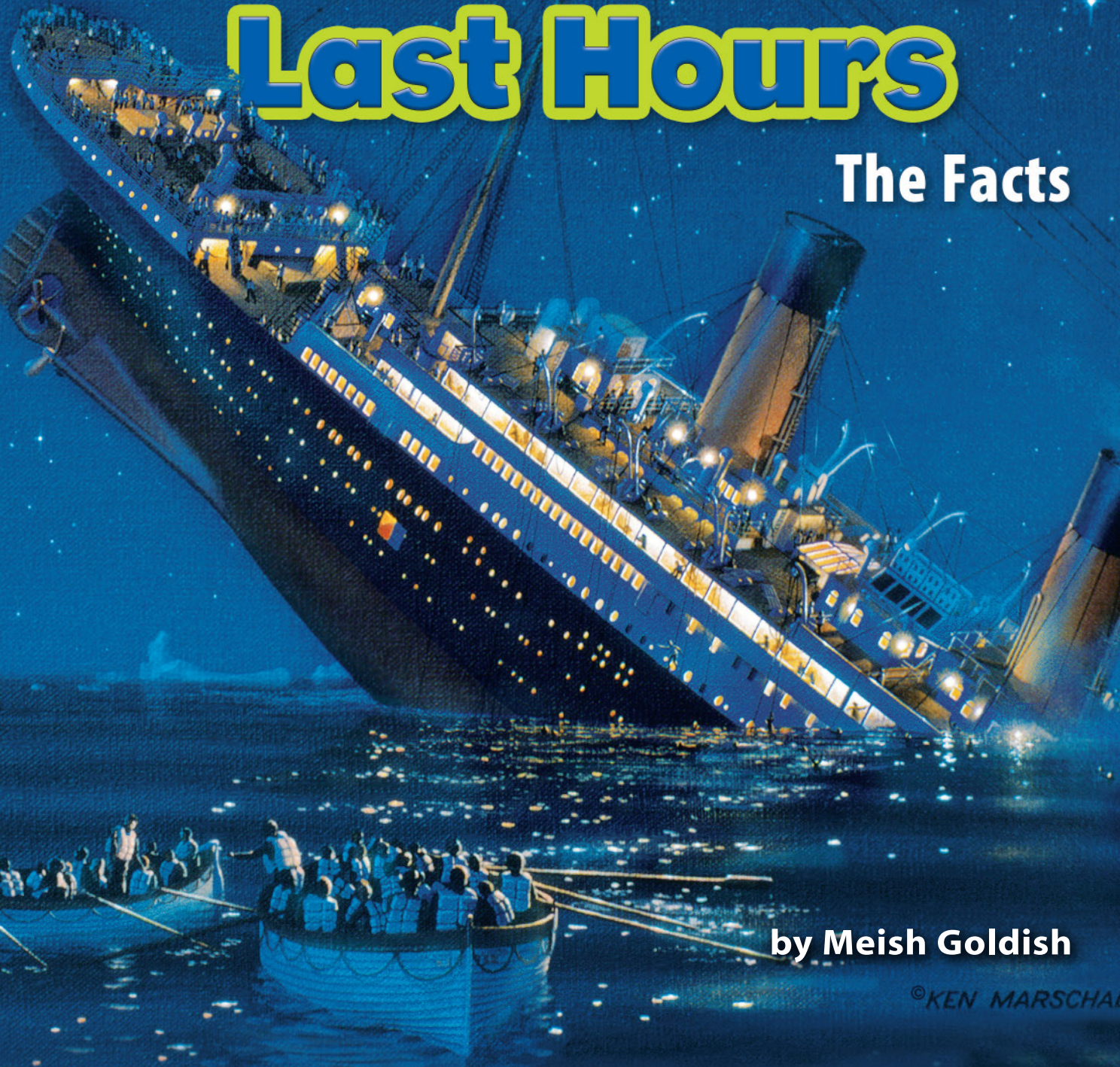




Titanic's Last Hours

The Facts



by Meish Goldish

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The Facts

by Meish Goldish

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11:40 PM

A SCARY SCRAPE

It was a dark, moonless night on April 14, 1912. The ship *Titanic* was sailing across the Atlantic Ocean from England to New York. At 11:40 PM, one of the ship's **lookouts**, Frederick Fleet, spotted a huge object in the water. "**Iceberg** right ahead!" he cried. The **crew** steered the ship sharply to the left to try to avoid the iceberg.



Within 40 seconds, the ship had curved left but still scraped against the giant mass of ice. Most passengers were asleep at the time, unaware that anything had happened. Others sensed the **collision**. Martha Stephenson, a passenger, said she heard “ripping and cutting noises.” Another passenger, Mrs. J. Stuart White, said, “It was as though we went over a thousand marbles.”



After leaving England, the *Titanic* made stops in France and Ireland before heading toward New York City. It hit the iceberg about 950 miles (1,529 km) from New York.

The *Titanic*, the largest ship in the world at the time, was on its very first **voyage**. It carried a little more than 2,200 passengers and crew members.

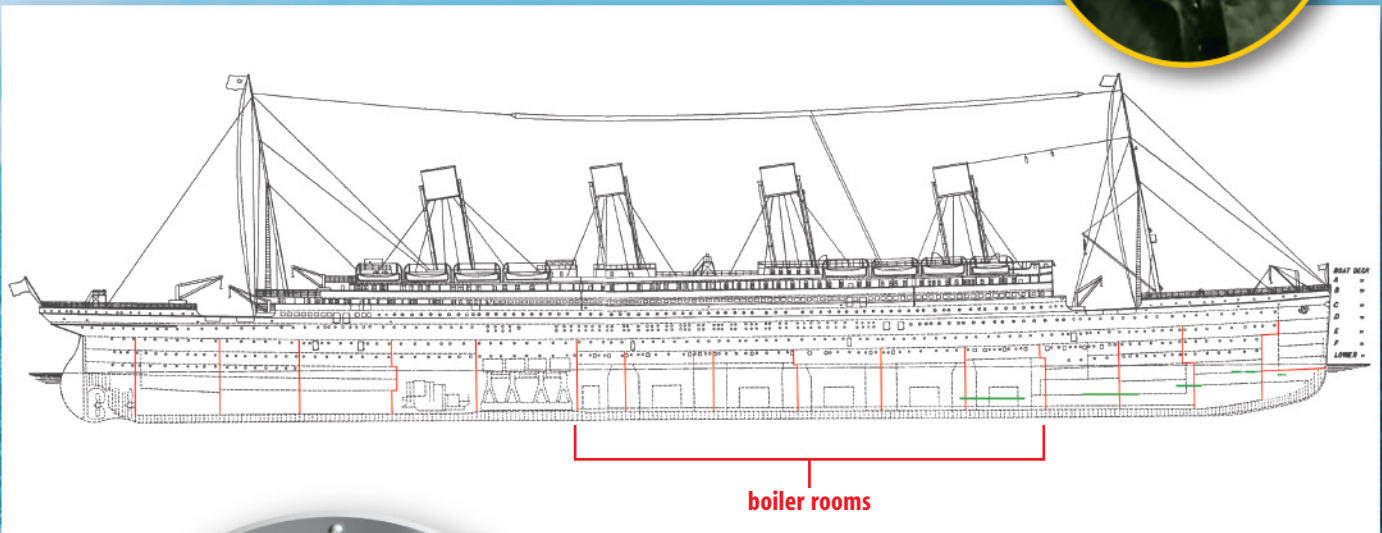
FACING A FLOOD

In the collision, the iceberg punched six openings about the size of two sidewalk squares in the right front side of the *Titanic*. Water immediately began to rush into the ship's bottom. It flooded the mail room and one of the **boiler** rooms. Fred Barrett, a boiler room worker, recalled, "A wave of green foam came tearing between the boilers, and I jumped for the escape ladder."



The bottom of the ship was divided into 16 **compartments**. After the collision, Ship Officer William Murdoch pulled a switch that automatically closed all the compartment doors. He wanted to stop the flood from spreading to other compartments. With water up to their waists, workers in the boiler and mail rooms rushed to escape before the closing doors could trap them inside.

William Murdoch



The *Titanic* had six boiler rooms that held a total of 29 boilers. Workers shoveled **coal** into the boilers, where it was burned to provide power for the ship.



Workers in one of *Titanic's* boiler rooms