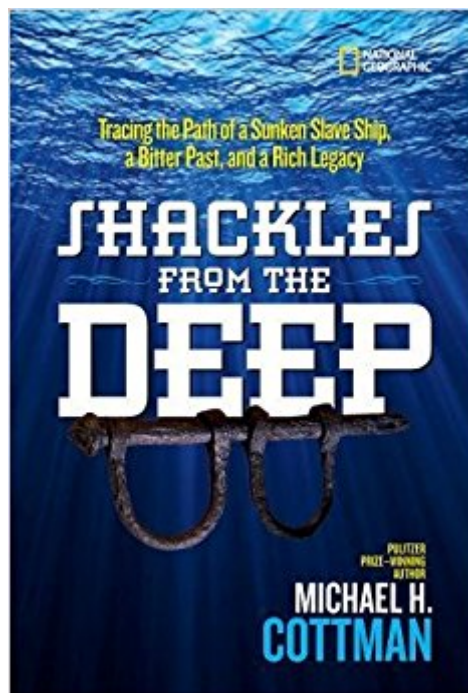




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Shackles From The Deep: Tracing The Path Of A Sunken Slave Ship, A Bitter Past, And A Rich Legacy (History (US))



Synopsis

A pile of lime-encrusted shackles discovered on the seafloor in the remains of a ship called the Henrietta Marie, lands Michael Cottman, a Washington, D.C.-based journalist and avid scuba diver, in the middle of an amazing journey that stretches across three continents, from foundries and tombs in England, to slave ports on the shores of West Africa, to present-day Caribbean plantations. This is more than just the story of one ship – it's the untold story of millions of people taken as captives to the New World. Told from the author's perspective, this book introduces young readers to the wonders of diving, detective work, and discovery, while shedding light on the history of slavery.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up – In his search for the lost treasure of the Nuestra Señora de Atocha in 1972, "Moe" Molinar uncovered a mound of iron shackles on the ocean floor. His discovery, however, didn't lead marine archaeologists to the sunken Spanish ship but rather to the Henrietta Marie, an English slave ship that sank off the coast of Key West, FL, almost 300 years prior. Twenty years later, journalist and scuba diver Cottman was asked to chronicle the ship's history, but what started

out as a routine assignment turned into something much more personal for the writer: it became one man's quest for answers about our collective past and relationship with slavery. Cottman previously recounted his pursuits in his adult novel *The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie: An African-American's Spiritual Journey To Uncover a Sunken Slave Ship's Past*, making him vastly familiar with the subject matter, especially considering that he has been at the forefront of documenting the ship's story for almost 25 years. However, readers eager to be regaled with detailed descriptions of Cottman's investigative adventures undersea and on land will be disappointed. The narrative is often short and choppy, jumping from one moment or line of inquiry to the next without fleshing the scene out. The *Henrietta Marie* as a subject is secondary to the author's personal reflections and questions on the matter. VERDICT Although Cottman's role in bringing the *Henrietta Marie*'s story to light is praiseworthy, readers seeking a less obtrusive and more thorough exploration of the transatlantic slave trade, marine archaeology, or sunken ships should look elsewhere. —Audrey Sumser, Kent State University at Tuscarawas, New Philadelphia, OH

“This truly multidisciplinary volume, an adaptation of his 1999 title *The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie*, engagingly explores a wide scope of topics, including the history of slavery, marine archaeology, and contemporary racial discrimination, culminating in a dive down to the wreck itself. Every bit of this concise, detailed book feels personal, and Cottman's exploration and investigation of the wreck is rich with intrigue and poignant, thought-provoking questions. —Booklist Starred Review” The author combines carefully conducted research, invaluable insights, and a page-turning adventure of investigation and discovery into a riveting book that is affectingly personal, emotionally harrowing, and historically impactful.” -- School Library Journal “Cottman weaves his personal story of discovery with history of the slave trade, helping readers understand why a sunken slave ship from the 1700s still matters....Cottman wrote a well-received version of this story for adults (The *Wreck of the Henrietta Marie*, 1999), and this retelling for young readers is just as intriguing.” —Kirkus.

Many ships have sunk into the ocean over the years, but the *Henrietta Marie* carries special significance because of what she carried inside her hull in the years before her sinking. The *Henrietta Marie* was a slave ship, used to transport people into slavery and away from their homes on the West African shore. This book though is more about the experiences of the author, journalist Michael Cottman, as he learned about the ship's origins and travels. While there is little hope of discovering the specific individuals who sailed as slaves on the *Henrietta Marie*, Cottman still feels

the connection to his own ancestors as he travels to England, Africa, and Jamaica, following the long distant travels of the ship. This reads a lot like a memoir as Cottman documents his thoughts and feelings as he visited the different locations of significance to the building and sailing of this slave ship. Reading this book reminded me of my own ancestors and how I feel when I visit places they've been, and how I would like to one day visit some of the other places of significance to them. I appreciated the inclusion of a few photographs, it helped make the text seem more real, more would have been nice though.

The whole family enjoyed this book

Avid scuba diver and journalist, Michael Cottman is sharing the remarkable discovery of a sunken ship that carried slaves to Europe and North/South America during the late 1600's. The ship was the Henrietta Marie and in early 1700, it sank in a storm off the coast of Key West, Florida. Nothing was known about this ship until 1972 when underwater treasure hunter Moe Molinar finds the wreckage while looking for some treasures from another ship. Hurricanes often stir up the sand around sunken treasures and this time, he came across something new....shackles, heavy manacles designed to handcuff slaves while traveling across the ocean to an unknown world. Ten years later, marine archaeologist, David Moore had heard of the shipwreck and began studying the slave trade. He made it a mission to find out more about this ship and the purpose of its journey. In 1983, during an underwater exploration, he came across the bell. During that time, every ship had a bell with the ship's name on it to use as a watch bell that signaled changes to the crew on board of the ship. This find was a huge break because it helped them reveal the name of the ship, the Henrietta Marie. Cottman and Moore united to retrace the ship's journey around the world. For Cottman, it is quite an emotional journey as an African American man, wondering if there could have been his own ancestors that perished on this journey. His most upsetting find wasn't just finding the shackles made specifically to handcuff the slaves during the long journey across the ocean, but the numerous child-sized shackles. "Who would make child-sized shackles?", Cottman wondered. While this is a non-fiction account of the fascinating finds related to this ship, Cottman willingly shares his personal feelings while conducting this research. This reads as a narrative non-fiction and contains amazing photographs of both underwater images as well as the shackles and bell brought to the surface. He travels to several countries to access every piece of the story related to slavery trade during the 1600-1800's. While reading this book, I was reminded of the story of Olaudah Equiano, a slave who came across the ocean on a ship much like the Henrietta Marie (maybe even one of the

previous journeys) and landed in London. He was eventually freed by his owner after being allowed to trade and buy his freedom. I've often taught this story while subbing and I now have new knowledge to add to my lesson on the slave trade. Having never heard of this sunken ship, I was fascinated by this amazing find. The level of research Moore and Cottman conducted to understand what happened to the ship, who perished on this ship, and the history of shipping slaves across the world was extensive. If your child likes reading true historical stories, then this will be right up their alley. At just 120 pages, it isn't overwhelming for younger readers. If the reader becomes interested in this topic, the back of the book includes other books and websites to find more information about slave ships, scuba diving, and marine archaeology. Maybe this book will inspire them to become a researcher some day. I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

“Not all treasure is about glitter, but about connection, heritage and legacy. A pile of shackles found on the bottom of the ocean led divers to find the Henrietta Marie, a sunken slave vessel from 300 years earlier. The pile of shackles found on the bottom of the ocean spoke of oppression, cruelty, and history. This history drove Michael H. Cottman, an experienced diver and Pulitzer Prize winning African American author, to immerse himself in the legacy of a shipwrecked ship. Spanning three continents, Cottman traced the route of the Henrietta Marie to its final resting place in the Gulf of Mexico, weaving in his own history with emotional stories of the slave trade. Along with archaeologist David Moore, Cottman visited England delving into the business side of the slave trade following the path of the iron shackles. In Jamaica, Cottman came to realize that it didn't matter whether he was related to anyone on the Henrietta Marie or not because “they were my family.” In Senegal, Cottman visited Goree Island reflecting on the “collective survival of African people despite the centuries of European plundering, kidnapping, and ransacking of villages. A deeply embedded sense of anger ran throughout the emotional narrative; anger for the slaves taken to a “terrifying new world where they were treated with cruelty and hatred and anger for the racial injustice that allowed African people to be seen as less than human and thus enslaved. The engaging narrative is more than just a memoir; it is a look at the resiliency of people, an understanding of “our collective history.” Note: I received a copy of the book from Media Masters Publicity in exchange for an honest review

As someone who read Michael Cottman's book, "Wreck of the Henrietta Marie," I highly recommend

this adaption "Shackles From the Deep" for young readers and adults alike. The story is an uplifting tale, an educational tool and an entertaining story about the African slave trade and the author's personal journey of self-discovery. It is part detective story, part underwater mystery and part adventure tale that reaches across the three continents, including research in the Caribbean and London. Young readers will be introduced to an African American scuba diver who combined his love for this water sport with his passion for journalism and history to bring life to an untold story. The book also explores race through the unique partnership between black scuba divers and white marine archeologists to discover the history of this sunken slave ship. This is an amazing and inspirational story for all readers!

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