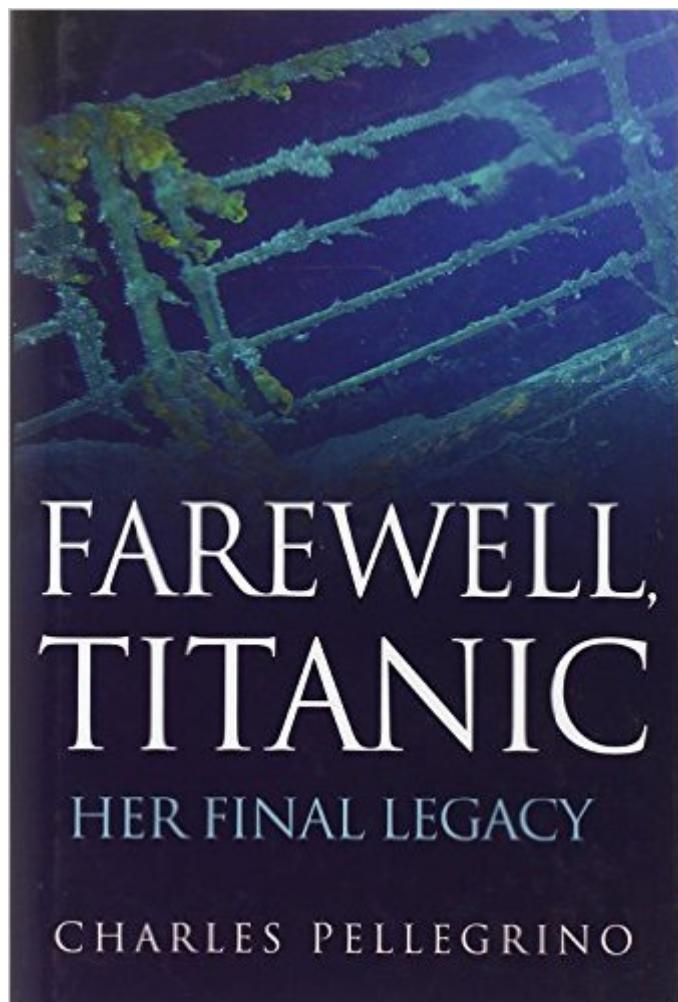


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Farewell, Titanic: Her Final Legacy



Synopsis

On the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's sinking, a prominent Titanic researcher offers a final chance to see the ship before it disappears forever. The Titanic was the biggest, most luxurious passenger ship the world had ever seen; the ads proclaimed it to be unsinkable. When it sank in April 1912 after hitting an iceberg, killing more than 1,500 people, the world was forever changed and the public has been spellbound ever since. Now, a century later, the Titanic is about to disappear again: its infrastructure is set to collapse in the next few years. In this book, scientist Charles Pellegrino offers what may be the last opportunity to see the ship before it is lost to the seas for eternity. The last book to be written while survivors were still alive and able to contribute details, *Farewell, Titanic* includes many untold stories about the sinking and exploration of the unsinkable ship. Author Charles Pellegrino provided source material for James Cameron's Oscar-winning *Titanic* film, which is being re-released in 3D at the same time as the book. Includes 16 pages of never-before-published full-color photographs of the sunken vessel. Includes all-new information about the Titanic research that has been carried out in the last decade. Written by a New York Times bestselling author who participated in the post-discovery analysis of the Titanic's remains during the expedition that immediately followed Robert Ballard's Titanic discovery in 1985.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nothing that teaches us about history is irrelevant. Nothing is irrelevant that instructs us regarding hubris. Posterity, when heeded, can illuminate far more than just the past--its brilliance can cast a

meaningful glow into our future. Farewell, Titanic - Her Final Legacy should not be taken as just another book about a tragic ship or her history--author Charles Pellegrino has provided a wider scope of history, a template of humanity held against the context of Titanic's story. Perhaps the most immediate question for the potential reader is: "Does it tell the story of the sinking?" The easy answer is "It does indeed." But so do countless other books on the subject, not the least of which is Walter Lord's A Night To Remember, which the author used as source material--including personal correspondence with Lord. Lord's fascination with the Titanic began at a very early age which gave him the time to accrue a depth of knowledge regarding the event (her sinking) which few others could come close to except her survivors; Pellegrino does both Walter Lord and Titanic's human descendants a deft, factually thorough, and humanistic service in Farewell, Titanic. Pellegrino's approach is perhaps the most gripping in its narrative style. Outside of global war the Titanic story is one of history's greatest cautionary tales of man's arrogance and tragic greed. Having the chutzpah to sail not just into but through an ice field is (certainly, in hindsight) hair-raisingly stupid--but to do so, on a moonless night in calm waters and run the engines "full ahead" based on human claims of "unsinkable" construction is barely a stones throw from qualifying as murderous.

Charles Pellegrino has written prolifically on a variety of subjects, and this is his third major outing on the "Titanic." While I have been captivated by the subject since I read "A Night to Remember" as a young boy, I have to go against the grain a bit and say that this is my least favorite of the three Pellegrino books on the subject. The author has unquestioned mastery of the subject and can write beautifully, but my issue with the book is something that many others evidently liked, namely the incorporation of tales of hubris and heroism from analogue events encompassing a very large portion of the book. When he stays on subject Pellegrino is spellbinding, but his tendency to get far afield from the subject matter I bought the book to learn about becomes tedious after a while: I did not buy this book to learn about the tragedies of 9/11 or his personal connections to that horror, I bought the book to learn more about the "Titanic." I found the human drama about the "Titanic" fascinating, and am particularly indebted to him for recounting in detail the travails of Violet Jessop and the sad recollections about Jim and his cat Jenny and her kittens on pp.29-30. By the same token, I was put off by the flashback-flashforward organization of the book, and was surprised to see a reference to "Lord Mercey" [sic] from such a studied historian on p.22. (Obviously Lord Mersey was intended.) While a mere typo is easily forgiven, there is a level of hyperbole in "Farewell, 'Titanic'" that is both presumptive and unverifiable, e.g. "When Captain Smith transferred his command from the 'Olympic' to the 'Titanic,' a deadly complacency must already have slithered into

him" (p.28.) Really? How does he presume to understand Smith's mental state? (And it "slithered"?

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