The sinking of the Empress of Ireland on May 29, 1914, was Canada’s worst maritime disaster, and is one few people today know much about. For whatever reason, it seemed to be lost in both the St. Lawrence and in history. Maybe it happened too soon after the sinking of the Titanic, two years before; or her passengers were not famous New York socialites; or perhaps it was lost among the headlines as the First World War broke out ten weeks later. In any case, the story of its collision, of its foundering, and of the 1012 souls lost with the Empress of Ireland sank from memory.

Now, a hundred years later, we try to piece together that part of our story. We must remember to honour the people who lost their lives in the tragedy and all those who lived on in silent grief.

Unspeakable is a fictional story about the historic sinking of the Empress of Ireland seen through the eyes of a young stewardess, Ellie Hardy. It’s a story about lost lives, lost hope, and lost love. A victim of the shipwreck, Ellie must learn to move through her grief, guilt and regret or be forever lost in their depths. As she finds the courage to tell the story she’d never say, to the man she’d never tell, Ellie discovers hope and healing in sharing the unspeakable. Because living is so much more than just surviving.