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Shipwrecks: Exploring Sunken Cities Beneath The Sea



Synopsis

An exploration of two strikingly different shipwrecks For those who know how to interpret its secrets, a sunken ship has many tales to tell. The stories of the lives of those aboard its last voyage are revealed in the objects scattered around the shipwreck. Then there are the stories of the many ocean creatures that have found a home inside the broken hull. Two shipwrecks, separated by two thousand miles and two centuries, share a common history of life, death, and rebirth. The first is the Henrietta Marve, a slave trader that sunk off Florida in 1700. The second, an elegant steamer with crew members from a thriving middle-class black community in Maine. Each of their stories starts with underwater exploration, one a search for fabled gold, the other for families lost at sea. Find out what underwater explorers discovered in these sunken cities beneath the sea.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Captain Thomas Chamberlain and his crew most likely became more and more fearful and hurricane force winds buffeted the "Henrietta Marie." The ship went down "thirty-five miles west of the Florida Keys" in 1700 and was not discovered until 1972 on the sandy ocean floor In "about twenty-five feet of murky water." Corey Malcom directed the search and his divers used everything from ping pong paddles to move the sand to a magnetometer, a "survey tool" used to find iron objects. Creatures of the deep had made their home in and around the ship, but the crew began to

find some interesting things. They found "almost one hundred pairs" of shackles. Just what kind of a ship was this and what kinds of secrets were hidden on the bottom of the ocean floor? Almost two centuries later another ship dubbed the "Portland" ran into a similar situation. On November 16, 1898, a storm named "The Portland Gale" after this luxury ship, an "overnight boat," began to batter it mercilessly. It was later theorized that the ship suffered a slow and terrifying death. One hundred ninety-two passengers and crew perished. Only forty bodies were recovered, but the most mystifying things were the "watches [that] washed ashore." They all said 9:30, but was this in the morning or at night? The ship was not located until 1978, but how did they find it and what would they discover because "fishes are the crew of the `Portland' now?" The reader will be mesmerized by the shipwrecks and will also learn how they became magnets "for marine creatures." Everyone loves a treasure hunt and this book was exciting from the first page to the last.

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