

Titanic: David Slavitt

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*Who does not love the Titanic?
If they sold passage tomorrow for that same crossing,
who would not buy?*

*To go down...We all go down, mostly
alone. But with crowds of people, friends, servants,
well fed, with music, with lights! Ah!*

*And the world, shocked, mourns, as it ought to do
and almost never does. There will be the books and movies
to remind our grandchildren who we were
and how we died, and give them a good cry.*

*Not so bad, after all. The cold
water is anesthetic and very quick.
The cries on all sides must be a comfort.*

We all go: only a few, first class.