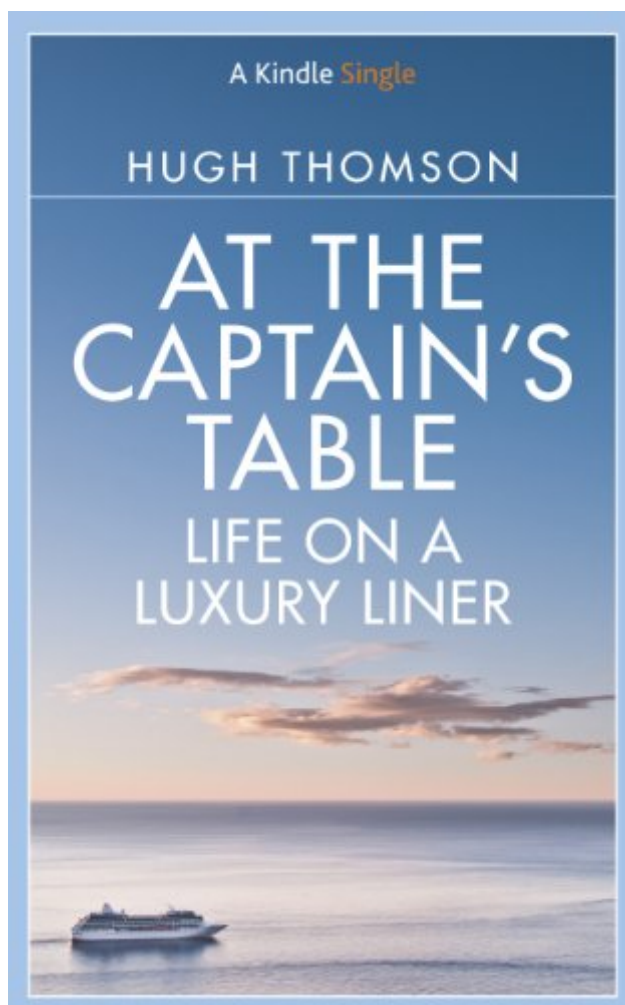




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At The Captain's Table: Life On A Luxury Liner (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

Hugh Thomson had always wanted to travel right around the planet. He just never had the money. Until he realised he could do it on the world's most expensive luxury cruise. Mischievous and entertaining, this is the first book to be written about a new phenomenon – the strange and unreported world of small luxury cruise ships, so exclusive that if you need to ask how much they cost, you probably can't afford them. So don't act like the Cruise Queen Bee who, when she received her invitation to the Captain's table, wrote back giving her apologies and explaining, "I cannot accept your invitation as, on principle, I never eat with the staff." Buy the book and take your place as Hugh serves up tales that are clear-sighted about the rich and observant of the new world opening up on our horizons, powered by a supercharged 32,000 ton luxury liner, a microcosm of 21st-century life, with its superb engineering that almost, but not quite, overcomes all the indignities the natural world can throw at it. Hugh's previous books have been acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic – "Everywhere Thomson goes, he finds good stories to tell" New York Times Book Review – and this new book will delight his many fans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An easy and enjoyable read. Basically, a memoir from a professional writer hired to work for a luxury small cruiser to entertain and enlighten the top one percent of the super wealthy population. I am certain that his experience as a working stiff on a cruise ship was far different from most of the other employees due to his "celebrity speaker" employee status. I envied his excursions and experience of wonderful food and cocktails. I gained weight just reading about food. I am jealous of the author for getting the opportunity to have this experience, especially to be able to include his children....I would snap up the opportunity in a flash.

I'm afraid my feeble mind couldn't keep up with the writer's quite extensive vocabulary, and quite often I had to look up the meaning of words. At times this became tedious, and I may have lost the beauty of the story in my fervor to understand what was going on behind all those words. For someone more learned than myself this would be a good story. At the same time I thought the author covered a great deal of good and enjoyable information, and I related to many of the ports of call and excursions, having sailed around the world myself. Therefore, I felt a camaraderie with the author, and several times I even managed to catch his humor. Still, I could have seen five stars, were it not for that wretched short ending, which, like a real life horror movie, crept up unannounced and slapped me from a peaceful state of tranquility into the harsh reality of a crime scene. I felt that this was especially out of balance with the rest of the book, as this last chapter seems to be devoted to his girlfriend, who had just come on board to end the trip with him, and with whom he admitted he was in love with. Artistic license I suppose.

I forced myself to finish this book in case it improved; it did not. While it serves as an excellent travel log for him and the family who joined him on board, it provides very little insight into life on a luxury liner. Much more time is spent on the history of the ports visited and of other authors and their seafaring tales. I would like to have heard more about the guests and crew he encountered - even if painted in broad strokes to avoid identification. Mr. Thomson seems to miss these opportunities. An exploration of the caste system in India is a concept that screams to be related back to the discrepancies among the passengers and crew but it is fumbled, at best.

I'm not sure why I read the book all the way through, maybe I still feel an obligation to an author. This is a trite text about luxurious life on a year long cruise that has bland stories, flat characters, and no zing. The author tells us his experiences on a year long cruise. He does encounter some unique personalities, does have some insights on the whole business of a year-long cruise, but

doesn't really accomplish anything. There are a couple of places where I thought he was going to take off and run with an idea...but it just never really gets beyond the lido deck. The author's strengths are his competencies to write and keep the read on task. Each of the characters sticks well with the reader, but there is a limitation to their development. At the end of the book I'm still not sure if he ever sat at the Captain's Table.

What could have been an interesting series of anecdotes was hampered by much too much focus on the author who was not why we bought the book. It is a good premise and we, having been on several cruises ourselves, were anticipating a collection of both interesting and humorous stories. It just didn't live up to the marketing.

A person has to have some serious class standing to turn down the Much sought after captain's table as beneath her. This single is a witty and nuanced memoir of the author's stint as a guest lecturer on an exclusive ship circling the globe. He has that dream job with few duties and paid transit. There is plenty of my favorite rich people porn with all the details of a fabulously privileged life on the ship. Several of his fellow travelers are fleshed out by their named characteristics, and you will remember them from every group you have joined. He doesn't ignore the nearly slave class working on the ship to provide this pampering. It is a two sided issue in that many of the staff earns greater wages than they could elsewhere, but the wages are still on the scandalous side. And he also provides some great tips on getting the most out of a city in one day. I really enjoyed the book.

This is the first intelligent cruise book I have read. It gives an interesting and knowledgeable account of life on board a luxury cruise ship. Anyone who has been on a luxury cruise will recognize many of his fellow travelers, and Thomson describes them in a mellow tone of understanding and caring. But this is not only a cruise story - it is an enriching experience of colorful narratives of all the ports of call, most of them not on the regular cruise ship itineraries. An exceptional book - easy, enjoyable reading.

Fun if you ever was on a cruise interesting comparison to high end one. Funny passenger notes.

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