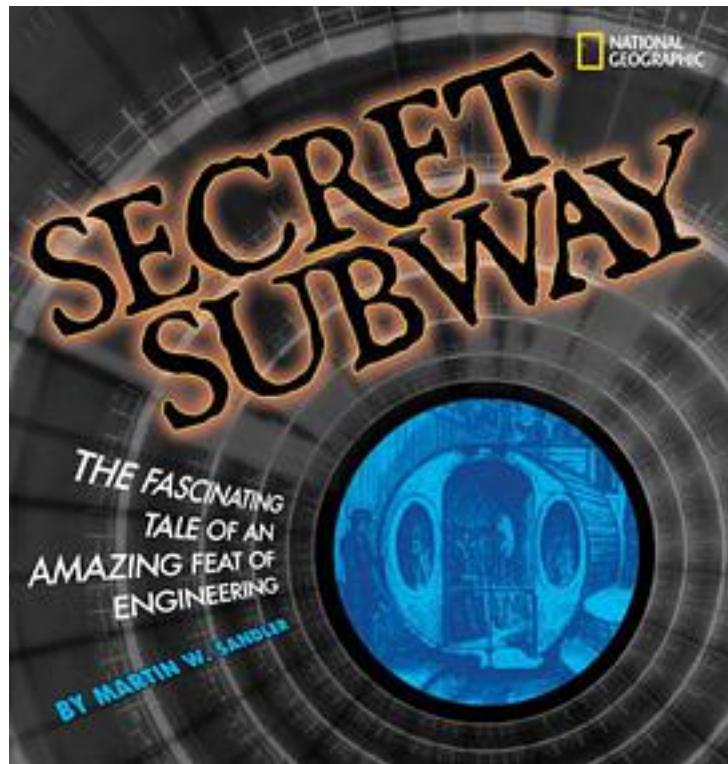


Secret Subway



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This is the incredible story of the visionary engineer who built New York City's first subway. The Secret Subway is the gripping tale of a man whose vision was years ahead of his time; a man whose dream was crushed by the greed and political jockeying for power that characterized the city in the days of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall.

In the late 1860s New York was congested and dangerous, a place one terrified commentator described as "bedlam on wheels." Alfred Beach, a multitalented young man, set out to solve the problem. Rather than just addressing the chaos on the

streets, he looked deeper for a solution, into the very foundations of the city. He financed the subterranean project himself, and pledged his workers to secrecy. When the fruits of his plans were revealed the public raved about his new tunnel, single station and subway car. Many believed this new system would relieve some of the congestion aboveground, and could be the first step toward a wider transportation network. But perceiving such ideas as a direct threat to his power, Boss Tweed intervened. The subway system Beach envisioned remained buried in the realm of dreams.

Between 1900 and 1904, a subway line was finally built in NYC. Workers extending that line cut right into Beach's tunnel, which remained intact. The station, tunnel, and care except for the decaying wooden parts were just as Beach had left them. To this day they lie buried beneath the city's streets, an interred monument to a dream cruelly killed by political greed and jealousy.

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