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Shipwrecks: Exploring Sunken Cities Beneath the Sea

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Reviewer: Laurien Clay  
Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate  
Rating: Excellent  
Genre: Informational books;  
Subject: Shipwrecks--Juvenile literature; Underwater archaeology --Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

The Henrietta Marie is a wrecked slave ship whose remains have been resting on the ocean floor for more than three hundred years. Another shipwrecked vessel, The Portland, is a recently discovered paddle-wheel steamer that has been lost for over one-hundred years. What both share is not at first noticeable: both have been sites of death, but also a renewal of life through nature's appropriation of them as habitats for sea life from coral and fish to candy-cane shrimp.

Cerullo, an ocean-going teacher and author of thirteen ocean books, makes a departure from typical shipwreck literature by incorporating an element of nature. She explains how shipwrecks are not only important to history, but to wildlife conservation. This theme of conservation is promoted through the extensive use of facts as well as the incorporation of drawings and photographs of wildlife, people, ship documents, and the ships themselves. This book would be a definite aid in the classroom or home to help create earth-friendly awareness.

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