



Cyclops

Clive Cussler

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A wealthy American financier disappears on a treasure hunt in an antique blimp. From Cuban waters, the blimp drifts toward Florida with a crew of dead men -- Soviet cosmonauts. **DIRK PITT** discovers a shocking scheme: a covert group of U.S. industrialists has put a colony on the moon, a secret base they will defend at any cost. Threatened in space, the Russians are about to strike a savage blow in Cuba -- and only **DIRK PITT** can stop them. From a Cuban torture chamber to the cold ocean depths, Pitt is racing to defuse an international conspiracy that threatens to shatter the earth!

Cyclops Details

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From Reader Review Cyclops for online ebook

Jon Gillis says

Pretty fun

Ralph Carlson says

I always enjoy the reading of a Clive Cussler novel.

Steve says

Can't bring myself to finish it. It's making "Raise the Titanic" look good.

David says

I'm only reading this because the main character is identified as "Dirk Pitt®" on the cover. So cool.

===

There's a big gold statue in the story and the head is carved from a massive emerald. But the book cover designer went freestyle and drew a big gold head with emerald eyes.

I think Clive had three stories on the go. A moon base shoot-out, a search for an ugly gold statue with a big emerald head and a Cuban spy drama. But none of them were going to make the mandatory 500 pages, so he stuck them together. Searching the sea for the statue is actually the lesser part, but I assume he chose "Cyclops" as the title (the name of a shipwreck) because this Dirk Pitt character is supposed to be some sort of maritime explorer. But for most of this book, Dirk's "off-piste" and doing a Bond in Cuba.

Everyone's happy at the end, as per. But I think Dirk's friend should face murder charges for downing that Cuban military helicopter. And I want all the scientists charged with manslaughter for the deaths of the cosmonauts in the "unmanned" Russian probes. Perhaps there's no manslaughter in space? But it'd be nice if they felt a bit bad about all the people they've killed.

Classic dialogue, the President and a guy he met in his White House gym:

"Do you miss criminal investigation, Ira?"

"Sometimes."

"You were the best undercover operative the Justice Department ever had," the President said, "until Martha died."

"Gathering evidence on slime for the government didn't seem to matter anymore. Besides, I had three daughters to raise, and the demands of the job kept me away from home for weeks at a time."

"The girls doing all right?"

"Just fine. As you well know, all three of your nieces have happy marriages and presented me with five grandchildren."

"A pity Martha couldn't have seen them. Of my four sisters and two brothers, she was my favorite."

Everyone is white, unless they are described as "a black":

"Manny, a huge black with a deeply trenched face..."

Was this ok, even in the 80s?

Jill says

Even for expecting an over the top action/adventure, this one took it just a little too far. While the plot points were interesting, there were too many for one book. A secret colony on the moon; the lost El Dorada statue; several concurrent plots by the Communists in Russia to attack said secret moon colony, have their one secret manned island near Cuba that was basically a giant antenna with a beach, assassinate Fidel Castro, and then blame the CIA for it; secret talks between the Fidel and the American president with some very unconventional and extremely inefficient communication methods - and it all culminates in three ships exploding in a harbor in Havana, the aftermath of which leads Cuba to sever its ties with Russia and the US to drop the trade embargo. And let's not forget Pitt's multiple dues ex machina near death experiences. Yet some how I found myself bored. Or possibly just confused because it was difficult to keep track of which plot point we were on.

I probably would have raved about this book 10 years ago, when I was young and green and liked everything I read because I didn't know the difference between good and not so good. But now, the best I can give it is meh. Do yourself a favor and just wait for the movie.

Jean-Michel Desire says

It just baffles me how Cussler finds a way to take us around the globe with his brilliant adventures. I'll admit that these adventures are no brain teasers but they certainly have unexpected elements that render them very entertaining in my taste.

Geoff Battle says

Cyclops is a Dirk Pitt yarn which includes not only far-reaching places, but far-out plots. Cussler extends the action across the world to Russia and out of this world in to space too. Dirk however is caught up in the domestic end of these elements, with action centred off the US coast and in to Cuba. Cyclops has multiple stories cascading in to one anotehr, as each strand wraps up, another tentacle emerges until readers are faced with at least three finales. The scope of Cyclops is it's undoing though - there's so much plot the characters are poorly conceived and the whole book becomes farcical rather than thrilling. That said, it has plenty of action and you will want to see it through until the end.

Shane Phillips says

With such snapping writing as Bad Guy: "Dirk. May I call you Dirk? Dirk replies "That's my name", like he is a 6yr on the playground. I don't know how to think about this. I enjoy Cussler's writing but it can be so cheesy and I don't know if its because this is from the 1980's or that's just how he writes. I will learn as I continue this series.

Roopkumar Balachandran says

Plot 1: March 9th 1918, Caribbean Sea, a collier ship, Cyclops carrying 11,000 tons of manganese, more than it can carry sinks with treasure and a soul, American consul general to Brazil, Alfred L. Morean Gottschalk.

Plot 2 : Raymond Le Baron and some of his friends who goes in search of the legendary El Dorado in his blimp Prosperiteer goes missing. After a couple of days the blimp passes over Florida where our hero Dirk Pitt is taking part in a race stops the blimp and later the body inside the blimp are not of Raymond Le Baron.

Plot 3 : The President of United States comes to know the fact that there is a Moon base called Jersey Colony developed behind the ruling elite by the Inner core consisting of brilliant young scientists, corporate businessman, engineers and politicians. Raymond Le Baron, General Mark Fisher, Clyde Booth, Irwin Mitchell, Steve Busche, Dean Beagle, Daniel Klein, Leonard Hudson and Gunnar Eriksen are the nine members of the Inner Core. As the Soviet Union sends men to land on moon they come to know about the moon base. And the Soviet plans to take over the Jersey colony. The astronauts in moon base skillfully evades the Soviet attack and tries to return to earth. Then the Soviet plans to abduct the space shuttle and make them land in Cuba. In other words "An American space shuttle in Soviet hands the greatest intelligence coup of the century".

Plot 4 : Taking over of Cuban Government by Soviet Agents, assassinating Fidel Castro and placing a Soviet Union loyalist, close confidante of Fidel a charming charismatic, having total backing of the Cuban military, Alicia Cordero the Secretary of the Central Committee and Secretary of Council of State, the operation is code named 'Rum and Cola' according to the plan Havana has to be blown by three ships which are docked in Havana harbour thereby killing Castro.

The author Clive Cussler brilliantly intertwines all the plots without any confusion and finishes off the book in style. An enjoyable Dirk Pitt adventure.

Whereas our hero Dirk Pitt in search of Raymond Le Baron in the blimp is chased by Cuban and gets caught and interrogated by the Soviet officials in Cuban soil. I think around 30 to 40% of the book Pitt is confined and was tortured by the cruel Foss Gly (the hit man from Night Probe) The most tense part in the story is the clever and brilliant plan of Pitt using an old bathtub and a motor from the deflated boat to escape from Cayo Santa Maria. (My standing ovation to Clive Cussler) Pitt a daring action hero who is unable to perform any action as the situation is very less favourable in Cayo Santa Maria. His best friend Al Giordino badly injured and in confinement, no help from his trusted side kick, as the chapters roll by Pitt situation changes from bad to worse until he gets the chance of getting out of the building. The chapters relating to the torture chamber in Cayo Santa Maria, the author cleverly uses Pitt's wit and sarcastic comments to mask the unpleasant situation.

Did Pitt finds out the treasure from the Cyclops? How did Pitt saves Jessie Le Baron, Al and Rudi Gunn from Cayo Santa Maria, did Pitt take revenge on Foss Gly? Did the Astronauts of Jersey Colony land in Cuba? Did Pitt saved Fidel Castro in time? all these are answered in the following chapters of the novel.

More of the review with images and one liners in the link below.
www.chromaring.com/2017/09/cyclops-bo...

Giuls says

Dopo aver letto alcuni degli ultimi libri della serie di Dirk Pitt, non posso che essere felice di essere tornata ai primi libri, quelli che non annoiano mai.

La storia prende sin da subito, l'avventura è palpabile ad ogni pagina, sia quelle dove è Dirk a rubare la scena a tutti, grazie ad imprese impossibili e mirabolanti, svolte in situazioni ad ogni pagina più impossibili, sia in quelle dove personaggi di sfondo, come il Presidente, sono i protagonisti.

Ho apprezzato la parte fantascientifica del libro: nulla di particolare, ma il motivo per cui mi è piaciuto è proprio perché non si è cercato di strafare, senza quindi andare oltre alle conoscenze dell'autore e senza dissociarsi da quello che è da sempre la storia di Dirk Pitt.

Particolare come, grazie al fatto che il libro, esattamente come tutti gli altri, è ambientato un paio d'anni nel futuro rispetto a quando è scritto, venga visto il mondo politico: i Russi continuano ad essere i grandi nemici degli Americani, mentre per quel che riguarda Cuba c'è quasi la speranza di un improvviso miglioramento dei rapporti e si parla di argomenti e provvedimenti che, in realtà, sono stati messi in atto solo negli ultimi anni, più di 20 anni dopo rispetto quando il libro è ambientato.

Neil says

It has been several years since I read this book and I seem to be in a 'Dirk Pitt' kick, re-reading all of his adventures [but not necessarily in 'chronological order', but that may change after finishing this one]. I enjoyed the book, overall. It definitely has some far-fetched moments that one has to suspend their sense of reality, but this is Dirk Pitt and suspending the natural laws seems to be one of his strongest gifts. Well, that and seducing women [until he gets married]. In most of Clive Books, the story is a 'future story' in that it takes place anywhere from three to five years ahead of the date it was actually printed. So this story was written in 1986 and takes place in 1989. So it was fun to read some of the stereotypes that were so rampant during that time period as well as the attitudes and opinions prevalent amongst society.

This novel starts out with the Cyclops, an enormous naval vessel transporting a manganese cargo as well as some prisoners, US Navy transfers, and the head of the US Consulate from some South American country. The Cyclops is hit by a rogue wave and sinks into the briny deep. All hands are lost. Jump nearly seventy to eighty years later and we discover an abandoned blimp barely drifting above the ocean's surface and interfering with a local oceanic race. Dirk Pitt naturally happens to be in situ and grabs onto the aimless dirigible, attempting to halt its meanderingly deadly path toward the crowded Florida beaches. Dirk gets the crowd to help, and disaster is averted. [I am sure in a 'later' story Dirk would not have needed the help of the crowd] Meanwhile, the President is visited by an old, old, old friend from way back when and told of an

enclave of individuals who have successfully built and sustained a secret colony on the moon. The President does not believe the individual and hires his brother-in-law who happens to be a crack investigator to determine the veracity of the assumed mendicant's crackpot claims.

Meanwhile, Jessica LeBaron [wife of the missing pilot of the blimp and referred to as 'Jessie' after this point] states that none of the men found in the cabin of the dirigible are her husband and she has no idea who any of the stiff's might be. It turns out, after further autopsies are completed, they are Russian cosmonauts, further adding to the mystery. Dirk is 'hired' by LeBaron to pilot the dirigible in an attempt to find her missing husband; he brings along Rudi Gunn and Al Giordino, best friends and consummate troublemakers in their own rights. The timing of everything gets kinda goofy, as the moon colonists prepare to return to Earth, Ira Hagen continues his investigation of this mysterious cabal, and Dirk and Co. search for the missing dirigible crew.

We come to find out that Jessie's husband was a part of the secret cabal AND on a secret mission on behalf of the President to meet with the Castros [Fidel and Raul] to see if they might leave the Russian fold and become American allies. Jessie's husband is captured. Dirk and Co. are shot down by a Cuban patrol during the onset of a hurricane; they swim down to the Cyclops and discover a more recent corpse before surfacing. They unwittingly land on an island housing a top-secret Russian transmitter and are tortured to learn how and why they knew to land on this secret island. Interestingly enough, a major villain from Night Probe reappears, and he is much worse than in the previous novel. He is also a lot smaller than I pictured him as being in the original novel - in 'Cyclops' he is described as only coming to the bottom of Dirk's chin when he stands up straight. I had always pictured him as being quite a bit taller, for some reason. He plays the 'bad cop' to the Russian general's 'good cop', brutally torturing Dirk and Co. to 'get the truth from them.' The bad guys are completely incapable of believing the truth when they hear it.

In a phenomenal feat of strength, Dirk escapes from his captors, walks around the compound AND the island, finds an outboard motor [that still works], and prepares for his miraculous escape. A couple of days later, he is able to escape, bitterly leaving his friends. The scenario in which he is rescued was quite funny, in my opinion. (view spoiler)

While Dirk is undergoing his brutal tortures and escape, Ira Hagen has tracked down the majority of the secret cabal. He has traveled across the breadth and width of the United States in his quest. He is nearly captured at one point, but he brutally overpowers one of his would-be-captors and interrogates his prisoner before escaping the dragnet. From there, he meets with the President and gives the President everything he knows. He eventually discovers the secret communications compound for the moon colony.

Upon Dirk's return to the United States, he works with a CIA strike team composed of Cubans to plan an attack on the secret Soviet site. While planning, he researches the story behind the corpse he found on the Cyclops. He eventually discovers that Mr. LeBaron is a bigamist and that his FIRST wife is still alive and well; she fills in the missing pieces for Dirk and he vows to discover who the murder of Hans was [the corpse in the Cyclops]. (view spoiler)

For those keeping track, this is one of the books where Dirk and Loren are 'off' in their 'on again, off again' relationship.

(view spoiler)

It was a good read; a fun read. It may be a while, again, before I read it. But I am glad to have revisited this 'early' adventure of Dirk, Al, Rudi, and the rest of the gang.

Oh, one other thing. I am reading the books out of sequence, so I just started reading 'Deep Six', so it is fun seeing characters in this book who also showed up in 'Deep Six.' I like it when the author does that - it is a nice dovetailing that ties the stories sequentially into each other.

Lee says

It was time for some cinematic adventure....Dirk Pitt fills that need for me. The eighth Pitt came out in '86, so he's battling those "evil" Russians again. Another fun action adventure.

Larry says

Great adventure/thriller. Another Dirk Pitt novel that will keep you enthralled through out the entire book. Not really believable and a bit on the sci-fi side, but Cussler tells such a great story that it just doesn't matter.

Cathy Biggers says

Clive Cussler does it again with another captivating, thrilling, NUMA story involving politics, adventure, and mystery intertwined. Thanks for making reading your stories such fun, Mr. Cussler!

Dan Ott says

Not my favorite Dirk Pitt book. Needs more Giordino!

Greg Strandberg says

Another great Dirk Pitt novel, you really can't go wrong with this series. This is also the book where he gets his prized bathtub, so it's worth reading for that.

All in all, just another in the same mold. Cussler has a good formula here, why mung it up?

Quinn Zunino says

Dirk Pitt has been beaten to death, swam in the middle of the night across a vast body of water, arrived on the beaches of Cuba with no hope of survival and first thing in the morning he had sex in a drainage pipe???? WTF!! I like Clive Cussler's adventures, especially Dirk Pitt's, but this has been the most weird and outlandish one yet. The story barely holds together as the main plot points are only connected by pure luck. Not the best of Cussler but at least an enjoyable read.

As a typical Cussler book, it has multiple weak plots to reach the 500 pages Cussler likes to write. The only way I was able to keep reading was because I support his books. The only main character that was a woman was characterized for her body, and not much else. Pitt and Giordino have fun, but it is very hard to follow this meandering book.

M.E. Kinkade says

I picked this book up at a charity book swap for a dollar. After that last book, I figured I needed something fun and easy on the brain. I mean, Dirk Pitt is Indiana Jones + James Bond + water! Several Dirk Pitt books have made an appearance as family road-trip fodder, because, while basically predictable (What, this story involves a secret treasure that's probably in the ocean somewhere?! Who would guess!), it's fun. What's not to like?

So when I tell you that I basically enjoyed this book until I hit one completely abhorrent scene 3/4 of the way in and considered dropping the book completely--and that that one scene so disrupted my positive feelings for the rest of the book that I never enjoyed it again from that point onward--you know we've got problems.

Now the book is 30 years old, so I'm not going to bother with spoiler tags (plus I don't think you should really bother with it anyway), but if you don't want to know what happens, turn back now.

...

Okay. So the book somehow manages to combine a secret moon base, a massive lost golden statue (La Dorada), a missing millionaire, CIA agents, and a terroristic plot against communist Cuba and Fidel Castro personally.

It's important to note that this was written in 1983 and set in 1985.

Essentially, these plot lines aren't actually at all related, except that it made the President pretty damn unhappy and almost killed our hero Mr. Pitt at least a half-dozen times. This is one of the reasons I almost dropped the book; once one plot line was resolved, there wasn't a lot of reason to continue. Plus it's hard to believe Pitt made it most of the way through the novel without requiring serious medical attention. But he's Aquaman meets Harrison Ford, so that's not such a big deal.

What was a big deal was the way Cussler treated his ONE female character (seriously. There are, like, 8 prominent male characters. There is one woman with a name who is important; one other appears briefly to give background and returns to her retirement home).

If you think I'm just being melodramatic, consider this scenario:

You're an incredibly beautiful, intelligent woman married to a millionaire (her only fault is her inherent woman-ness. Gag). You can speak 5 languages, are a skilled SCUBA diver, and, oh, yes sure, you can fly the extremely rare and challenging blimp your husband managed to get kidnapped from. You make the mistake of traveling with Dirk Pitt. In the process, you are captured by evil Soviet KGB agents and tortured (the details are fuzzy, but you're naked and thoroughly bruised). Then, your husband is killed in front of you and you make a mad dash for escape. You end up on a beach in Cuba, wearing the wet and stinky uniform of a Cuban militia. You spend the night hiding in a storm drain with Dirk Pitt. What would you do next?

...If your answer isn't "have sex with Dirk Pitt, a man who maligned your dead-not-even-12-hours husband for his adultery," then you clearly are a sane person and not in this book.

There are so many things wrong with that scene!

I threw the book across the room when I read it. It was less than 2 pages, but that scene ruined the entire book for me.

But I'm not one to abandon books, generally, so I finished the danged thing, but wow, it never got better, and Jessie LeBaron (Ms. Richy-Rich herself) just got more ridiculous and whimpering helpless woman the farther I read. If this were the only Cussler book I had ever read, I'd think he'd never met an actual woman.

Now, there were some great things writers could learn from this book. For example, the level of detail for ships and cars was incredible. You can tell where Cussler's real interests lie. That was super! ...it did become a failing when he screwed up some really fundamental information about the moon (like that the "back side" never faces the Earth. And that people couldn't hang out on that side anyway, because it's really freaking cold). I don't know if that information just wasn't available in the 1980s, but I feel like maybe it was; the US had been on the moon for nearly two decades at that point.

Another thing I think I could learn from was the level of brutality that Cussler is willing to throw at his main character. Seriously, Dirk Pitt got hit with everything under the sun. It reads like something out of a soap opera when listed out, but in the book, it's great for keeping things exciting.

But all in all, there are far better Cussler books out there. If you're interested in his writing, go read one of those instead. This one would be better off on the bottom of the sea.

Connor Ward says

Cyclops, by Clive Cussler, is one of many books in the Dirk Pitt series. Cussler does an amazing job including many fantastical elements in his story, yet keeps a sense of realness throughout. The story goes from an antique blimp vanishing over the open ocean, to a sunken ship with a priceless statue, to a battle for a space shuttle and a moon colony, and everywhere in between. Join Dirk Pitt as he tangles with both the Russians and the Cubans, in an effort to save hundreds if not thousands of lives. I would recommend this book for those who like fast paced, edge of your seat action, but also those of you who appreciate attention to detail, because Cussler places intricate detail everywhere, but without interrupting the flow of the story. This story also contains a mystery aspect, as the U.S. President tracks down the 'Inner Circle', the mysterious group behind the moon colony.

Fredrick Danysh says

An old blimp is restored and then disappears off the shores of Cuba with its billionaire owner. Two weeks later it reappears in Miami with the frozen bodies of three Russian cosmonauts aboard. Dirk Pitt is persuaded to retrace the airship's route and discovers a secret Russian base in Cuba. Meanwhile, American civilians have built a secret base on the moon that is about to be attacked by the Russians.
