating that if he had received the warning, he would have slowed down the ship at once and alerted the Captain. These voices represent the heart of the Titanic tragedy, and they illuminate the experiences of those who were actually there. For that reason, I would recommend this album but with the caveat to recognize that the modern day narration is faulty, probably as it was written in haste to provide some quick connecting links between the interviews, which could have been done in a more factually based, accurate, and less biased manner.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best part: interviews with Titanic survivors!

By Nate This is a very well-constructed audio book which our family listened to while driving to Yellowstone this spring. Riveting accounts by Titanic survivors including passengers and crew members. I would highly recommend this audio book to anyone interested in the history and events of the Titanic.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Voices

By M.L. Wirick This is an excellent CD. To hear the actual voices of some of the survivors is a real treat. It is a wonderful narrative of the disaster by those who lived through it. I only wish there could have been more survivors telling their versions.

This title contains first-hand accounts of the Titanic's fateful voyage, interwoven with a specially-written commentary. When the RMS Titanic was launched in Belfast in 1911, she was the most luxurious liner of her generation and the largest moving object ever built. In April 1912 she sailed from Southampton en route for New York on her maiden voyage with 2228 passengers and crew on board. On the 14th April at twenty minutes before midnight, sailing at almost full speed, she struck an iceberg and sank in just two and a half hours. Over 1500 lives were lost. This is the story of a great tragedy described by the surviving passengers, officers and crew who were on board that night. It is a story of misplaced confidence in technology over nature, and of personal heroism and self-sacrifice. Firsthand accounts help to explain why so few of the passengers took to the lifeboats and later describe the miraculous survival of those forced to jump into the icy waters of the North Atlantic. The story of the Titanic is ultimately one of simple human loss and these laconic Edwardian voices bring it vividly to life. The hold that these events have on our imagination is as strong now as it ever has been in the 100 years since the great ship went down.