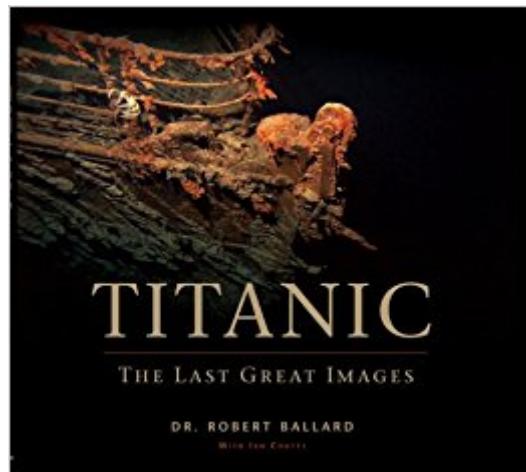


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Titanic: The Last Great Images



Synopsis

Dead men tell no tales. Dead ships, however, do. Over seventy years after the great ocean liner sank, marine geologist Robert Ballard discovered the wreck of the Titanic 12,500 feet beneath the surface of the icy North Atlantic. Now Ballard presents the world with an opportunity to live the story of the famous ship through his amazing last great images, before Titanic's remains are gone forever. This is a story told in rusted, twisted metal and debris, but it is also a human story told in a porcelain doll's face, an empty shoe, and an abandoned derby hat. *Titanic: The Last Great Images* maps the wreck of the ship from a variety of perspectives to give a completely new picture of the triumph and tragedy that was Titanic. This illustrated volume and a National Geographic special weave the strands of the ocean liner's story together in renderings done by the ship's original designers, charts of the debris field, and period illustrations. Robert Ballard provides the clearest, most accurate view of the ship we have ever seen. In crisply detailed underwater photography, disintegrating ruins and shattered pieces reveal pride of workmanship, a rigidly defined class system, and indelible images of terror and courage. This book shows what makes the Titanic worthy of the world's undying fascination.

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Customer Reviews

Nearly twenty years after his famous 1985 discovery of the shipwrecked Titanic, the remote viewing technology developed by oceanographer Ballard and his team had progressed such that Ballard could capture the dream he was "just starting to realize" in '85, deep-sea remote viewing with the

"cleanest, clearest images... all in high definition." Despite (or because of) decay and ghostly lighting, the submarine images are strangely vivid and colorful, with the power and credence to support one of Ballard's major endeavors, declaring the wreck site an international marine museum (one chapter documents damage caused by private expeditions since '86, another imagines a visit to the museum of 2062). Chapters on the ship's construction and sinking include historical photos of the Titanic and its sister ship, the Olympic, juxtaposed with those same features from their Atlantic grave. Accompanied by commentary from colleagues Dwight Coleman and Jeremy Weirich, this book is a satisfying read with mesmerizing images for armchair voyagers, and a significant excursion into submarine technology and archeology for the more science-minded. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Ballard, a marine geologist, discovered the wreck of the Titanic in the North Atlantic in 1985 and has penned a number of popular books about his search for the ship, among them, *The Discovery of the Titanic* (1987). Here he revisits the wreck in text and photos, maintaining that memories of the tragedy are fading away as the last survivors die and that the wreck itself has been badly damaged by salvagers. He not only attempts to re-create the splendor of the original ship and the time it sailed but also account for the factors that led to the ship's sinking. The book is filled with Ballard's color photographs, along with black-and-white photos and illustrations done in color. The black-and-white photos include images of survivors, passengers who died, sailors pulling bodies from the water, an embalmer at work, and the ship standing ready for launching. A haunting tribute to the tragedy of the sinking of the Titanic. --George Cohen

First of all, I'm rating the book right now based only on the photographic part of it; I have not yet read any of the text. I'm a BIG fan of Dr. Ballard. I'm awed by his technical knowledge and skills... also his courage... that have enabled him to discover the Titanic and other lost ship wrecks. Also because of his steadfastness that the ship should NOT have been plundered for artifacts for any reason. But I have to agree with reviewer "Stanwyck" - the pics are really not of very good quality overall. Some are pretty good, but many are grainy and fuzzy, and many of them are so dark you can hardly make out what is there. Yes, I know that Titanic sits in pitch black darkness at the bottom of the Atlantic. Nonetheless, if some photographs are so dark that you can barely make out what's in them, and others are grainy and out of focus, then one has to question their value to the general public. On the other hand, I've often wondered what it would be like to be in one of the submersibles, looking out the window directly at the side of the ship and being only inches away from one of the

boat davits or one of the windows on Titanic's side -- close enough to reach out and touch them if it were possible to do so. This book, in my opinion, gets you as close to doing that as you will ever come. While the photographs are not of the quality we'd like for them to be, they still show the ship and parts of the debris field VERY UPCLOSE and VERY REAL LOOKING! I would give the book no more than 2 stars for image quality. But I would give it 5 stars easily with respect to the emotional effect produced by these awesome images. I'm a huge Titanic buff and I can say that I am glad that I ordered the book, but I probably would not recommend it to others unless their emotional attachment to Titanic exceeds their expectation of image quality. One other thing... be careful about opening and holding the book. It's a large, heavy book, and that alone puts additional stress on the binding. This one that I ordered was classified as being "New," but I've already seen some places that look like the binding is already trying to give way.

Robert Ballard, the author of "Titanic: The Last Great Images", will ever be associated with the great, lost ship. It was Ballard who was the driving force behind the 1985 expedition that found the sunken vessel, and since then his voice has been steady in its opposition to the destructive exploitation of the wreck. "Titanic: The Last Great Images" serves in part as an account of his 2004 return to the site to make further explorations with Remotely Operated Vehicles equipped with high resolution television cameras. Many of the photographs in the book -- "the last great images" -- stem from that mission. They are intensely powerful images, documenting in extraordinary detail the present condition of the wreck. Ballard is sharply, although not stridently, critical of damage done over the previous two decades by other expeditions, perhaps more the result of accidents rather than deliberate intent, but destructive nonetheless. The damage is worst in those areas most frequently visited by such expeditions, but Ballard is quick to point out that even natural processes, left to themselves, will eventually reduce the wreck to a pile of unrecognizable debris (hence, I suppose, the notion of these images being "the last"), perhaps in a century's time. But Ballard does not merely report woe; he notes that the extent of damage is not as great as some have claimed and that the reduced pace of visiting expeditions has meant less damage being inflicted. Ballard's great hope, firmly expressed in this book, is that legal action will be undertaken to protect the wreck from human activity, and that steps might eventually be made towards preserving it from extensive natural decay, so that someday it might serve as an underwater marine museum, visited only through the medium of robot vehicles. It is a great dream.

great

Great photos. A must-have addition to any Titanic collection.

The book arrived looking brand new.

Thank you for this fantastic DVD

Very interesting look at the wreckage of a long ago ship that should not have gone down and refuses to die to this day nearly 100 years later.

From the discovery of the majestic ship, to the outstanding pics, a great story. I could not put the book down.

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