

UNSPEAKABLE



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.

May 2014, Penguin Canada
Historical Fiction, 12+

Shortlisted:
Red Maple Award
CLA Young Adult Book Award

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.

PRAISE FOR UNSPEAKABLE

...a stunning work of historical fiction

-- National Reading Campaign, Children's Book Reviews

Perhaps most impressive is Pignat's tone. The novel is written in accessible language suitable for teens, yet the prose is polished and the plot intricate enough to satisfy adults as well. Mark Unspeakable as a YA title with huge crossover appeal.

-- Quill and Quire, starred review

*..well-paced, well-plotted and skilfully-told, in prose that is elegant and lyrical
...a breathtaking fictional account that will thoroughly immerse readers in Ellen's world.
They will likely then be surprised to discover how much they have learned in the process.*

-- Canadian Materials Magazine Review

2014 Best Book *Starred* Choice by Canadian Children's Book Centre

CAROLINE PIGNAT

is the Governor General's Award winning author of the highly acclaimed novels *The Gospel Truth*, *Unspeakable*, *Egghead* and the *Greener Grass* series. Winner of the Red Maple Honour Award and shortlisted for CLA Book of the Year, Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, and the IODE Violet Downey Book Award, among others, Pignat's historical fiction is a CanadasHistory.ca recommended resource enjoyed by readers of all ages. Pignat lives, writes, and teaches high school in Kanata, Ontario.

www.carolinepignat.com

