



Valhalla Rising

Clive Cussler

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Marine explorer Dirk Pitt must rely on the nautical lore of Jules Verne to stop a ruthless oil baron with his sights set on political power in this #1 *New York Times*-bestselling series.

In the middle of its maiden voyage, a luxury cruise ship using revolutionary new engines suddenly catches fire and sinks. Its alarms stay silent; its sprinkler system remains inactive. Nearby NUMA special projects director Dirk Pitt notices smoke and races to the rescue. He's too late to save the engineer behind the ship's new technology, but helps the man's daughter, Kelly Egan, escape with her father's work in a leather briefcase.

While Ms. Egan strives to uncover the hidden value in her father's inventions, Pitt is hired on by maritime insurers to investigate the wreckage. Neither are prepared for the mechanical marvels they'll soon be forced to confront. The machines could only be the stuff of legend, described in the tales of Viking explorers or the accounts of Jules Verne. And they may be Pitt and Egan's only hope when an oil tycoon with a plan of his own appears on the scene.

Before journey's end, Pitt will take on a power-mad millionaire, tread upon territory previously known only to Verne's illustrious Captain Nemo, and make shocking discoveries about his own past.

Valhalla Rising Details

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Nata says

Cititorii cărților lui Jules Verne le vor plăcea, cu siguranță, și această operă scrisă de Clive Cussler

E prima mea carte citită de acest autor și spre surprinderea mea, mi-a plăcut destul de mult.

Un roman plin de suspans, acțiuni riscante și mult mister. Dirk Pitt are misiunea de a zădărnici acțiunile unui puternic mogul al petrolului, Merlin Zale. Acesta din urmă, înființase un cartel și atrase acolo majoritatea companiilor petroliere importante. Planul era să devină mai puternic decât guvernul Statelor Unite, mituind peste o sută de senatori, zeci de deputați, alături de alți oficiali din toate ministerele, inclusiv și cel al Justiției. Persoană care și-a vândut sufletul diavolului, pentru care scopul scuză mijloacele, inclusiv și uciderea în masă.

Pe lângă asta, Dirk lăsa cunoștințele de povestea unui geniu în descoperirea motoarelor magnetohidrodinamice, Elmore Egan. Personaj care are un rol important în tot subiectul cărții.

Carte asta asta m-a convins să citesc câteva opere de ale lui Jules Verne și anume cele legate de subiectul acestei cărți "Douăzeci de mii de leghe sub mări" și "Insula Misterioasă".

E minunat cum un autor de carte relatează, povestește, descrie într-atât de bine subiectul unei cărți, încât la un moment dat nu mai știam unde e ficțiune și oare cât din toate acestea e adevărat :)

Sonja says

This book started out all right, on a three-star level. There was a lot of action which kept me interested. Pitt saved the day, and then... he did it again. And again. And again. It was just too much, and it grew more unlikely with every time. Furthermore, the story is packed with gorgeous, frightened women who stare up at Pitt in wide-eyed admiration and enjoy cleaning up after him in his a-ma-zing museum of a home. Truly disgusting. And last but not least, every motorized vehicle (and there are many of those!) is described in painful technical detail.

The book is soaked in testosterone, with an outburst of ridiculous sentimentality in the last chapter. I have been rolling my eyes so many times it was hard to read on.

Allison says

I really don't understand how everyone drools over Cussler so much. Dirk Pitt is an asshole, and the entire thing just seems like one big Cussler Love fest. He's far too into himself for my tastes... I mean... Writing yourself into your own novels? Come on.

Try a James Rollins book. Much better action, more research into the technical and historical aspects, and

more interesting characters.

NobodySpecial says

It was very hard for me to rate this book because the idea for the story itself was nice, the action was fast-paced and the way I like it. But then there are things like: How many boats and lives can Dirk Pitt save in one novel? How come that he again beats the best trained people in these books? But what struck me most: Why the heck must the writer of this book be in the story itself? Give me a break!

But I would still have given it a four-star rating. But then the story had to finish and answers to a lot of questions were given in merely 20 pages. That didn't work out at all and it actually left me with the feeling of contradictions, more questions and a book that seemed to be rushed to a deadline. If that wasn't enough, there was even another extra 'bonus' about Pitt's personal live at the end. No Dirk Pitt for me any more I think...

Randal says

Oh dear, where to start?

Perhaps the fact that the highlight of the stupendous, mega-cruise ship was the stupendous, fantastic, indoor shopping mall, whose loss Cussler keeps bemoaning? Would that be petty?

There's clearly a market for this stupidity, as this was Dirk Pitt TM No. 16 and I see in the workroom that the library has just gotten the latest.

I rarely give up on a book, but after a certain number of "miraculous" events, it is clear that Clive Cussler just doesn't care if the book is coherent; he just rolls from action sequence to action sequence (with stunning beauties swooning over the devil-may-care protagonist in their wake).

I enjoy puzzling out plots, but if after writing the hero into an almost impossibly tight spot, the author can't be bothered to come up with something plausible to get him out, what's the point?

Something more plausible than, say, the author (yes, the author) showing up in a fantastic (literally) yacht to pluck brave Dirk and the rest of the abandoned crew of his submersible out of the water and whisk them hundreds of miles away, to the bad guys' lair, where the rotters have taken the hijacked good guys' ship in order to sink it [pause here ... the baddies want to sink the heroes' ship, but instead of doing so immediately after they hijack it in the middle of the Pacific, they sail it to their top secret island hideaway where they carefully hide it for a week or so before preparing to sink it with all hands on board because ... because ... *NO! Bad reader! Thinking bad! Action GOOD!*]

Oh look! A plane full of disabled kids on a sightseeing trip around NYC in an antique plane! Let's have a guy in red Fokker triplane try to shoot them down, only to have them saved miraculously by our dashing hero and then have the villain escape (wait for it) *miraculously!*

That's when I finally gave up and moved on, so you'll have to read it yourself to discover the next "exciting" adventure of dashing Dirk Pitt TM ...

Nathan Hurst says

Rather enjoyed this one, although Mr Cussler turns up again in a cameo. There are some rather good adventurous happenenings in this book, followed by some rather eye popping clunks and wobbles where science fiction is rather over egged. Fun and funny - probably for the wrong reasons.

Ann Keller says

The luxury liner, Emerald Dolphin, was unsinkable. She was so opulent and spacious that her passengers basked in the height of luxury, being pampered by an attentive staff of officers and stewards too numerous to count. Suddenly, a fire ignited in her chapel, racing through the bowels of the ship with astonishing speed. Fire extinguishers and back-up systems failed and the lifeboats proved useless in the firestorm.

The NUMA vessel, Deep Encounter, races to the rescue. Dirk Pitt, the captain and his stalwart crew take on more than their fair share of passengers, saving them from a fiery death. The Deep Encounter is overloaded and quickly in danger of sinking herself. Thankfully, help arrives in time, but a band of Vipers sent to silence her knows no bounds. The Deep Encounter is hijacked. Pitt and his friend, Giordano, bravely manage to free the ship and crew before all are destroyed to eliminate the evidence.

The chase is on! Dirk Pitt returns to the United States and offers to help Kelly Egan and her group of disabled children. The dog fight between the Fokker triplane and Ford Trimotor was incredible! I also enjoyed the chase between the SUV and the vintage Packard. Cussler also zeros in on the vulnerability of New York harbor to a loaded, runaway LNG tanker before linking the story to the appearance of Norsemen in America just past the year 1000. As usual, an awesome ride with one of the kings of suspense and intrigue.

Andrea says

Dirk Pitt, man...he's ruggedly handsome, mild-mannered, smart, clever, witty, selfless, and so many other things. He saves the day about FIVE TIMES in this book alone. He lives in a hangar by himself and collects antique airplanes and cars...cool. He's dashing and charming all of these other things. Oh, and he's got women all over his balls, too. All I really figured out in this novel was how awesome and good at everything Dirk Pitt was. I listened to this book on audio tape and it was a pretty awesome experience, because the reader (can't remember his name) was hilarious. The reader had ten different voices for all of the characters.

So, in conclusion, this book was more of an entertaining read than a substantial one. Also: I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ALL THAT GREAT, PITT. YOUR PANTY-DROPPING SMILE AND MANNER HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME.

Joe says

This is one of the best organized of the clive Cussler's Dirk Pitt series, that reaches across centuries to create a fiction that is incredibly believable.

The book pulls on history, old fiction, old mysteries, science, science fiction and adventure to create an unforgettable novel that leaves you asking how much of this could be true. In an Alfred Hitchcockish manner, Mr Cussler, weaves himself, his automobiles, his beloved sea craft, and his penchant to be an adventurer into his novel as he assists Dirk Pitt to get free from being stranded to get back on course to save the United States, nay, the World from a complicated plot to corner the Oil Market.

The villain, a Mr Zale, has incredible resources, including limitless money, his own death squad, a fleet of deadly ships and a good number of Government Officials, Senators and Congressmen in his Armada.

For Pitt to stop him and salvage the great inventions that will assist humanity which Zale is destroying, Pitt must use all the Navy and Scientific resources he can gather, including those discovered in the fiction and secrets of Jules Verne as well in the history and/or myths of the Vikings in America.

You'll fly through the pages of this book and won't put it down until every little mystery is resolved,

Scott Bagley says

My first Cussler book, and it will be my last. Before anyone sends me a nasty-gram about this review, remember, I'm not taking away your right to enjoy this book, it's just that I didn't. Dirk Pitt is just a little too much, don't you think? I mean, your ancient rare plane isn't showing up for your air show? Call Dirk Pitt! Need to know the exact year that some submarine crashed? He's your guy! I won't give it away, but I was glad that the ending of the book presented Pitt with a situation where he was a little bit unsure how to react. It was way too little and too late.

Morris Graham says

This was my second Clive Cussler book to read. Cussler is a master of the historical novel. He tied the Vikings and Captain Nemo to a modern-day power play of a truly evil corporate leader. This was layered with many twists and turns, and never relaxed its grip on you until THE END. Even the ending was laced with intrigue and had a surprise at the end for the MC. Cussler is very knowledgeable about the sea and all things marine. His own personal experience working with NUMA and his maritime trips around the world is very evident in his realism and detail that he crafts his books with. This is a great read! This will not be my last Cussler book.

Timothy Boyd says

Another good book in the Dirk Pitt series. Nice adventure stories. This was the first book I read about this action/adventure character and was very impressed. Recommended

Devero says

Il mio primo romanzo di Cussler, devo dire che mi è piaciuto. Forse un centinaio di pagine di troppo, con ben tre disastri navali sventati dal protagonista e un eccesso di descrizioni, sono l'unica pecca di questo più che buon romanzo. Una via di mezzo tra Indiana Jones e James Bond è la definizione che ho trovato in più parti delle avventure di Dirk Pitt, il protagonista. Ecco, è azzeccata, ma io ho gradito maggiormente la parte alla Indiana Jones, che purtroppo risulta un poco compressa.

Ron says

Fun, but silly.

Rebecca says

I enjoyed this book a lot for being a thriller and an action adventure but its use of Vikings in the plot proved to be a bit of 'all talk and no substance'.

The very first chapter is about Vikings settling and discovering North America but not an event that has a happy ending.

The rest of the story focuses on new technologies regarding water propulsion on huge luxury cruisers, some scientists new ultimate engine oil and the corruption and power behind many of America's top homeland oil companies.

You don't encounter anything to do with the first piece on vikings until the characters realise that the murdered scientist had an obsession with american rune stones. Even when they do make the viking discovery of the century it is kind of overshadowed with a blast from a Jules Verne story.

Look at the story critically the vikings are only used to provide a convenient historic secret hiding place for the Verne aspect to the mystery and drama and all this still accumulates in the last few chapters at the end of the book after the main storyline regarding oil rich and power mad CEO's trying to be even more clever and lethal for more power and money. It would have still been a good book without the Viking influence as the Verne aspect adds a touch of bizarre interest to it.

For once I am sad to say for any viking fans don't let the longship on the cover fool you into a rip roaring viking adventure - as you won't come across the image until the very end when it doesn't bare much impact or power on the entire story.
