



## The Mayan Secrets

*Clive Cussler , Thomas Perry*

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**The Mayan Secrets** Clive Cussler , Thomas Perry

**The outstanding new novel from the #1 New York Times–bestselling grand master of adventure.**

Husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo are in Mexico, when they come upon a remarkable discovery—the skeleton of a man clutching an ancient sealed pot, and within the pot, a Mayan book, larger than anyone has ever seen. The book contains astonishing information about the Mayans, about their cities, and about mankind itself. The secrets are so powerful that some people would do anything to possess them—as the Fargos are about to find out.

Before their adventure is done, many men and women will die for that book—and Sam and Remi may just be among them.

## The Mayan Secrets Details

Date : Published September 3rd 2013 by Putnam Adult

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Author : Clive Cussler , Thomas Perry

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Genre : Adventure, Fiction, Thriller, Action, Mystery

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# From Reader Review The Mayan Secrets for online ebook

## Libby says

Only finished this book because it goes against my nature not to complete a book. The writing was on a middle school level and nothing like any other Clive Cussler book I've ever read. Disappointing is an understatement for this book. I'll stick with his other series.

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## John Buxbaum says

I am very fond of Sam and Remi Fargo. I love the characters and their interactions. My favourite is Selma Wandrash. What a great character she is, I really want to see more involvement with Selma. MI really loved the line in the Tombs "be a good Selma".

While a departure from the iconic Dirk and Family, Clive has really hit the mark with these characters. Their adventures are fun, entertaining, and thought provoking. My favourite has been and is book #4 "The Tombs". In this, the 5th book of the series head to Central America for an exploration of the Mayan culture, present and past. The primary antagonist in this book is not as strong as in previous book but interesting nonetheless. You will enjoy taking this person 'down'.

There is a scene, near the end, where Sam's past is revealed to be something a bit more than he has led Remi (and us) to believe. It is perhaps a sign of deeper character development to come and was most satisfying.

I have tried not to include any spoilers here. In closing I would not recommend you read this without having read the previous books (indeed this applies to the whole series as Clive has done a great job of building the story from book to book). It won't be your favourite entry but you will enjoy it.

Have Fun!!

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## Jason says

Sigh. Oh how I expected so much more from you, Clive!

Cussler is one of the few novelists whose books fill three or four full bookshelves in the bookstore. This was my first venture into Cusslerland, if you will. I was really disappointed.

I don't know how he managed it, but there was so much filler in this novel, yet there was so much *nothing* at the same time. He spends a lot of time telling us about what the characters pack in their bags to go on their little adventures and what they eat at the restaurant, but so little about what actually should be described to the reader in an adventure novel; namely, oh I dunno, the adventure!?

For an adventure novel I really didn't feel like I was on an adventure. The novel is too thin for that. Literally, there aren't enough pages to describe what needed describing to make a good story out of this. The Fargo duo hops from one destination on the globe to another with the blink of an eye. Snap your fingers, they are in Europe; snap them again, they're back in America; again, Central America. Ugh, just stop for a second and tell us the damn story!

And for as much "action" that takes place, I felt like the main characters experienced almost zilch in terms of

danger or conflict. There wasn't enough there to make me feel like they had anything stopping them from the inevitable conclusion. They had too much going for them for me to believe they wouldn't succeed. Shocker, the bazillionaires with every resource at their command end up beating the bad guys - where's the fun in that? Cussler reminds me of a Danielle Steel type. They churn out novels at an alarming rate simply because they can, without taking time to develop a novel with substance.

Probably on the lower side of 2 stars, more like 1.5. The only adventure I took was the walk to the bookstore and back home. I wish I could go on another to return this book. Alas, it was already used and can no longer be returned. The more you know.

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## **Emanuela Il mondo di sopra says**

Sembrerà strano, ma dei libri in serie mi piacciono quelli auto conclusivi, quelli che puoi leggere da soli, senza dover per forza seguire uno schema ben preciso. L'enigma dei Maya ha la particolarità che, se pur narrando di personaggi già noti, l'autore ti porta a conoscerli ancora, senza né annoiare il lettore che segue la saga, né rischiare che un lettore nuovo si perda in protagonisti già noti e definiti.

L'enigma dei Maya è fatto di strane coincidenze, è fatto di avventure, di fulmini a ciel sereno, è un'onda adrenalinica che inizia già dalle prime pagine e non si ferma se non arrivati alla parola fine.

Iniziamo questa nuova avventura indietro nel tempo, verso il 1500, alle prese con uno strano e antico libro che molti definiscono scritto dal diavolo in persona. La persona che conosciamo in queste poche righe ci lascia il bisogno di sapere e scoprire come mai quel libro viene definito pericoloso e importante al tempo stesso.

Qualche pagina più avanti eccoci in Messico, al largo dell'isola di Guadalupe, insieme ai coniugi Fargo e all'animale più potente dell'oceano: lo squalo bianco. Sam e Remi Fargo sono volontari in una ricerca marina per capire il movimento degli squali bianchi e tracciarne ogni tipo di segnale. La ricerca prosegue nonostante qualche dubbio, fino a quando diversi terremoti cominciano a farsi via via sempre più violenti. Per sopravvivere ogni uomo si trasforma in un animale e i coniugi Fargo si ritrovano a dover proteggere le scorte di cibo e medicinali dello yacht, fino a quando la necessità di aiutare la popolazione residente nelle coste è sempre più forte e insieme ai soccorritori decidono di avventurarsi direttamente sulla zona e tentare di salvare ogni persona.

Passano i giorni e i coniugi Fargo decidono di percorrere la montagna per salvare i villaggi residenti verso la vetta. Riga dopo riga l'autore ci permette di sentirci in quel sentiero, di sentire sulla nostra pelle il cambiamento dell'aria, la fatica della salita e l'angoscia nel cercare di aiutare ogni villaggio della zona. Il ritmo cambia quando i nostri protagonisti si ritrovano di fronte ad un enorme blocco di basalto con raffigurati disegni e scritture Maya. Attratti da questa nuova scoperta, i coniugi decidono di andare avanti e capire l'origine e la provenienza di quel blocco, fino a che l'ingresso di una grotta, permette loro l'entrata in una sorta di tomba sacra. Quello che gli autori descrivono è qualcosa di immenso.

Ammetto di aver riletto questa parte diverse volte, in quanto la scrittura così evocativa e i minuziosi dettagli permettono di immaginare realmente il corpo steso e gli oggetti contenuti nel luogo sacro. Il bisogno di mettere in salvo il ritrovamento dai violenti terremoti e dalle frane, permette i coniugi Fargo alla scoperta di un antico oggetto chiuso, contenente qualcosa di strano.

Ogni riga è puro colpo di scena, una scrittura che ad ogni parte tiene con il fiato sospeso, che spiazza pagina dopo pagina, specialmente quando i nostri protagonisti si rendono conto del valore di ciò che hanno ritrovato: un antico libro Maya, contenente codici e mappe. Se all'inizio ci sentiamo elettrizzati dalla storia, proseguendo il ritmo non scade mai e a questo punto diviene ancora più incalzante, con l'arrivo di nuovi personaggi pronti a tutto pur di metter mano su quei codici.

Nonostante il romanzo possa contare quasi quattrocento pagine, L'enigma dei Maya, è un romanzo che si legge in poche ore, è una sfida contro se stessi e la storia, è pura adrenalina fatta a scrittura. Diversi sono i personaggi descritti, eppure pagina dopo pagina, gli autori riescono a definirne ogni dettaglio, a tratteggiare come un abile disegnatore ogni sfumatura, ogni chiaro - scuro, permettendoci di individuarne la complessità e la diversità di ognuno di loro.

Il romanzo si sviluppa in più ambientazioni e questo ci permette comodamente di viaggiare in quei luoghi e cogliere anche le diverse tradizioni. Gli autori non ci lasciano alla deriva, in quanto ogni ambientazione è minuziosamente descritta e questo ci permette di immaginarci realmente in quel luogo e di viverlo da sempre.

Che Clive Clusser sia un uomo capace di scrivere emozioni in ogni parola lo abbiamo sempre saputo, ma l'enigma dei Maya ha qualcosa in più, non solo per l'agguerrita avventura, ma per la sensazione che questo romanzo lascia a fine lettura. Verremo completamente incantati pagina dopo pagina, riconoscendoci egoisticamente in ogni personaggio principale.

Il linguaggio forbito, evocativo, a tratti crudo, ma pur sempre corretto, ci permette di non annoiarci mai e di voler continuare a leggere ancora una pagina - solo che una non è mai - . Il pericolo costante e nessuna garanzia di ritorno e successo, ci porta a rimanere senza fiato ad ogni riga e a sentire il cuore correre veloce. E' attraverso i protagonisti che riusciamo a cogliere ogni sorpresa, ogni passione, ogni contraddizione della storia.

L'enigma dei Maya è puro fuoco da leggere. E' appassionante e indimenticabile.

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## **David Roberts says**

I am reviewing the novel The Mayan Secrets by Clive Cussler et al which is an excellent adventure story which I bought from a local supermarket. This book is part of the Fargo series about a married couple who are also treasure hunters and they often get into scrapes connected to that. The story kicks off in Guatemala in the 16th Century when soldiers try to hunt down ancient texts owned by the Mayans that a priest has been studying in the hope of learning about and which a rival priest has claimed are satanic. They hide at least one book which in the present day Sam & Remi, the treasure hunters find. A rival treasure collector who isn't interested in its history and just wants to own it is hot on their trail. She is an extremely wealthy heiress with her own private army at her disposal. The Fargo's are also trying to help a nearby area with aid because it has an erupting volcano. They have to track down where the book came from and when the heiress takes it, prove it's been stolen and get it back. It results with a big battle in Guatemala and there is a happy ending when the find the book is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of historical artifacts. There is also a secret in the book and they fear the heiress may get it translated. It's an exciting story and one which I really enjoyed. The Fargo series is one of the best series that Cussler does and this is one of the better ones in the series. It has only just been published in hardback in Britain, presumably to take advantage of Christmas and the potential sales. I should think this book will do well.

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## **Bandit says**

As always, adequate. It's difficult to impossible to rate the Fargo series any higher due to their formulaic nature and cardboard characters, but they serve their purpose. I listen to then in audio format with ever reliable Scott Brick doing the reading and it makes for a decent, undemanding of attention entertainment to walk and bike to. This one might have ended 2 discs ago, it sort of dragged on at the end, but it was fine. The beginning (the historical prologue) is always the best part. From there on it's just a sort of bland mildly entertaining adventure.

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## **Mercury says**

Oh My God! This has to be one of the worst of Clive Cussler's!

The plot only uses "Mayan Secrets" as a background and really there isn't anything more relating to Mayans in the plot.

Replace "Mayan Secrets" with "Hoard of Illegal booze hidden in Texas" and the story could have still worked.

The entire book is about events and scenes of the Fargos fighting with Sarah Allersby - who wants to usurp the map that leads to the "hoard of illegal booze hidden in Texas"

Beyond this juvenile cat and mouse, there really isn't any discussion of the "Mayan Secrets"  
AVOID!!!

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## **Samyann says**

This review is specific to the first seven books of the Fargo series by Clive Cussler in audiobook format narrated by Scott Brick. All are published by Penguin Audio and are in the area of eleven to twelve hours of listening. Some of The Fargo Adventures have been co-authored with Grant Blackwood, Thomas Perry, Russell Blake or Robin Burcell. Early writings by Clive Cussler did not involve co-authors, however Cussler is in his mid-80s at this writing. All of these books cover a specific era of ancient history and are rich with detail. There is a great deal of historical research, ergo co-authors. The Fargo Adventures series is in the tradition of all Cussler works, i.e., mysteries wrapped around history, a formula that defines his basic plot structure. The difference, in my opinion, is the married couple lead characters in this series, Sam and Remi Fargo, as opposed to the type A macho men, Dirk Pitt and Isaac Bell.

The entire series revolves around ancient treasure, excavation, archeological digs, etc. Think DaVinci Code on steroids with a brilliant engineer and his historian wife as the lead characters, Sam and Remi. Or possibly Nick and Nora or Jonathan and Jennifer Hart with satellite cell phones and iPads. The leads chase clues galore across the world involving everything from deep sea diving to mountain climbing to hot air balloon escapes to spelunking. Exotic cities, exclusive hotels, and sumptuous dining experiences of the locales are explicitly described in each story. Remi and Sam are experts at and can do anything and are very philanthropic. All of their finds are turned over to the local governments or historical societies. The two are not 'in it for the money', but rather the adventure. At their California home/office is Selma and her staff. Selma is a researcher who finds answers to the most obscure elements of ancient history, makes travel and equipment arrangements for Sam and Remi, and knows what they need before they need it. The pair

independently wealthy enough to have enviable lives traveling the world and getting themselves in and out of trouble, turning the tables on bad guys along the way. Although Sam and Remi are married and deeply in love, the entire series is squeaky clean, i.e., chaste kisses on cheeks. No gratuitous sex, no language issues as is true of all Cussler writing. Don't hesitate to present as gifts to anyone.

Regarding Scott Brick's audiobook performances ... well ... it's Scott Brick, ergo not much to say. He does a particularly great job with obscure accents and pronunciations. Male and female voices unique, no trouble discerning who-says-what-to-who, nice timing and tempo, solid productions.

Spartan Gold, 2009 = Napoleonic history that begins with Sam and Remi finding a Nazi-era German mini-sub while scuba diving. Ancient bottles of wine found in the sub have them hunting for Napoleon's lost cellar and more treasure.

Lost Empire, 2010 = Aztec history. Very convoluted, complex story. Clues galore poof away during the story and are wrapped up in neat package in the Epilog. Not my favorite, but finding a mystery (no spoiler) in the Krakatoa volcanic ash is a very cool element of the plot.

The Kingdom, 2011 = Nepal history. Sam and Remi are sucked into a mystery taking them from an egomaniacal Texas baron to Shangri-La!

The Tombs, 2012 = A narcissistic maniac believes he is a descendent of Attila the Hun. Other greedy creeps simply want the riches found in a cadre of tombs, which results in a search for Attila's final resting place - another tomb.

The Mayan Secrets, 2013, opens in the 16th century with the sheltering of a book containing Mayan history. Sam and Remi battle to preserve a book found in an ancient clay pot. The resulting mayhem begins a wild adventure.

In The Eye of Heaven, 2014, Cussler should have been tougher in the supervision of co-authoring, as the character of Remi has changed to be more of a liability for Sam - she acts like a spoiled child, often wanting to go home. The book might be better if he sent her. The two argue about strategy rather than scheme together as in previous novels - way too much 'sneering'. That, and after all they've been through, Remi is jealous? Really? That said, the story: How do ancient artifacts from the interior of Mexico wind up in the hull of a Viking ship found west of Greenland buried in glacial ice? Thus is the mystery of The Eye of Heaven.

The Solomon Curse, 2015. Beneath the waters off the coast of Guatemala lay the structures of a village or town. A wealthy tycoon in Australia is up to no good. There are ancient tales of gold and jewels and yep: Giants! Sam and Remi spelunk their way through adventures and march through jungles to find treasure, dead bodies, and ancient dead bodies. Not quite as 'thrilling' as some of the books, but an enjoyable read.

Since the books stand alone, jump in anywhere. Recommended for adventure lovers interested in 'clean' reads. Not great literature, just fun reading.

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## **Linda says**

This book was about as expected. If you've ever seen the television show *Heart to Heart* (late 70's-early

80s), add a little violence and you've got Sam and Remi. I'm not going to knock it. It was fun, and I knew what I was getting into. I happened upon Tim's Review which summed up my thoughts about it, pretty well. I liked that Tim gave a content advisory. I may add that to some of my reviews.

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## **Gevera Bert says**

Full of filler. I don't care what the Fargos ate, ever. Or what type of wine they had with their food or how that wine tasted. I don't need an exhaustive list of what they packed and in what type of luggage, or what the bad guys pack to come after them. Or every hose and connection they check in their vehicle before driving away. The plot wasn't that great to begin with and it really got dragged down with all this stupid unnecessary crap.

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## **Tim The Enchanter says**

Posted to The Literary Lawyer.ca

### **A Fun Romp Through the Jungle - 3 Stars**

If you have read any of the other books in this series written by Clive Cussler/Thomas Perry (previously Grant Blackwood) than you are pretty much assured that you know what you will get in this fifth installment. You are in for a bit of treasure hunting fun with a rich and superbly talent married couple. There are some bad guys, explosions, near death experiences and some scheming and conniving. While the series is a tad formulaic, I still enjoy the adventures of Sam and Remi Fargo.

#### **Plot summary**

After a serious earthquake in Guatemala, the rich Super couple, treasure hunting, amateur archeologists Sam and Remi Fargo attend the country to provide assistance through some hard work and delivery of medical supplies. On a mountainous hike to a remote village, they quite literally stumble upon an as of yet undiscovered Mayan archeological site. It is here they discover a codex that is set to turn the understanding of the Mayan people on its ear. Of course, things are not easy and they face off again hitmen, drug runners and a uber-rich villain as they traipse across the jungle discovering treasure, hidden Mayan sites and narrowly avoiding death.

#### **The Good**

#### **Fun Factor**

When I was a kid, one of my (many) dreams was to grow up to be a globe trotting archeologist who would spend his life discovering hidden cities and ancient treasure. Turns out I did not become a Canadian Indiana Jones but the interest in such things has always remained. Regardless of any fault you find in these novels, they deal with interesting ideas. The story involves real history and real historical mysteries. While it might add information to made the story more exciting, it manages to make history fun. There is treasure and priceless artifacts. What is not to love.

While the characters lack any significant depth and they essentially possess any skill necessary to escape



danger, they manage to be interesting if you accept them for what they are. Sometimes this means the storytelling is lazy as they always reach within the vast expanses of their minds to find the solution, it is fun in the way that McGuyver could get out a locked room with a q-tip and a stick of gum or the A-Team could build a functioning tank with a junk yard car, scrap metal and an industrial fan. Don't over think it. This will not be shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

## The Bad

While fun, it is not especially creative. I would not read this series one after the other as it something for which you need to be in the mood. While you might eat salad every day for lunch, every once in a while it won't kill you to have a meatball sandwich.

Sam and Remi Fargo are about as white bread as they come. You know they will always make the moral choice, use violence only when utterly necessary, will always help the downtrodden even when it puts them in danger and will never have a rough patch in their relationship. Yes. The characters are far too good to be true. Again, try not to over think it and you will make out just fine.

## Can this Book Stand Alone

Yes. There characters tend to be reintroduced. There is minimal backstory and it plays very little into this story. If you are so inclined, you can read this one first with confidence.

## Final Thoughts

If you are in the mood for a little literary junk food that has a sprinkling of history, treasure hunting, gun fighting and some saintly WASP's, this book might be for you. The first three novels were written by Clive Cussler/Grant Blackwood. Personally, I liked Blackwood's writing a lot more. I see that book six is using a new author so we will see where that leads us.

## Audiobook Notes

This is narrated by Scott Brick. I love the guy. He is my go to narrator for the action adventure type novels. He has a deep and overly dramatic voice that is a perfect fit for these types of stories.

## Content Advisories

It is difficult to find commentary on the sex/violence/language content of book if you are interested. I make an effort to give you the information so you can make an informed decision before reading. \*Disclaimer\* I do not take note or count the occurrences of adult language as I read. I am simply giving approximations.

Scale 1 - Lowest 5 - Highest

Sex - 1.5

If kissing falls under sex than there is some sexual content. Sam and Remi are know to chastely lock lips from time to time. There is the occasional reference to Remi's good looks and shapely physique and stunning beauty. There is nothing in the story that would make your grandma blush.

Language - 2

The characters tend to avoid adult language. There are few potty words here or there but Sam and Remi contribute very little to the swear jar.

### Violence - 3

If Clive Cussler's name is on the cover, there has to be some violence. There is plenty of shooting and quite a few bodies litter the jungle. Surprisingly, the violence is less than the previous novels and tends to be mild in nature.

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### **Trish Jackson says**

Sam and Remy Fargo are a fabulously wealthy couple who have the kind of adventures most people can only dream of.

In this story, they accidentally find an ancient Mayan book, or codex, which has a map of Mayan cities and sacred places in Guatemala that have never been discovered. They alert David Kane, a professor from UC who specializes in Mayan studies.

When super wealthy heiress Sarah Allenby gets wind of the codex, she is determined to gain possession of it so she can get the credit for discovering the ancient sites and sell the artifacts to buyers all over the world.

When Sam and Remy refuse to sell it to her, she steals it.

Sam and Remy do everything in their power to get it back, but it seems they have set themselves an impossible task. She has very powerful allies in Guatemala, including high-ranking government officials, who control the law enforcement authorities, and a notorious and ruthless drug baron.

I think what I like the best about the Fargo series is that revenge is sweet and everyone always gets what they deserve in the end.

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### **NICOLE SCRIBNER says**

This book was well written in my opinion. Mr Cussler and Thomas Perry take us on an adventure comparable to that of Indiana Jones. There are so many mysteries, twists and turns along the way. He takes a prior military married couple who seek out adventure after adventure. Sam and Remi find the last one to be more embracing than their research project that they took on earlier, and their humanitarian project that they took shortly before. This Mayan adventure unravels many secrets over a four hundred year time span.

However, with any good archaeological mystery, there are dangers and risks along the way. As Sam and Remi and a team of people work to put things back in order, and turn things back over to the proper authorities, see what challenges they embrace along the way. How do they handle it. I could go on and on, but I would rather not spoil the read for you. Enjoy. In my opinion, again, this was wonderfully written. I look forward to reading another book by Clive Cussler.

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### **Kathy Davie says**

Fifth in the Fargo Adventure archeology suspense series revolving around Sam and Remi Fargo, a pair of scrupulous and wealthy adventurers.

### **My Take**

Well, it is a Cussler, so it is full of adventurous fun. The more outrageous, the better. And, yes, the writing is a step up from *Tombs* , 4, \*shudder\*, although Cussler/Perry still have issues with too much *tell* and too many info dumps, and it still reads too simply.

It's all fun and games from great white sharks to fending off pirates, escaping through underground cisterns and rappelling from helicopters. But it reads too much like a congratulatory brag-up with Sam and Remi the so-very-modest heroes of the hour. Yes, they are wonderful, but must it be delivered in this suck-up manner? Nor do we get a sense of how tired, hungry, or aching they are. It's like reading a simple diary of *we did this* and then *we did that*. As if Cussler/Perry started to fill in the outline and decided they didn't need to put a lot of effort in. After all, it's a "Cussler" and the suckers will buy it no matter what.

I do love the improvements they've made on the house's security.

Okay, explain this to me. The Fargos and Caine know the rules about informing the government about archeological finds, and they're going to hang onto the pot? They know there's a danger of it being taken, so, hey why use the security of the Fargos' house? Why not dump it in a public institution? Um, computer backup, anyone?

Once Sarah Allersby delivers her threats, why aren't the Fargos and Caine thinking ahead to the future? They must know her type? For that matter, shouldn't Russell and Ruiz be a lot more savvy?

As for the wicked Sarah. Oh, brother. She's so one-dimensional that it's embarrassing to read.

Um, Caine talked to all sorts of people. How does he know which *one* he "mistakenly trusted before"?

I do love how Sam and Remi circumvent this witch, LOL. It's good and only works here because that's how Cussler/Perry wrote it. God forbid they should come up with a villain with brains. Which leads to another quibble. How is it that Sam and Remi blithely breeze through all this? They rarely come up against any real opposition. And when the chips are down, everyone is in place. Pretty impressive...\*excuse me while I gag\*

Oh, please, that scene in which Sam claims he "sees no other way out"? Sure I can see Sam saying it, but I can't see Remi reacting to it as she does. Totally out of character.

And, yeah, it's still a step up, barely from *Tombs* , even if it does read more like a diatribe against tomb raiders.

### **The Story**

The story takes up a few months after *Tombs* left off with the Fargos' home---the new and improved---being put back together.

While their domicile is being rebuilt, the Fargos are off adventuring. This time helping to tag great white sharks off the coast of Mexico when an earthquake hits and a volcano erupts. It's Fargos to the rescue as they bring aid of all sorts to the towns hit by this twin disaster. All this rumbling has brought devastation but it also reveals that which was lost long ago. And if Allersby has her way, it'll stay "lost" a few more years.

But it's not an option as far as Sam and Remi are concerned. There is no way they'll allow Sarah Allersby to rape the Mayan heritage.

### **The Characters**

**Sam** is former black ops of some sort, and **Remi** is a crack shot. Both **Fargos** enjoy the good life, but they spend their wealth giving it back. They employ **Selma Wondrash** as their chief researcher while **Pete Jeffcoat** and **Wendy Corden** are junior researchers who all work out of the Fargos' La Jolla home. **Zoltán** is their alert German shepherd.

*Aboard the Marlow Explorer are:*

**Captain Juan Sandoval**, mate **Miguel Colera**, and the cook **George Morales** who make it easy for the Fargos to tag sharks.

*Part of the rescue team includes:*

**Dr. Maria Garza** and **Dr. Christina Talamantes** are both ER doctors, and **Dr. Martinez** is a surgeon. Both women doctors also come along on the trek to the volcano villages along with **Raul and Paul Mendoza** and a lawyer named **José Sanchez**.

**Dr. David Caine** is an archeology expert specializing in the Mayans, and he teaches at the University of California-San Diego. **Albert Strohm** is the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

**Sarah Allersby** is a British heiress who owns businesses and an extensive ranch, **Estancia Guerrero**, in Guatemala with more of an interest in wringing everything she can out of it. She's a party girl with a reputation for taking what she wants as well as being an amateur archeologist and collector. With emphasis on *collection*. She'll soon be just like her father.

**Alfredo Montez** is the Minister of Culture for the Republic of Mexico, **Mr. Juárez** is his assistant, **Special Agent Steven Vanderman** of the FBI, and **Milton Welles** is with U.S. Customs.

**Russell** and **Jerry Ruiz** love doing odd jobs for Sarah Allersby. **Diego San Martin** is the drug dealer using a part of Estancia Guerrero. **Amando Gervais**, **Rico Sabas**, and **Santiago Obregón** work for San Martin.

*The villagers in Santa Maria de los Montañas include:*

**Father Gomez** and **Dr. Carlos Huerta** are the first people Sam and Remi meet in town. **Señora Velasquez** is the padre's housekeeper; **Pepe** is the village mechanic; **Señor Alvarez** owns the restaurant; **Señor Lopez** owns a shop; and, **Carlos Padilla** is their long-time mayor.

**Amy Costa** is with the State Department in Guatemala City. **Commander Rueda** is sweet on Amy and inclined to support her. **Tim Carmichael** is the helicopter pilot in trouble; **Art Bowen** is his boss. **Cobra One**, **Viper One**, and **Viper Two** are friends who move really, really, really fast.

*In 1537 in what is now Guatemala*

**Friar Bartolomé de Las Casas** is a Dominican monk and Prior of Rabinal who believes in converting the Mayans one person at a time and giving them equal rights. He is also enthusiastic about the knowledge contained within the Mayan books. **Kukulcan** leads the people in Rabinal; **Tepeu** is his warrior son.

## **The Cover**

The cover is a scene from the end when helicopter gunships take out armored cars, jeeps, and more helicopters in a small village just outside a Mayan ruin.

The title may be *The Mayan Secrets*, but those secrets are more about those held by the good and bad guys in keeping the Mayan codices for themselves.

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## **Anandh Sundar says**

I love the Fargo series and Cussler's books in general, but this one takes the reader for granted, almost being an insult to the reader's intelligence. Be it plot, action, climax or general themes, there was very little twists/unexpected stuff.

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