



Illustration © Ken Marshall from *Titanic, an Illustrated History*, a Hyperion/Madison Press Book.

350 gradually got weaker and weaker as the ship's power faded out. Out on the decks, most passengers now began to move toward the stern¹⁷ area, which was slowly lifting out of the water.

By 2:05 there were still over 1,500 people left on the sinking ship. All the lifeboats were now away, and a strange stillness took hold. People stood quietly on the upper decks, bunching together for warmth, trying to keep away from the side of the tilting ship.

Captain Smith now made his way to the radio room and told Harold Bride and Jack Phillips to save themselves. "Men, you have done your full duty," he told them. "You can do no more. Abandon your cabin. Now it's
360 every man for himself." Phillips kept working the radio, hanging on until the very last moment. Suddenly Bride heard water gurgling up the deck outside the radio room. Phillips heard it, too, and cried, "Come on, let's clear out."

Near the stern, Father Thomas Byles had heard confession and given absolution¹⁸ to over one hundred passengers. Playing to the very end, the members of the ship's brave band finally had to put down their instruments and try to save themselves. In desperation, some of the passengers and crew began to jump overboard as the water crept up the slant of the deck. 5

5 **NARRATIVE
NONFICTION**

Recall the **conflict** you identified on page 110. How do the various people on the ship respond to the conflict?

17. **stern:** the rear end of the ship.

18. **heard confession . . . absolution:** Father Byles had conducted a Roman Catholic religious ceremony in which a priest listens to people confess their sins and then declares them forgiven.