

Do Miracles Exist?

IF ASKED, ALVIN KELLY WOULD TELL YOU, "THEY ABSOLUTELY DO." The fact that the 19-year-old from Hell's Kitchen is returning to New York City with survivors of the Titanic is proof. He is fortunate to have met his manager, Joseph Emmerling, who lionizes him as America's most unlikely hero; the shifty newspaperman knows how to exploit a fad and get rich. Kelly's wife, Vivian is a career criminal who has her own motives. Her opinion is that miracles can be manufactured since she knows that desperate people want to believe her hokum. More evidence that wonders exist is embodied in Alvin's friend, Edward Leedskalain, mystical sculptor of the Coral Castle. Convinced he knows the secret to a supernatural phenomenon—levitation, Alvin would give anything to master that process as the former sailor called Shipwreck Kelly insanely quests to become the Flagpole Sitting Champion of the World.

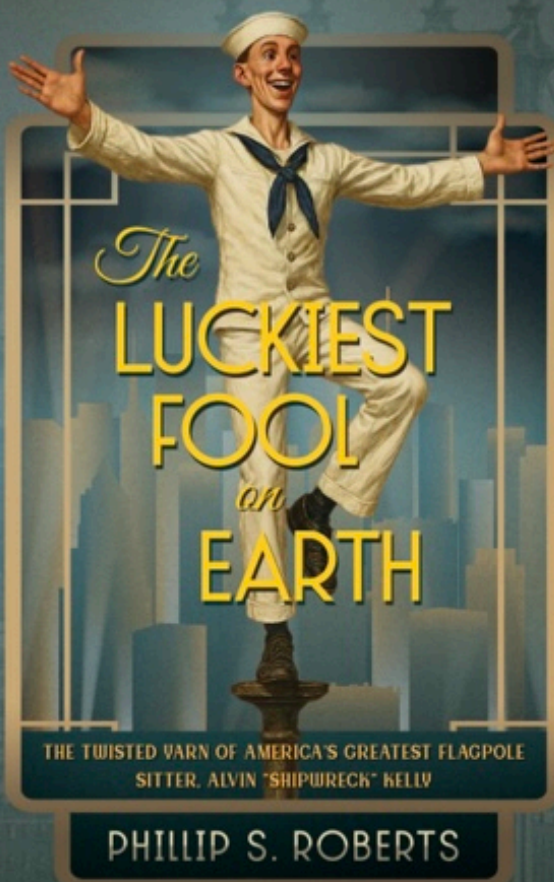
Set against the backdrop of Roaring Twenties New York City, *The Luckiest Fool on Earth* tells the captivating story of Alvin "Shipwreck" Kelly, an unassuming sailor thrust into fame as the nation's most celebrated flagpole sitter. This transformation is orchestrated by a loquacious newspaper man and his cunning grifter wife, who team up to exploit Alvin's misfortunes for their own gain. As Alvin ascends—both literally and figuratively—he becomes a daring spectacle in an era of glitz and ambition. Yet beneath him lies a sobering journey while he gains understanding about the devastating cost of his need for fame.

A rollercoaster of ambition, deception, and redemption, *The Luckiest Fool on Earth* explores the fragile intersection of human connection and the intoxicating allure of fame. True to its era and hero's journey, this is not a tale of happy endings, but a poignant reflection on the choices that define us.

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The LUCKIEST FOOL *on* EARTH PHILLIP S. ROBERTS



Nominated Best Historical Fiction — 2026 Astra Book Awards
Lively, historically rich romp through America's daredevil era. — BookLife

Filled with hope and reflection, this story set against the backdrop of the Roaring 20s is perfect for fans of historical fiction, ready for a new book. — Kyra O'Connor News 12 Phoenix

This book is original, incredibly entertaining, and has a surprisingly powerful message. It is heartwarming and inspiring. — Review Tales

The Luckiest Fool on Earth is a wildly entertaining and deeply human tale of ambition, deception, and spectacle, chronicling the rise of Alvin "Shipwreck" Kelly as America's most unlikely hero in a dazzling, heartbreaking journey through the Roaring Twenties that proves fame can elevate—and unravel—you. — newinbooks.com
His evocative life experiences resonate—particularly his evolution from glory-seeker to survivor as America's era of daredevil feats comes to a close. — Critic's report, The Booklife Prize.