



Sahara

Clive Cussler

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1996, Egypt. Searching for a treasure on the Nile, DIRK PITT thwarts the attempted assassination of a beautiful U.N. scientist investigating a disease that is driving thousands of North Africans into madness, cannibalism, and death. The suspected cause of the raging epidemic is vast, unprecedented pollution that threatens to extinguish all life in the world's seas. Racing to save the world from environmental catastrophe, Pitt and his team, equipped with an extraordinary, state-of-the-art yacht, run a gauntlet between a billionaire industrialist and a bloodthirsty West African tyrant. In the scorching desert, Pitt finds a gold mine manned by slaves and uncovers the truth behind two enduring mysteries -- the fate of a Civil War ironclad and its secret connection with Lincoln's assassination, and the last flight of a long-lost female pilot....Now, amidst the blazing, shifting sands of the Sahara, DIRK PITT will make a desperate stand -- in a battle the world cannot afford to lose!

Sahara Details

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From Reader Review Sahara for online ebook

Lindsey says

I will be the first to admit that *Sahara* is not my type of book. I'm not the target audience for many reasons.

Basically, Dirk Pitt (a truly unfortunate name) is a Trademark Man. He swoops in, saves the damsel in distress, and saves the world. He always has the right thing to say and always gets out of impossible scrapes. It was too much for me.

My other big complaint was that the *Texas* and Kitty Mannoek's crash didn't tie into the poisoned water story at all. And the conspiracy about the *Texas*'s big secret didn't relate at all.

I'm glad we've realized how problematic stories like this are and are moving in a different direction. Oh, the 90s. You were interesting...

Jill says

As I read, something was bugging me about Cussler's writing style. I realized what it was after about ten chapters: All of his characters sound exactly the same. With the exception of a "Jolly good!" thrown in when a character is English or an "Allo, mate!" when he's Australian, every person has the same speech patterns. It's as though all dialogue in the novel is spoken not by the characters, but by Clive Cussler himself. On several occasions, inevitably, they break into museum docent mode and begin lecturing on History, Geology, Chemistry or (of course) Oceanography. Don't mistake me; I love to learn new things in the books I read. But when Cussler wants to convey some technical information, whether it's Pitt, Giordino, Some Other Character, or an expert making an appearance in this book, they immediately drop into a cadence I'd describe as *College Textbook*.

The worst was when Pitt and Giordino were a breath away from death in the desert and dragged themselves into a cave to escape the relentless sun. There they discovered some cave paintings and although what any other person in the world would do is drop to the ground and fall asleep (or die), the guys wander along the walls and Pitt treats Giordino to an amateur lecture on the various indigenous peoples who have lived in the area over many thousands of years. It isn't until about forty-eight hours later that they start thinking about conserving water by breathing through their noses and talking as little as possible. Really? I thought of that when they first stole a car and drove into the desert.

Another observation: writing for men is different than writing for women. Speaking in *general* terms, men want to know WHAT is happening... women want to know WHY it is happening. Men like action... well, on second thought, everyone likes a story with a lot of action, but women want to understand the characters' motivation for their actions. I couldn't relate to the characters and therefore didn't engage in their story as strongly as a more character-driven novel.

Eileen says

I loved this book, it was one of my favorite until some of his new ones came out. I love the surprise ending, it was a great book and the movie was great fun. If all you have seen is the movie then you have missed the best part of the duo. The combination of Al and Dirk is so good in this book just like in their other books

Paris Reynolds says

Great survival adventure with zombies and toxic waste all on top of a shocking conspiracy theory. I know that movies never ever live up to the books they were based on, but this one takes the cake. If I heard right, Cussler even tried to sue the movie for using his character names and book title because the movie was so far from the book. The characters were all wrong, the plot was missing its key element and the action (that movies usually can replicate to a degree) was boring. But, the book still rocks!

?????? ?? says

I am a great fan of action adventure and Cussler is like one of the superstars of this genre. I meant to read his book for a long time and Finally i finished Sahara. And believe me it was worth the wait. I am glad that I've started Cussler with this one. :D

Full on action right from the start. Evil industrialists, corrupt governments, an ecological disaster in the making that could see the end of all life on earth. And of course there is a hot chick in distress ;)

The story has been broken into 3 pieces which have been methodically put together.

1865, A ironclad Confederate ship, the Texas is lost at sea amidst a raging battle, all the while playing host to an impossible man.

1931, Kitty Mannoock crash lands into a Sahara Desert in the middle of trying to break a world record, only to be found 60 years later.

Present Day, The world is facing extinction in the form of oxygen depletion due to some unknown source in Western Africa.

I enjoyed the depth to this book. The historical fiction aspect that Cussler brings in is an interesting element. He takes a great story line, in and of itself, and throws in some historical based plots that enrich the reading experience. This was a unique read for me and I am now moving on to other Cussler novels.

Brilliant twists and turns. A must read for fans of the fast paced action genre.

Alex says

Okay. Statements like this got the feminist inside of me all sorts of angry...

'Like most women, Eva couldn't resist a take-charge man.'

'Like too many women who are drawn to aloof men who treat them indifferently, she could not help herself from falling in love with him.'

'Strangely, it was Pitt and not the woman who saw a magnificence in the parched and hostile landscape, despite the fact that it had almost killed him.'

So I tried to remind myself that this story was written in the 90's so I should give the author a break, right?

Hmmm...

But then I read sentences like this and the human being inside of me started to really not like the author...
'Muriel Hoag was quite tall and built like a starving fashion model. She wore no makeup, which was just as well. A complete makeover by Beverly Hills' top beauty salon would have been a wasted effort.'
'Evan Holland... looked like a basset hound contemplating a frog in his dish. His ears were two sizes too large for his head...'

'His companion was a woman who was built like a gravel truck whose bed was fully loaded. She was dressed in a dirty loose-fitting dress that stopped short of the knees, revealing legs that were as thick as telephone poles.'

Ultimately, you're either Dirk Pitt and Eva Rojas or you're ugly. Like. Really ugly.

But then I read sentences like this and I found myself wanting to hide out of pure embarrassment for what was happening...

'Eva stumbled, barely able to keep on her feet, as Pitt helped her to where the laborers assembled. 'Al and I will get through,' he promised her. 'But you've got to hang on until we return with an armed force to rescue you and these other poor souls.'

'Now I have reason for living,' she said softly. 'I'll be waiting.'

He kissed her on the lips and the bruises on her face lightly...'

PS - They've known each other the total of one day. Actually, more like 4 hours. Pretty much he saved her from being murdered and then they had dinner. That's it. Seriously. 'Now I have reason for living.' BLAH. 'Giordino shook his head slowly, wonderingly, from side to side. It would have been the easiest thing in the world to... lie back on the ground, and let death peacefully carry him off to oblivion. The temptation was overwhelming. But deep inside him beat a heart that wouldn't quit and a brain that could not die without a fight.'

So. Dramatic.

Also. Dirk Pitt's perfectness is ridiculous.

Glen says

Time for another Clive Cussler Wednesday!

For a guy working for Numa, Dirk Pitt spends a lot of time in the desert.

I watched the movie based on this book several times. It wasn't so bad, but fairly generic, and Matthew McConaughey is not really action hero material. I can see why Hollywood wanted to make a movie based on this. I can see why they decided to change parts of the book. I can see why Clive Cussler became disgusted with the whole thing.

To the book...

Dirk Pitt is called to find the source of a mysterious pollutant that is causing a red tide capable of ending all life on the planet. He and his partners sail on the River Niger to find it. Of course, it's in the worst possible spot. Pitt wrangles with the dictator of Mali and a French billionaire to save the world.

Great stuff, lots of derring-do. Cli-fi fans should also enjoy it.

Robert O. says

Overdone and convoluted. Though certainly containing some intriguing mystery, the writing is very bland and unexciting; the action is ridiculous and unnecessarily violent; the dialogue is flat and limited to lengthy tech talk that would make a star fleet engineer's head spin; and the character development is basic at best. Furthermore, this book is pretty sexist--take this passage: "Like most women, Eva couldn't resist a take-charge man." On the other hand, the movie is actually way better, and has brisk, witty dialogue; fun and mostly believable action; intriguing historical mysteries; good humor; and great acting. Advice: Don't bother with this book. Watch the movie (it has better writing).

Sofia says

Dirk Pitt is the Indiana Jones of the contemporary times. He has an extra oomph about him which is missing in Indie.

Sahara starts with a scene just a week before the surrender of Confederate forces of Robert E. Lee in 1865. The plot then moves to 1931, when a lady, Kitty Mannoek, is flying over the Sahara in quest of a new aviation record. And then it moves to 1996. A convoy of tourists are crossing the Sahara on a fleet of Land Rovers when they reach a scheduled stop at a village in the country of Mali. They find it is unusually deserted, but as they are refreshing themselves at the village well they are attacked by red-eyed savages who kill and eat them. Only the tour guide escapes with his life.

This starts the fast pace story. Dirk Pitt working in Egypt rescues Dr. Eva Rojas, a scientist working for the World Health Organization, from a mysterious attacker. Shortly thereafter, Eva flies to Mali with an international team of scientists to investigate a mysterious disease that has been reported from various desert villages.

In the meanwhile a strange red tide growing unnaturally fast threatens to consume the world's oxygen supply and extinguish almost all life. The growth speed is suspected to be fueled by some type of pollutant.

Dirk and his sidekick Al are ordered to cruise up the Niger River to search for the pollutant, and determine where it enters the river. While navigating up the river, in Benin, they are forced to engage its navy. They escape the attack and continue upstream identifying the pollutant, and at last finding the spot where it appears in the river. However, they fail to find the source in the vicinity.

Anything more would spoil the novel. It is a fast pace thriller and an enjoyable read.

Greg Strandberg says

Another great Clive Cussler book. I really liked the crazed-zombie-style aspect of the Africans that got contaminated. There's also the stellar opening, which is really what makes these books so good - they pull you in quickly with that historical fiction.

I read this a few years after watching the movie, and after I'd read the other 10 books. It's a good read, and I'd pick it up in your used bookstore (do we really need another 90 million of these in print?)

Michael says

Please, if you have seen the movie but have not read the book, do yourself a favor and pick up a copy. The

movie was absolute shit. A complete bastardization of a great read. 3/4 of the book was not there. The actors sucked and the screen play...I have no words. The characters as Cussler writes them are fantastic. You get so wrapped up in this book you will not go to bed until you finish it. The story starts out with a bang and just keeps twisting and turning. This is not Pulitzer material but it is a shit load of fun to read. You will not be disappointed. I promise.

Henry Avila says

If you enjoy a long, yes a very leisurely walk, and a few interruptions in the beautiful Sahara, don't believe the propaganda, a magnificent vacation spot, maybe a little warm to some, (no problems for the genuine, the ordinary pros) the meek amateurs, otherwise, full of rocks, interesting looking sand dunes and exotic insects, ever helpful birds that clean the land of unwanted debris, this paradise is your cup of tea. Dirk Pitt a marine engineer for an obscure American government agency in Washington City, Numa ...okay I will reveal its official name ...ready: National Underwater and Marine Agency...you asked for it. However when Admiral James Sandecker, his loyal boss needs a favor, Mr. Pitt will do a little extracurricular activity on his off days. A nice guy with a license to kill, excuse me I think this phrase is from another series. Along with Al Giordino his sidekick and best friend they travel the globe saving the world...you never knew...you are forgiven ... by the agency, after all they get paid. The plot, quite unique... villains are causing the Earth to be destroyed, well suffocated, no air, no living things, another potential Luna, who? Our heavenly companion, a lonely bright satellite above us. Sorry for the detour...A gigantic toxic Red Tide is endlessly expanding very rapidly in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of western Africa to be precise Nigeria, make that the Niger River killing the creatures who make oxygen in the seas, if not stopped, no more Dirk Pitt novels. Joined by a third pal Rudi Gunn, on a voyage up the puzzling Niger stream in a fabulous boat to find and eliminate the source of the menace, but the river is over 2,500 miles with numerous obstacles, crosses many unfriendly countries, yet the men when bored are not afraid to search for gold mines, lost planes and ships. This is where the "bad people" come into the picture, General Zateb Kazim the military dictator of Mali, where Timbuktu is located, the greedy billionaire, French businessman Yves Massarde his partner in crime welcome our heroes and give the adventurers a good time, torture some would call their greetings, the unkind, the evil ones; different customs are so misunderstood by outsiders...A fine book that gives the fans of Clive Cussler's, all the many good thrills they expect ...

Which keeps them coming back for more, this his most popular novel and the first for me, the uninitiated...I see why he is such an icon in the over the top action stories...much better than the usual for the genre and surprisingly exciting too, terrific entertainment value... such a great show.. Too much enthusiasm?

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

This is the first Clive Cussler book I have ever read. Reading some of the reviews, I see some people didn't like this book, but I actually enjoyed this book a lot. I had been going through the bargain bin of books at the local store and found this book as a marked-down paperback. I read the back of the book and it sounded interesting, so I picked it up. And I enjoyed it more than I thought I would.

Yes, a certain suspension of disbelief is required to enjoy this book, especially the part with Abraham Lincoln. But overall the story is well-paced, the characters fun, and the action interesting. There's just so much great stuff going on, I really did love this book. It might not be for everyone, but if you're looking for an action and adventure book with colorful characters, fun scenes, and some pretty cool historical trivia, you should enjoy this book. I give it a solid 4.5/5 stars.

Ammon says

This is the first book I've ever read that the movie is much better than the book. Skip the book, see the movie. Mr. Cussler redundantly over-explains even the most simplistic and obvious things and doesn't take full advantage of third person prose or even simple dialogue. His use of a dozen different plots is exhausting and completely unbelievable. In one book our hero saves the world from total oxygen depletion, takes down a dictator's regime, discovers a Civil War ironclad in the middle of the desert, stumbles upon the body and wreckage of a lost famous female pilot, uncovers a conspiracy to cover up the real demise of Abraham Lincoln, takes control of a dirty nuclear disposal site, frees a score of slaves in a gold mine, destroys one of the most wealthy and corrupt men in the world, successfully defends said slaves in an old fort from fighter jets, tanks and 2000 soldiers with just 40 people and luck. And that's not mentioning the fact that the way he inserts himself into the story is distracting and inane. Do not waste your time.

Jim says

I saw the movie & then read the book. It wasn't bad, but was definitely a candy read. A lot of unlikely events come together to make this a non-stop thriller. Suspension of disbelief is a must from the get go, but there is enough logic overall to make it enjoyable. Pitt reminds me of a modern James Bond from the movies - not the books - in that he's the man's man, equally at home underwater or climbing a mountain, with top skills in just about everything, handsome, witty, & Well, you get the picture.

Cussler is definitely a writer to read rather than listen to as I realized with Atlantis Found (although that entire plot was a train wreck). He's not a great writer, rather too wordy for me & those words often get him into trouble.

One of these days I might get around to reading one of the earlier books in the series, but I certainly won't read any later ones. I can't say with any certainty, but it seems to me that Cussler is cranking them out & getting wilder ideas as the series goes on.

Becky Kelley says

Book Report: Sahara

Clive Cussler's novel Sahara astounded me with its intense plot, diverse characters, and intriguing settings. As amazing as the Movie Sahara is, the book it's based on threw it out of the water. Without a doubt, Sahara is one of the best books I have ever read.

One of the things that captured me in Sahara was all of the remarkable settings, one of which was the desert itself. The main characters Dirk Pitt and Al Giordino cross the Sahara many times, once in an old Avion Voison car, and again using an old truck, then again by walking towards the border out of Mali. And once more by UN tactical team war vehicles. Giordino and Pitt also find themselves along the Niger River earlier on in the book, surveying red tide components. Unfortunately they also find themselves in the murderous gold mines of Tabezza, and the secretive waste disposal plant run by Yvez Massarde.

Another thing about Sahara that intrigued me is its mixture of characters. Sahara has every type of character from cruel monsters of people, to beautiful humanitarians who only want to help others. And from incredibly smart individuals to people who seem to have no other use than incredible muscle and endurance. For example: Melika, a character who could be described as a slave overseer, as well as a murderer, is heartless and cruel. Where as Eva Rojas, a biochemist for the WHO, find joy in helping others and is selfless when it comes to her work. The diversity of characters in the book Sahara left me transfixed.

For anyone who likes action packed adventures this book is a must read! I enjoyed Sahara and recommend it to everyone. Clive Cussler's amazing writing skills left me starving for more!
(568 pgs)

Bev Taylor says

a creeping red tide of death

set in the sahara - surprise! - a lethal chemical is being leaked into the rivers and hence the oceans. this is destroying the latter and therefore the lives of everyone on the planet is at risk

it appears to come from an organisation that appears to be legal and above board but of course everything is never as it seems

added to this u have warring african countries and pitt and giordino have to once again pit all their wits to survive and avert the disaster

rather co-incidental about the plane and the texas ship and the love interest but go with it

just a few pointers - surely the man they captured and kept in the truck would not have survived without water, both when they were with him and afterwards; look out for the kid

bev

Scott Dunham says

Loved this book. Wish it had more Civil War content, instead of it just being a subtext...

I want to talk about the Movie that came out about this... it's a tangent, so bear with me... when I read a book, my imagination always supplies the face and mannerisms and perhaps the actor- of the characters in the text.

I just wanted to say that I was at first skeptical, then happy with the casting of Matthew McConagnahy as Dirk Pitt! Of course, although I love Steve Zahn- and he was hilarious in Sahara, he is absolutely WRONG for Al Giordino. I think Danny DeVito would have been closer... someone with massive arms and barrel chest even better. Maybe a younger John Rhys-Davies... he would be a closer match to the character in Cussler's series. But I thought that Rainne Wilson was pretty good for Rudi Gunn... and William H. Macy was PERFECT as Sandecker! Of Course, Bill could pull off Sister Teresa...

Get Sahara and have fun. Then watch the movie, too.

