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- So this is the ship they say is unsinkable.
- It is unsinkable. God himself could not sink this ship.
Every once in a while the conversations with friends or newly met acquaintances turn to favorite movies. Every once in a while “ My Heart Will Go On” by Celine Dion comes on radio or music TV channel. Every once in a while close people talk about how true love never dies and how legends are never forgotten. And every single time Titanic is mentioned like a strongly attached, inseparable, and ultimate representation of the above mentioned categories, ever-present and ever-green.
A 1997 American fictionalized account of the sinking of a luxurious British passenger liner, Titanic, is a legendary film in many senses. Written, directed and co-produced by James Cameron, the movie’s 14 nominations earn it the first place in the Academy Award Most Nominated Films list. It is hard to find a person, who has never watched or at least heard about this epic romantic disaster film. Almost twenty years after its release, Titanic still ranks one of the first places of the most famous and widely watched movies of all time and induces passion into its viewers. With a budget of $200, 000, 000 as the most expensive movie to be filmed in the 20th century, all the work and endless underwater shots of the real ship had surely paid off.
The film starts in modern times and shows an expedition crew diving where the sink sunk in 1912. The crew intends to find a 56-carat blue diamond, The heart of the Ocean, which had supposedly sunk with Titanic. A 101-year old Rose Calvert sees the telecast on TV and claims to be the female passenger who wore the famous diamond. She gets invited on the expedition shipboard and shares the story of Titanic which is tied with her love story. The movie goes back to 1912, when a 17-year old beautiful Rose (Kate Winslet) boards on Titanic to go to New York with her fiancé Cal Hockley, and mother. Rose feels chained and taken freedom from, and one night Jack, a poor low-class artist Jack Dawson (played by Leonardo DiCaprio), talks her out from committing a suicide. Actually, when Jack saves Rose in this scene, he tells her a story about how he once went ice fishing and fell into icy cold water. He describes his feelings as " being stabbed with a thousand knives all over your body." This was exactly how a Titanic survivor described the temperature of the North Atlantic water on that tragic night. Rose and Jack eventually fall in love with each other. The lovers spend some time together and Rose eventually makes a decision to leave the ship with Jack. The fate intervenes and the Titanic hits an iceberg. There are exactly 37 seconds between the lookouts warning and the actual collision with the iceberg. This took the same amount of time in real life too. The ship sinks and Jack dies in the cold water while Rose survives to tell this tale and live a long, eventful life. After this, the elderly Rose walks to the stern of the expedition ship and drops the diamond, the engagement gift from her fiancé, into the ocean.
When the scenes are set in the present day, the total movie length is two hours and forty minutes, the exact time it took for Titanic to sink. This movie was the first film to be released on video (DVD/VHS) while it was still on in theaters, and the Paramount studio had to send out replacement reels to theaters who had worn out their original copies due to the high popularity of the film. Many of the characters in the story were fictional and created simply for the purpose of the movie. Rose, Jack, Cal, and Rose's mother all were non-real characters added to the plot as they represent different groups of people from the time. Although, after the script had been finished, there was discovered a real " J. Dawson" who died aboard the Titanic. Nowadays, his grave at the cemetery of Novia Scotia where many Titanic passengers were buried, is the most visited one. Nevertheless, many characters such as Molly Brown; Bruce Ismay; the ship designer; Captain Edward Smith; the White Star Line Representative, have real prototypes, from whom the characters were taken. Also, the old couple hugging on the bed while water floods their room after the ship hit the iceberg are the owners of Macy's department store in New York. Ida and Isidor Strauss both died on the Titanic. Ida refused to get into the lifeboat, saying that they lived together with her husband, and they would die together, as well. It only proves that although Jack and Rose’s love line is fictional, there could have been same loving couples, forever separated by the icy cold water, and this makes the movie even more touching and emotionally overwhelming.
The entire scope and understanding of the size of the tragedy, the vast amount of people’s lives, hopelessness and helplessness, the power of the water and the power of the destiny is fascinating and mind-blowing. The story of Titanic has long been an important part of the movie culture. Jack and Rose have long been the icon of never-ending love which doesn’t take notice of age, social level, money, time or distance. It captures at once and stays forever. Titanic may have been called unsinkable, but sunk. The Heart of the Ocean may have been considered lost, but never really was. A true love may be considered non-existent, but it does exist. The heart goes on.