

## *The Depth of Deception*

*A Titanic Murder Mystery by Alexander Galant*

### Synopsis

It's April of 1982, and a young woman is found in the freezing Atlantic, floating on a wooden deck chair. She is nicknamed 'Myra' because of the inscription on her locket.

Over in England, Callum Toughill, an insurance investigator, is assigned the case of a missing brooch that was stolen during a murder in 1909 Glasgow. He is chosen because it was his own grandfather who had botched the original investigation. Despite the painful family memory, Callum dives in.

Edward Arachson, a *Titanic* survivor whose family corporation is impressively large, argues with his father, Archibald, about the name of a huge ship they are launching within the week. *Titanic II* is simply abhorrent, but Archibald insists it would sell more tickets if named that way.

In New York, Myra makes a miraculous recovery in hospital, but is transferred to a psychiatric facility before her strange medical results could be shipped with her. There, Dr. Natalie Lindsay sees that Myra believes she was aboard the *RMS Titanic* and calls in an expert to help: Edward Arachson. He happily agrees to trip up Myra's delusion, but his efforts backfire, stirring up more details in Myra's memory which includes the fact that Edward may be her son.

Callum wades through the details of the old murder case and finds a living witness in Glasgow, Ruthie McArthur, whose father had been threatened by police if he didn't testify the way they wanted him to. Ruthie remembers everything: how the murdered woman was kind and wealthy, the maid who changed her testimony, her gentleman caller and the names of all the hired help. Callum follows each lead and finds a strange web of greed, deceit, infanticide and hatred, but no brooch. He returns to Ruthie's home to find her shot! Her trembling hands give him a peculiar necklace and her last word is "dragonslayer". Callum is subsequently arrested and meets DCI DeKirkhough, who proves his innocence and begins some investigating of his own.

After death threats, coded messages and a terrible blizzard, Edward finds himself snowed in with Myra in his family's old lake house where she, quite unbelievably, knows family details better than Edward's real mother. Could it be time travel? Why would his father try to pass off another woman as his wife? Edward decided to bring Myra to the launch of the ship now known as *RMS Titan*, to meet with Archibald and the other Myra directly.

Callum has struck a nerve by digging up the past. His grandfather's century-old home was ransacked, his grave dug up. People who help him are found murdered. Caffeine-deprived and desperate, his last hopes lie with his ex-wife, a puzzle box, and in young Myra herself, who may have her own agenda.

They all meet on the giant ship where secrets that were supposed to have been buried at sea resurface to haunt all involved. Nothing is as it seems when the depth of deception is revealed