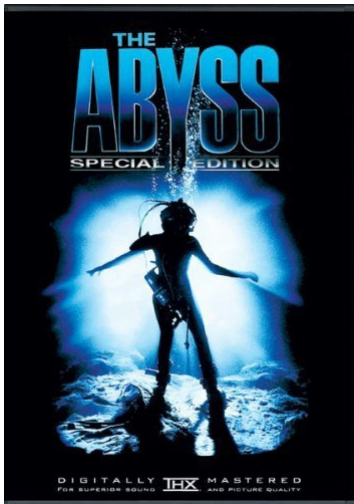


Short Review: “The Abyss” (1989) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Abyss, The (1989). 20th Century Fox, color, 146 min. Director: James Cameron.

Writer: James Cameron. Producer: Gale Anne Hurd. Cast: Ed Harris, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, and Michael Biehn.

During the Cold War, an American nuclear submarine crashes in the ocean. The team from an underwater oil rig led by Bud Brigman (Harris) and his ex, Lindsey Brigman (Mastrantonio), are joined by a Navy SEALs team led by hard-charging Lt. Hiram Coffey (Biehn). The two teams have their problems, including the spotting of unusual underwater phenomena, which leads to the discovery that humankind is not alone in the vast oceans of Earth. As always, Harris looks great on camera, but the story moves slowly, though with great visual beauty and impeccable special effects. Unfortunately, this is little more than “Close Encounters” in an underwater setting.

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