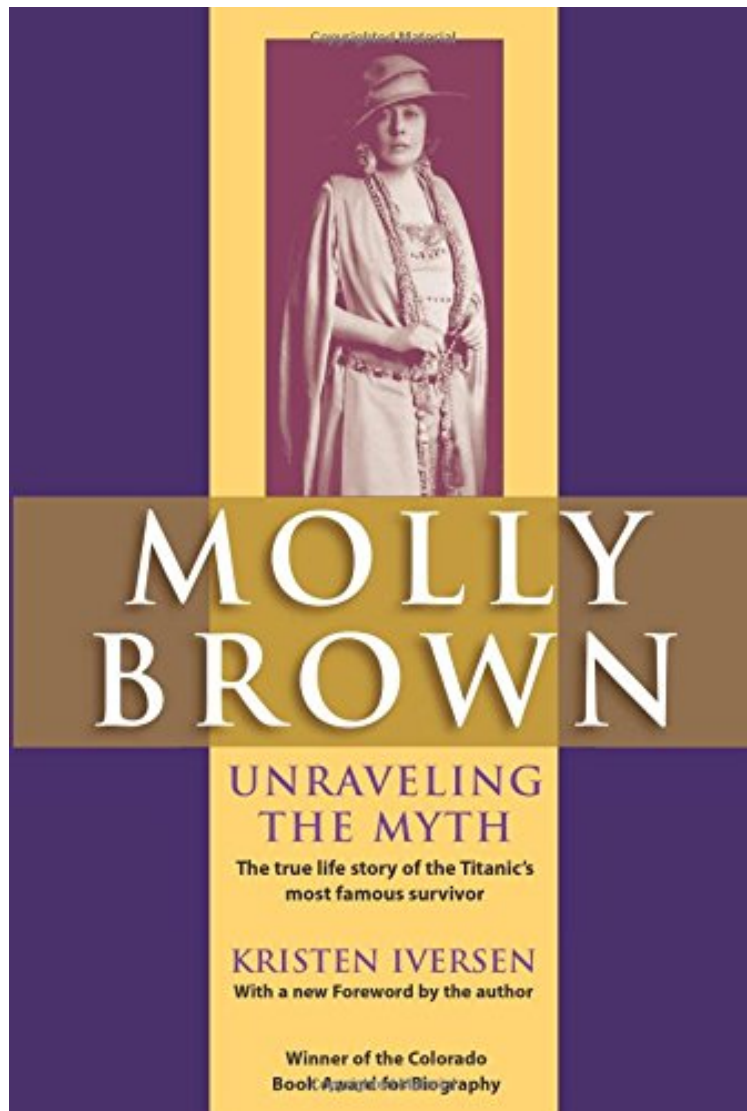


(Ebook pdf) Molly Brown: Unraveling the Myth

## Molly Brown: Unraveling the Myth

*Kristen Iversen*

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**Kristen Iversen : Molly Brown: Unraveling the Myth** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Molly Brown: Unraveling the Myth:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The additional photos increase my knowledge and enjoyment, exponentially By Donna Siegel As a "Women In History" enactor of Margaret Tobin Brown, my heart sang to see this book back in print. The additional photos increase my knowledge and enjoyment, exponentially ! I disagree with the choice to feature on the cover, so boldly, the historical untruth of "Molly" being her name/nickname. I do understand the "public's recognition and profit margin motives"! But....please! So Boldly? 0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. Essential for anyone who appreciates an honest history. The ...By Savannah R. Essential for anyone who appreciates an honest history. The story of Margaret Brown has been shrouded in myth through most of her social remembrance, Kristen Iverson corrects the myth with the truly astonishing facts of Margaret's true life story! It makes you wonder why they would ever mess with the real thing in the first place. A quick read of this will definitely make you want to explore the home of Mrs. Brown at the Molly Brown House Museum in Denver. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Grandmother's birthday present. By Amber My grandmother adored this book. She loved the Debbie Reynolds movie and I bought this for as a birthday gift. She learned so much about Molly Brown and was very surprised to find out she was actually a bright lady who brought a lot to the table in Denver. I can't say anything too specific as she was the one who read it.....and hasn't let me borrow it yet....but she reads A TON and is very critical...she loved it. I can't wait to read it.

When Margaret Tobin Brown arrived in New York City shortly after her perilous night in Titanic's Lifeboat Six, a legend was born. Through magazines, books, a Broadway musical, and a Hollywood movie, she became "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," but in the process her life story was distorted beyond recognition. Even her name was changed she was never known as Molly during her lifetime. Kristen Iversen's "Molly Brown: Unraveling the Myth" is the first full-length biography of this American icon, and the story it tells is of a passionate and outspoken crusader for the rights of women, children, mine workers, and others struggling for their voice in the early twentieth century. In the end, the real "Molly" Brown was far more fascinating than her myth, and Kristen Iversen has captured her in all her brilliance.

From Publishers Weekly Molly Brown: The gun-toting, vulgar saloon-girl-made-good has become a staple of American myth through the Broadway and Hollywood musical *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and the hit film *Titanic*. In this extensively researched biography, the first serious work on Brown, Iversen, an editor at Westcliffe Publishers and an independent scholar, reveals that Brown was a far more fascinating and important figure than her stage or screen portrayals suggest. True to her legend, Margaret Tobin Brown was born in 1867 to poor Irish immigrants in Hannibal, Mo., became the grande dame of Denver society after her husband hit pay dirt in his silver mine and survived the sinking of the Titanic. She was also, however, a prominent philanthropist and social reformer focusing on the rights of children; an ardent suffragist who contemplated several runs for Congress; a frequent liberal spokesperson for women's, labor and race issues; and, late in life, an actress of some note. A devout Catholic, Brown publicly challenged her church's stand on women's suffrage; invited Jewish women to work on her high-society fund-raising events; and, although she was a mine owner, defended the unionization of miners. Iversen is particularly adept at placing Brown in the context of her times, making the most of this opportunity to reexamine the Gilded Age and early 20th century through the lens of feminism and economic and social change. (July) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus spaper 1-55566-237-4 The real Margaret (she was never called Molly) Brown revealed in a biography long on both dramatic reconstructions of the Titanic disaster and mundane family scrapbooks As Iversen, an editor at Westcliffe Publishers, has it, Margaret (she was sometimes called Maggie) Brown was never the high-kicking vulgarian with a heart of gold portrayed by Debbie Reynolds in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* or even the flamboyant dowager queen of the West (with a heart of gold) portrayed by Kathy Bates in the film *Titanic*. She was educated, culturally aware, multilingual, and comfortable in Paris, Newport, New York, Denver, and Leadville, Colo., society. She did have a heart of gold, and it was often dedicated to such sophisticated activities as organizing successful fund-raising events for building Denver's Roman Catholic cathedral, adding a wing to a Denver hospital, aiding families of miners left destitute by disaster, and, with her friend "Kids Judge" Benjamin Lindsey, organizing and subsidizing programs for indigent children. Her courage and organizational abilities were evident in the Titanic disaster, when she not only helped row Lifeboat #6 to safety but also went on to raise money and social support for the surviving immigrants, who had lost everything when the ship went down. Margaret was also a feminist, putting herself forth as a candidate for Congress. Her marriage to miner J.J. Brown had collapsed by then, due probably to both his womanizing and her activism. Margaret and her two children vied in court over J.J.'s will but eventually reconciled. Before she died in 1932 at age 65, Margaret was awarded the French Legion of Honor for her work in France during WWI. A pastiche of reminiscences and newspaper clippings that tries to set the record straight and certainly suggests that, as important as the myth of the golden-hearted Western girl may be, the real Margaret was far more interesting than the cinematic versions. (bw photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From the Author One Life, Two Stories: The Untold Truth of "Molly" Brown History has not been kind to Margaret Tobin Brown. 1930s reporter Gene Fowler called her a "Vital" -- a baby born in the eye of a tornado and raised on the milk of a nanny goat. Her father was an old Irish drunk, he claimed; her mother dead from grief over the birth of such an "unnatural" child. Sensationalist writer Carolyn Bancroft described how Mrs. Brown was ostracized by society and tried so hard to fit in with Denver's "Sacred Thirty-Six" that she bought a French Legion of Honor medal in a hock shop. Hollywood changed the name Margaret to Molly ("it was easier to sing") and turned her into a saloon girl who got lucky -- a plucky girl who could drink as much as any man and happened to marry the right one. And who can

forget the image of Debbie Reynolds playing the part of Molly Brown in lifeboat number six, leading her fellow Titanic survivors in song? The inventive talents of various writers, reporters, and filmmakers are entertaining and amusing -- and we have to thank them for helping to perpetuate a story that deserved to endure. But the cost to the legacy of Margaret Tobin Brown, and the history of women in the West, has been enormous. The real story is of an ardent human-rights activist who made a significant impact in Colorado, New York, Paris, London, and beyond. A high-profile suffragette, Brown also helped establish the first Juvenile Court in the U.S. and worked to get poverty-stricken children off the streets. Despite being married to a mine owner, she stood up for miners' rights and was a primary figure during the Ludlow Massacre in 1914. She ran for the Senate years before women even had the right to vote, and was one of the first women to attend Carnegie Institute, where she studied language, literature, and drama. In 1932 Brown was indeed awarded the French Legion of Honor for her work on the Titanic and the Carpathia, as well as her humanitarian efforts during World War I with French and American soldiers. The myth of "Molly" speaks to her spirit, but obscures the more interesting and significant aspects of Brown's life and perpetuates predictable stereotypes of women. A curious aspect of the myth is how "Molly" was ostracized by Denver and New York society, and rejected by her family as well. Neither is true. Writing this book required eight years of intense research, uncovering archival material that had long been ignored or overlooked. Near the end of my project, I was very fortunate to get to know Margaret's descendants and deeply appreciated their willingness to allow me access to scrapbooks, photographs, and family keepsakes that had not been previously available. The most compelling part of Margaret's story is what she left behind in her own words. A relentless traveler, she published newspaper articles in Denver, New York, and Paris, and wrote many letters. Her voice and personality have well survived the passage of time. The myth of Molly Brown can now be replaced with a real story that deserves to be remembered: a woman of extraordinary strength, a woman not afraid to speak her mind, a woman who truly believed that a person can make a difference in the world. I hope you enjoy this book and some of the extraordinary photographs it contains. I love hearing from readers! Feel free to email me at [KDIversen@aol.com](mailto:KDIversen@aol.com). Happy Reading!