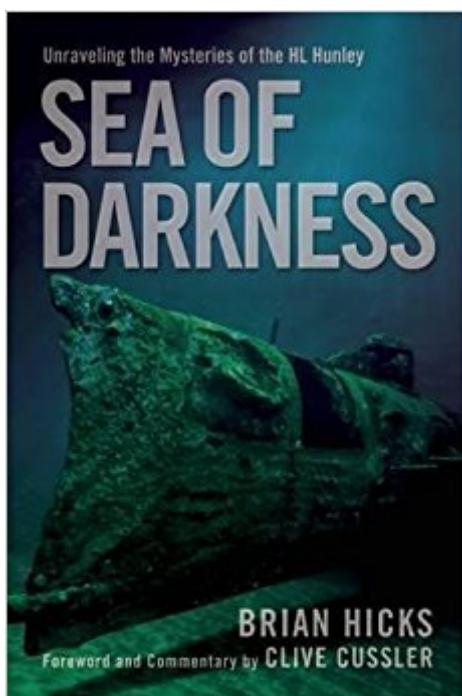


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# Sea Of Darkness: Unraveling The Mysteries Of The H.L. Hunley



## Synopsis

On a dark night in February of 1864, the H.L. Hunley, the first submarine to sink an enemy ship in combat, torpedoed the Union blockade ship USS Housatonic, a feat that would not be repeated for another 50 years. But fate was not kind to the Hunley that night as it sank with all of its crew on board before it could return to shore. Considered by many to be the Civil War's greatest mystery, the Hunley's demise and its resting place have been a topic of discussion for historians and Civil War buffs alike for more than a hundred years. Adding still more to the intrigue, the vessel was discovered in 1995 by a dive team led by famed novelist and shipwreck hunter Clive Cussler, sparking an underwater investigation that resulted in the raising of the Hunley on August 8, 2000. Since that time, the extensive research and restorative efforts underway have unraveled the incredible secrets that were locked within the submarine at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Join Civil War expert Brian Hicks as *Sea of Darkness* recounts the most historically accurate narrative of the sinking and eventual recovery ever written. Hicks has been given unprecedented access to all the main characters involved in the discovery, raising, and restoration of the Hunley. Complete with a foreword and additional commentary by Clive Cussler, *Sea of Darkness* offers new, never-before-published evidence on the cause of the Hunley's sinking, providing readers a tantalizing behind-the-scenes look inside the historic submarine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The comprehensive story of the Confederate submarine HL Hunley from the first rivet until

today. This is a must-have book for anyone who loves submarines, appreciates American history, or wants to learn more about the HL Hunley. I could not put this book down, and neither will you once you start to read it! "Wreck Diving Magazine" Brian Hicks' unique perspective provides the true story of the Confederate submarine remembered as the Hunley from the beginning to the present. Through exacting research he reveals a fascinating phenomenon that provides an intellectual adventure. His every detail is visibly accountable as he preserves the time period with intimate research of the people and the undersea vessel that forever changed the history of naval warfare. "Clive Cussler, best-selling adventure novelist and founder of the National Underwater and Marine Agency" Never was an author better positioned or better prepared to write such an engaging and entertaining history. Hicks is an accomplished writer by trade, a Southern history buff by avocation and a close friend of many of the key movers and shakers who found, raised and are now restoring the submarine. "There will always be unanswered questions, but all of the answers we do have are artfully woven together in Brian Hicks' [Sea of Darkness]." "Frank L. Cloutier, The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)" Through skillful interweaving of the past and the present, *Sea of Darkness* illuminates the murky waters of the American Civil War. Hicks delivers an accurate, detailed account of military history that reads like an adventure novel, with a vibrant cast of characters and a storyline that will transport readers into the depths of naval warfare. "Colonel W. Hays Parks, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired" The Hunley project is about discovery. It's about learning what history can teach us. This project shows us what science, innovation, technology, and the human spirit can make possible. It is about courage. "Warren Lasch, Friends of the Hunley" In *Sea of Darkness*, we go on a journey through time between the early 1860s, when men first dreamed up the idea of an iron submersible, to the modern preservation efforts to save the now 152-year-old ship, whose whereabouts lay shrouded in mystery for 131 years. "In sections the book reads like a historical adventure novel, with all the suggestive and pensive undercurrents of the doomed ship and crew. But Hicks' true story also pieces together facts about the ship, theories on why she sank and details regarding the ongoing effort to reveal all the secrets the Hunley held for so many years." "Paul Grimshaw, Grand Strand Magazine"

Brian Hicks is a metro columnist for The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina, and the author or coauthor of six previous books. He has written about Southern history and politics for more than 25 years, including turns as a statehouse newspaper correspondent in three

states. Hicks' journalism has appeared in national and international publications since 1986. His work has been featured on National Public Radio, Discovery Channel, CBS Sunday Morning, and in National Geographic and Smithsonian magazine. He has won more than 30 journalism awards, including the Society of Professional Journalists' Green Eyeshade Award for humorous commentary and the South Carolina Press Association's award for Journalist of the Year. Hicks has followed the story of the H.L. Hunley since 1998 and has had more access to the submarine and the people who discovered and recovered it than any other journalist. His previous books include *Raising the Hunley*, *Toward the Setting Sun*, *Ghost Ship*, and *City of Ruin: Charleston at War 1860-1865*. A native of Tennessee, he currently lives in Charleston, South Carolina.

This book is written in a very interesting way; the author gives us not only the history of the construction, financing and military operations of the Hunley, but he flashes forward and back from the military history to the modern-day recovery of the vessel and its preservation (still ongoing) in Charleston, SC. I'd have given it 5 stars but I'm not quite finished ... one star at a time! So far, I've found this to be a very interesting and sometimes exciting history. After having seen the actual Hunley in its current state at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in Charleston, I was excited to read more about the adventures of H.L. Hunley and his "fishboat" and this book was just the ticket! I will probably return to give this book its 5th star. If you are an American history buff, this book belongs in your library.

This is as complete a history of the first combat submarine to sink an enemy vessel as I will probably ever find. It's not a "can't put it down" book, it is an "I don't want to put it down". Regardless of your view of the confederacy, this book is about the bravery and the incredible sacrifice three separate crews made in this machine, many of whom were not even southerners. You come away with great respect for Cussler, as a historian and Lasch the obsessed businessman, without whose organizational talent, this artifact would probably still be buried.

I'm not a history reader. This book was meant as a gift to my father who is a CSS Hunley submarine fan. I just wanted to check out the photographs. --I COULD NOT STOP READING IT !!! My Dad did indeed get this book albeit 2 days late, and gently used. This is an OUTSTANDING book that reads like a mystery/thriller. --You will not be disappointed !!!

Being a huge civil war aficionado, the discovery of the Hunley is a recent event. This book brings out a load of new information and images of the latest research through the expert writing of Brian Hicks. Having Clive Cussler's story woven with Captain Dixon's perspective was informative and fascinating. Highly recommended book and one that I have given to a few friends as a gift.

This is by far the most definitive book on the search and rescue of the Hunley. I have been a charter member of the Friends of the Hunley since 1996 and this book gives all of the inside details which transpired in the finding, raising and preservation of the first submarine to sink a ship in battle

Nice insight into the lengthy, convoluted and still on-going story of the submarine CSS Hunley. A must read for Civil war buffs, Charlestonians and anyone harboring ambitions of getting involved in underwater archeology.

I love the book, enjoyed the story and learned much about the Hunley and the war. The bravery of these sailors and their patriotism, the technology and the design of the Hunley. Great book

Alternating past and present as an organizing device in the telling of the tale worked very well. Lots of detail and new information. Purists may object to the occasional verb tense issues, but these do not detract from the narrative. The book is an engrossing read.

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