

Title: *Luck of the Titanic*

Author: Stacey Lee

Genre: Historical fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Tess M., 7th Grade

Date reviewed: March 21, 2023

The book “Luck of the Titanic” by Stacey Lee is a historical fiction book. The story is set aboard the Titanic in 1912. When Valor (Val) gets wind that her twin brother James (Jamie), whom she has not seen in two years, will be aboard the Titanic, she gets a ticket and makes her way to the grand ship. While showing her tickets, the man states that she may not board the ship without proper documentation, due to the Chinese Exclusion Act in America. This does not stop Val. She is so determined to get to her brother before it is too late, that she hops into the platform with a car upon it that is being hoisted up onto the ship, and rides up to the ship while hidden underneath the vehicle. This one decision instantly proves how brave and determined Val is. She does not let the Asian discrimination stop her from achieving her goals, and with all odds working against her, she successfully makes it onto the deck, but not without the help of a Miss Hart. Miss Hart, a complete stranger, comes to the rescue when Val is close to being caught sneaking onto the ship through the cargo hatch. After searching for Jamie in nearly every place she could think of, Val finally finds Jamie, and they are reunited at last. The strange woman who helped Miss Val sneak into the boat soon becomes an ally. Val will wear Miss Hart’s clothes to promote her fashion line, and Miss Hart will help Val, and Jamie, get recruited for the Ringley Brothers Circus as acrobats. Their time on the magnificent ship is going perfectly fine, even though the racism and discrimination because of their Asian descent is so obviously apparent, the spunky twins do not let it bring them down. Val has one goal in mind. Become acrobats with her brother in America, But when the ship suddenly starts going down, the only thing on their mind is survival. Luckily, the twins survive. But the trauma of the fatal incident makes Val realize that she cannot make her brother give up his dream to fulfill hers as an acrobat.

- *Did the plot keep you interested?*

Yes. The plot had kept me interested throughout the story. It had some surprises and incredible detail. It showed us, the readers, just how much people of color or other races had to work to be allowed to have basic rights.

- *Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?*

I think that the book was paced just right. It gave the readers ample time to fully comprehend what was going on, and explained the story with the right amount of details.

- *What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?*

I would recommend this book to grades 7-8. The book did have some parts that you might need a wider vocabulary to understand, and was mature enough for seventh and eighth graders to

handle. I feel it would be a little bit too challenging for grades six and lower, and a little too easy for grades nine and higher.

- *What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

I would recommend this book to a person that has some background information on the events of the Titanic, because it might be a little confusing for someone who has no idea what the Titanic was. I would also recommend this book to somebody who could appreciate the greater theme of the story about how much people of other races or color struggled back then and even now.

- *What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

Some other information that teens should know about this book is that to focus on the little details, to fully grasp the real story about how much race played a role in people's day-to-day lives.

I would rate this book five stars. I am very glad I read it, and it was a great book. I give the book this rating because it gives great examples of not just how much family is worth, but also makes people aware of the racism towards people of other color or ethnicities. It provides great detail, and a riveting plot that keeps you wanting more.