

WALT DISNEY/TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

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Title: **TITANIC**
 Author: **CAMERON, JAMES**

Submitted by: **LIGHTSTORM ENT.**

Draft:
 Circa: **Present**
 Location: **North Atlantic Ocean /England /New York**

Submitted to: **STERLING, ANNE**

Genre: **DRAMA***

Analyst: **KIMMELMAN, AMY**
 Coverage Date: **June 21, 1996**

Sub-Genre:
 Elements:

LOG LINE:

An elderly survivor /heiress of the Titanic (who was presumed dead) recounts her tragic romance to a treasure hunter (who has raised the Titanic), reveals that she possesses the diamond he seeks, but throws it overboard to teach him that nothing is more valuable than life.

SYNOPSIS:

In the North Atlantic Ocean, treasure hunter BROCK LOVETT (40's), along with Titanic experts ANATOLY MIKAILAVICH and LEWIS BODINE raise the luxury liner from the bottom of the sea. Lovett searches a safe in the Titanic (in the hopes of finding "the Heart of the Ocean" diamond -- the largest on record) and finds a drawing of a nude girl. In California, ROSE DARWIN (101) watches the coverage of Lovett's feat, and instructs granddaughter LIZZY (20's) to contact him. When Lovett hears that Rose claims to be a survivor, he has her flown to the site via helicopter. When Rose sees the recovered drawing, she claims to be the woman pictured. Rose admits that she is the presumed-dead fiancée of millionaire CALEDON HOCKLEY (who bought the diamond as a present for her). Hoping that Rose will lead him to the diamond, Lovett listens as she recounts her experience on the Titanic. In 1912 England, Rose (17), Caledon, his butler LOVEJOY and Rose's mother RUTH DE-WITT BUKATER (40's) board the Titanic. On the docks, American drifter /artist JACK DAWSON (20) gambles at a card game. Jack wins tickets for the Titanic cruise. In their plush Titanic suite, Caledon offends Rose when he treats her like a possession. Later, Rose befriends MARGARET BROWN (AKA the unsinkable Molly Brown). Ruth and Molly chat with Titanic architect BRUCE ISMAY and contractor THOMAS ANDREWS (39). After dinner, a distraught Rose contemplates suicide on the ship's deck. Jack talks her out of it, but Rose loses her balance. Jack saves Rose. Caledon invites Jack to dinner. The next evening, Caledon gives Rose the "Heart of the Ocean" necklace. At dinner, Rose is attracted to Jack. They soon begin a secret romance, and Jack sketches Rose. They make love. Caledon is furious when he finds out. He has Lovejoy plant the necklace on Jack so Rose will believe Jack is a thief. Rose feels betrayed. The Titanic hits an iceberg, and panic erupts. Caledon gives freezing Rose his coat. Rose gives up her place on a lifeboat to rescue Jack (who is tied up in the boiler room). Jack brings Rose up on deck and forces her to board a lifeboat. Moments later, Rose gives up her place to be with Jack. Caledon instructs Lovejoy to chase Rose, and recover the necklace (which is in his coat pocket). Lovejoy drowns. Caledon buys his way onto a lifeboat (reserved for women and children). Rose and Jack don life jackets and plunge into the ocean (which is below zero temperature). Jack finds a barge large enough for Rose. He slowly dies from exposure. Rose is eventually saved. When Rose reaches New York City, she tells Caledon she never wants to see him again. Rose instructs Caledon to tell everyone she is dead. Rose assumes Jack's last name when she passes through immigrations. In the present, Rose takes the Heart of the Ocean necklace out of her pocket. Lovett begs to hold it. As he does, Rose reminds him that nothing is more valuable than life. Touched by her story, Lovett gives the necklace back to Rose. She flings it into the ocean.

*Genre: DRAMA/ROMANCE/THRILLER

ORIGINAL
 200

BUDGET High Medium Low

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Idea	▲			
Story Line		▲		
Characterization		▲		
Dialogue		▲		
Setting/Production Values				

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COMMENT:

Surprisingly, "TITANIC" is a tragic love story, and the historical catastrophe of the luxury liner serves as a backdrop for this thoroughly engaging tale. Destined to attract both male and female audiences, this script possesses many elements that will generate widespread appeal. The notion behind a present day treasure hunter who raises the Titanic in the hopes of finding the world's largest diamond makes for compelling drama. When mysterious Titanic survivor Rose recounts her powerful romance in the days leading up to the disaster, this thriller is imbued with an even more substantive story. The first third (where Lovett raises the behemoth ship) presents a visual show stopper, and with today's movie magic, it will undoubtedly eclipse the effects seen in "RAISE THE TITANIC." The middle is buoyed entirely by Jack and Rose's romance, which is inspired and passionate. These characters are accessible, and the writer nicely establishes a rooting interest for their union. Once the Titanic hits an iceberg, the life and death situations aboard the luxury liner create a strong dose of tension. What's even more impressive is the sequence where Rose must single handedly rescue Jack from certain death (in the flooded boiler room). Rose's decision to give up her seat on a lifeboat gives her romance (with Jack) authenticity. The end to their affair is tragic when Jack dies. His decision to sacrifice his life for Rose both in the beginning (where she slips off deck) and at the end (where he gives her the barge) bookends the piece effectively. It also enhances his heroic nature, and makes Jack a sympathetic lead. Rose, and her decision to leave Caledon is not a novel situation, but she is depicted with realism and heart. The finale (where Rose teaches Lovett that the real treasure is love) has resonance. Dialogue is on target.

Script: **CONSIDER**
Writer: **CONSIDER**
