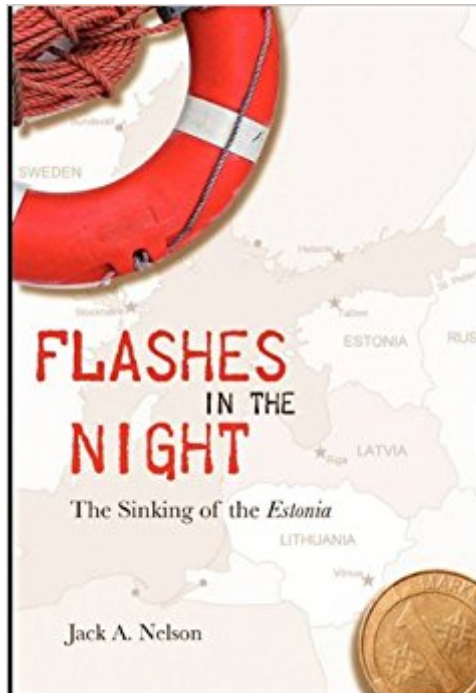


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Flashes In The Night: The Sinking Of The Estonia



Synopsis

Flashes in the Night captures the tragic story of the sinking of M/S Estonia in dark, cold Baltic waters on September 28, 1994. Caught in a storm during an overnight trip between Tallinn, Estonia, and Stockholm, Sweden, the ship sank in a matter of minutes. Debate continues over whether the cause was structural or sabotage, but the fact remains 852 souls were lost at sea in Europe's worst civilian disaster. Nearly one-third of those who escaped the ship died of hypothermia. A twenty-nine-year-old Swedish entrepreneur and a pretty nineteen-year-old Swedish girl are a major focus of this dramatic account. On that night when Kent Harstedt met Sara Hedrenius on the top rail of the sinking ship, they made a date for dinner in Stockholm-if they survived. Through that endless darkness, huddled in near-freezing water in their raft, they told each other jokes to stay awake and alive. Their date made world headlines. This is their story, and the story of the young British adventurer Paul Barney, along with riveting accounts of others who were a part of this harrowing life-or-death survival epic.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,783,213 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Travel > Europe > Estonia #4172 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships #97173 in Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

My son is a missionary in Estonia and does deep sea diving so I was very interested when I got the notice from about this book. I ask him if he knew about the ship and he said he knew a few things about it but would love to have the book. I ordered the book and when it came I looked at the way it was written and thought maybe I would read it before I sent it to him. I am very glad I did - it is written so well I could hardly put it down after I started reading it. I would advise anyone who has any interest in ship wrecks or just a good read to buy it. It will keep you on the edge of your seat. A

very well written book and it was almost like I was right there in the water with those people.

This is a mournful but gripping story--reminiscent of stories of the sinking of the Titanic, but everything happened so much faster. Mr. Nelson does a fine job of recreating the tempestuous cold of the sea that night. His narrative deals primarily with the experiences and recollections of the survivors, and the first-person accounts are deeply memorable. Well done.

This was a well-researched book and was written fairly well too. I don't know if the copy I got had just been released or perhaps just hadn't been edited, but there were lots of errors in it, so much that it distracted from the book. I am hoping those were cleaned up. If so, it would definitely get at least another star from me. It bogs down a bit in the middle and toward the end, in my opinion. I do not fault the author for that however, as this is a historical account and there is only so much you can do with the facts to make it more interesting.

The tragic story of the sinking of the Estonia in 1994 and the loss of over 800 lives is brought vividly to life in *Flashes in the Night*. Author Nelson has interviewed and managed to perfectly capture the harrowing tales of a number of survivors. One feels their pain and terror from the moment the ship tilts to almost a 45-degree angle, their struggle to get up to deck seven and onto the open deck (almost impossible on vertical stairs) and then to be subjected to near freezing conditions in the rain and ocean. Waiting and drifting for hours in open rafts waiting for rescue. How anyone managed to live through the scale of this disaster is amazing. It's also a fitting tribute to those who perished. This has to be one of the best books written about tragedy at sea and is comparable to Walter Lord's classic *A Night to Remember* as here are the stories of the people told moment by moment. The book ends with a chapter on the conspiracy theories and recent revelations. Highly recommended.

Wow - the way Jack Nelson presents these true stories is just phenomenal! I could not put this compelling read down, and was really able to get a sense of the experience that these people had on their sea journey. I highly recommend this fascinating and intense book.

A riveting, moment-by-moment story of the tragedy that feels like a small-scale Titanic sinking. Unimaginable to have survived such a death-in-your-face saga, but the survivors must live on. Very gripping.

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