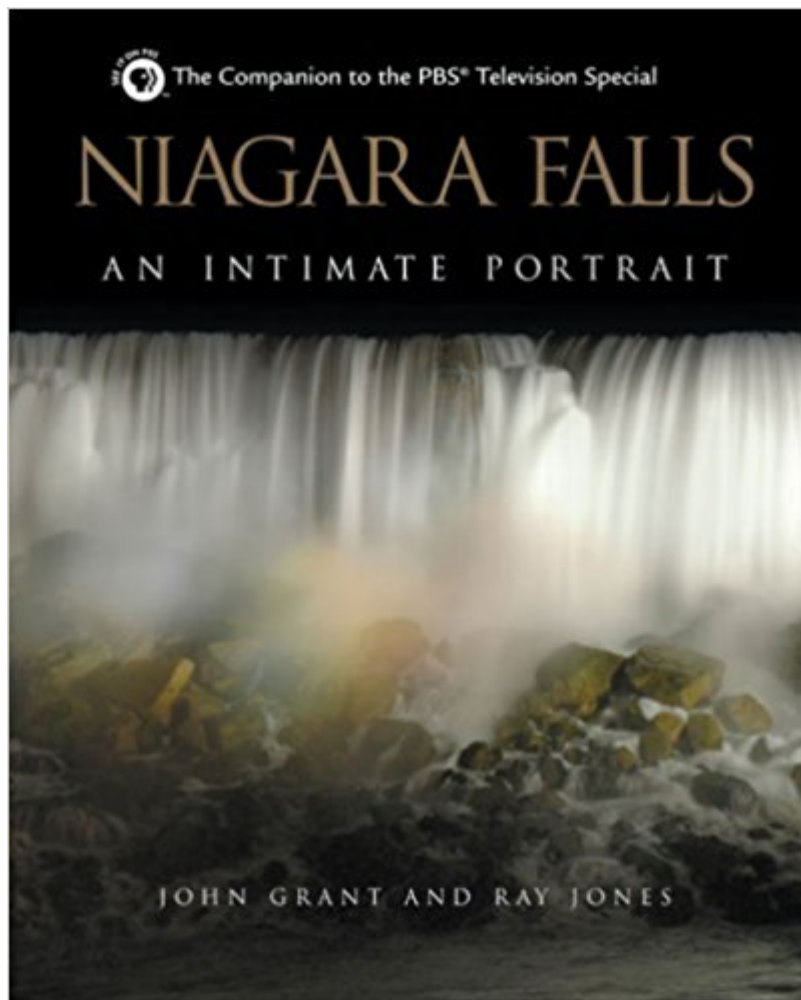


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# Niagara Falls: An Intimate Portrait



## Synopsis

Once a place sacred to the Iroquois, Niagara Falls has been exploited by profiteers, protected by preservationists, harnessed for mechanical power, and reincarnated into the honeymoon capital of the world. *Niagara Falls: An Intimate Portrait*, the companion to the PBS television program, celebrates the history of the falls and examines human progress - and human folly - on a grand scale. Fifteen million people are lured to Niagara each year by the sheer power and majesty of the water. You'll meet some of them: Maid of the Mist captains, wedding chapel ministers, honeymooners of all nationalities, light-show engineers, and thrill seeking daredevils. You'll also learn about the early explorers; the warriors who fought bloody battles for control of the falls; the first bridge builders and hydroelectric engineers; and the movie stars and tightrope walkers who attracted an awestruck public. Through color photographs and archival images, interviews with people who work at the falls, and a detailed chronology of events, this book weaves together the contemporary and the historical to create an unforgettable, intimate portrait of Niagara Falls - a place entirely beyond the ordinary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Grant is the executive producer of the Niagara Falls PBS television program. His company, Driftwood Productions, produces travel and history programs for cable and public television. He is the author or coauthor of six books, including *Legendary Lighthouses* and *West Point: The First 200 Years*. He lives in State College, Pennsylvania. Ray Jones is the author or coauthor of numerous books on travel and history, including the bestselling *Legendary Lighthouses*. He was formerly a

writing coach at Southern Living magazine and founding editor of Albuquerque Living magazine. He lives in Pebble Beach, California.

## OK Book

This book touches on the main points of Niagara Falls history without going into too much detail about any of them. I got the feeling while reading it that it was meant for the casual tourist - a kind of souvenir that a tourist might bring home from a trip to the fall, look at once or twice and then forget about rather than an "intimate portrait" of the place, people and history. More pictures would have made it a better souvenir book. More text and details would have made it a better history. As it is, it's not very good at being either of these. If you're interested in a detailed yet highly readable history of the falls and the wonderfully fascinating people associated with their history, try Pierre Berton's "Niagara: A History of the Falls". For an up to date, modern look at the falls, "Inventing Niagara: Beauty, Power, and Lies" by Ginger Strand is great - if slightly too snarky/hip at times. Strand updates and corrects Berton's history and she also delves into the modern history of the the area (i.e. Love Canal, the effects of industrialization) so the two books compliment each other nicely.

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