



Havana Storm

Clive Cussler , Dirk Cussler

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While investigating a toxic outbreak in the Caribbean Sea that may ultimately threaten the United States, Pitt unwittingly becomes involved in something even more dangerous—a post-Castro power struggle for the control of Cuba. Meanwhile, Pitt’s children, marine engineer Dirk and oceanographer Summer, are on an investigation of their own, chasing an Aztec stone that may reveal the whereabouts of a vast historical Aztec treasure. The problem is, that stone was believed to have been destroyed on the battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor in 1898, which brings them both to Cuba as well—and squarely into harm’s way. The three of them have been in desperate situations before . . . but perhaps never quite as dire as the one facing them now.

Havana Storm Details

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Author : Clive Cussler , Dirk Cussler

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From Reader Review Havana Storm for online ebook

William Howle says

I have read many of his books and they are fun reads. I particularly enjoy the books with Dirk Pitt. This book follows the format of most of his books. Trouble, out of trouble, trouble, out of trouble until at the end there is good conclusion. This book is set in Central America, Cuba, the Caribbean and the Florida straits. There is a search for half a disc from the time of the Aztecs that will lead to treasure. It's finally found and the treasure is uncovered, although along the way there are many near death experiences.

Sussie Hansen says

I always love Clive Cussler.
But in this one there was no romance, always love the way Pitt
woods the ladies.
Lots of action, loved it

Audrey says

Pretty standard Dirk Pitt-ing (scuba! explosions! international espionage! big-ass boats! inability to let go of the Cold War!) with the addition of Pitt's two adult children, who sprang, fully grown from Pitt's Zeus-like head a few books ago.

Summer, his daughter, is an oceanographer and Dirk Pitt Jr (yes, that does get really confusing) is a marine engineer. Strangely, in this book they do neither of those things, and instead turn into amateur historians who save Mesoamerica, which possibly was unaware it needed saving.

So there's the main plot (Dirk and Al fight rogue Cuban anti-ocean terrorists) which unfortunately is just not as interesting as Dirk and Summer Save Mesoamerica. I say unfortunately because the split here is 70% anti-ocean terrorists, 30% DASSM.

Standard series characters roll out on their tracks like clockwork for tiny cameos, and after 200 pages each chapter falls into a predictable rhythm: main character, being held hostage, makes heroic effort at escape, and is foiled by villains who might just, one day, some time, I guess, actually shoot them with one of the guns they're waving around.

And herein lies the biggest problem I had with the book: out of the four main characters -- Dirk Sr, Dirk Jr, Al Giordino and Summer -- three of the four get to be active agents of their own saving, and one gets saved by the others every. single. time. Now, can you guess who needs saving all the time?

Misogyny is old, people, and it chaps my heiny.

There's also definitely a creepy I'd-date-her-if-she-wasn't-my-daughter vibe here, and Summer does nothing to help with it:

"I saw a bright light," she said in a weak voice [after rescue #7]. "I thought it was an angel calling me, then I realized it was something else."

"What's that?" Pitt [Sr.] asked, leaning close.

"It was you," she said, reaching up to her father's face and stroking away a tear.

HUBLARRRRRRRRRRRRRF

(15 pages later Summer starts out on another situation similar to rescue #7 and her father reminds her how he saved her life last time she did that. Dick move, Pitt Sr. Dick move.)

Summer Pitt could unfortunately, at all stages of the book, have been replaced by a Sexy Dive Lamp with no noticeable change to the plot.

One bright spark is the meaty and crucial role played by St. Julien Perlmutter and his cat, Admiral Raphael Semmes, who are awesome. I vote they get a whole book to themselves next time.

I confess, I liked Dirk Pitt (Dirk! Pitt!) better when he was a suave 70s ladies man, turning them all romantically out the door at the end of each book so he could return to Al Giordino's side. This new Dirk-Pitt-as-a-father business just isn't the same.

Ed says

#23 in the Dirk Pitt series (#6 co-authored by Dirk Cussler). This rousing adventure is told from the viewpoint of Dirk Pitt and his partner AL Giordano, Dirk's adult children Dirk and Summer, or any combination thereof. The prologue deals with the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor in 1898 to touch off the Spanish-American War. Flashing to the near future, siblings Dirk and Summer are on an archeological jaunt in Mexico and find an Aztec codex that will lead to a treasure hunt. Along the way, in Saturday matinee fashion, they are repeatedly put in cliffhanger peril or captured and threatened by the bad guys led by the diabolical Diaz.

Dirk Pitt series - In 1898, Ellsworth Boyd, a Yale anthropologist who specializes in native Caribbean cultures, arrives in Cuba with something in a crate that he excavated in Jamaica. Unfortunately, Boyd boards the USS Maine with his prize shortly before the warship explodes and sinks in Havana Harbor. More than a century later, Pitt and his two grown children, Summer and her twin brother, Dirk Jr., seek to retrieve Boyd's mysterious discovery. Subplots aplenty involve venal Cuban politicians, the release of poisonous mercury from the sea bottom, uranium ore going to North Korea, and a fabulous Aztec treasure.

Skip says

[, using an arms deal for uranium with the North Koreans as currency. The uranium is being (hide spoiler)]

Mike French says

Another very entertaining and enjoyable read in the Dirk Pitt series! Clive Cussler and his son Dirk have done a great job in keeping this franchise up to date with current events that are linked with ancient history. If you have never read any Dirk Pitt novels, start with PACIFIC VORTEX which is #1 in this 23 book series. If have read some of them, I feel you will have enough back story to enjoy this book as much as I did!!

Ty says

At this point Clive (and Dirk) Cussler have probably gotten to the point where they can generate the vast majority of a new book from software implementing their patented algorithm for mixing the deep sea, historical conspiracy theories, power mad villains and miraculous wins by the good guys. this is not high literature, but it is, as usual, very entertaining, easy to read and interesting. Dirk Pitt novels are basically the Ben & Jerry's Karamel Sutra of my reading diet. if you need a little light sweetness today, pick one up.

Kathy Davie says

Twenty-third in the Dirk Pitt action thriller series and revolving around Dirk and his children and their fascination with under the seas. This story is set in the Caribbean around Cuba and Jamaica and begins in 1898 before slipping into 2016.

My Take

At last. The truth behind the sinking of the U.S.S. *Maine*, *grin* *I do enjoy it when a writer incorporates a bit of history into his or her story.*

I also enjoy learning, and the Cusslers incorporate Mexico's past history from the Nahuatl (Aztecs) to Mexico City's evolution. Then they include an inspiration from Indiana Jones with what happened to the secret of the treasure. And it's a reason that makes me shake my head with a *that figures*. Very Indiana Jones-ish...sigh...

It's a story of good vs evil, including all the subplots, with a regard for history that I love. Point-of-view-wise, *Havana Storm* uses third-person omniscient with a few scenes of the author surrogate in Cussler's usual insertion of himself as an unexpected bit of aid.

It's also rather annoying that Cussler continues to info dump, although it's not as bad as some of the stories. I'm also curious as to why the crews of NUMA vessels don't receive defense training. Considering how often they get boarded or overrun, I'd think they'd be more concerned about protection.

That said, it's predictable and exciting, thrilling, a ride with more ups and downs than you can imagine...or imagine surviving, lol.

The Story

Greed. Greed for money. Greed for power is threatening the environmental health of the Caribbean and the Eastern Seaboard, a disaster that piques NUMA's attention and concern.

Besides the toxic outbreak near Jamaica, Dirk, Jr., and Summer Pitt have fallen into their own adventure, chasing down an Aztec stone with clues to the location of a treasure, one that ties into the *Maine* blowing up, setting off the Spanish-American War.

An adventure that will bring all three Pitts to Cuba with little hope of survival.

The Characters

Dirk Pitt, Sr., is the current head of NUMA. **Loren** is his wife and a congresswoman from Colorado. She serves on the House Subcommittee on the Environment. **Al Giordino** is his best friend since childhood and currently in charge of the Underwater Technology division. He's currently testing the **Creepy Crawler**, a mechanical crab. **Summer**, an oceanographer, and **Dirk Pitt, Jr.**, a marine engineer, are twins and Dirk's children.

NUMA is...

...the National Underwater and Marine Agency, a federal organization concerned with caring for the seas that employs oceanographers, marine biologists, and geologists. Its former director is now the Vice-President of the United States, **Admiral James Sandecker**. **Rudi Gunn** is an ex-Navy commander who is the current deputy director. **Hiram Yaeger** is head of computer resources. **Dr. McCammon** is a geologist.

The R/V Sargasso Sea is...

...a NUMA research vessel captained by **Malcomb Smith**. **Barnes** is the first officer; **Dyer** was the assistant engineer. **Dr. Kamala Bhatt** is the marine biologist. The *Starfish* is a submersible. **Ross** is one of the helmsmen.

The Caroline is...

...a NUMA ship captained by **Bill Stenseth**. It's boarded by Rudi with his friends, **Jack Dahlgren** and **Pierce Russell**. The *Bullet* is a submersible she carries.

St. Julien Perlmutter is a world-renowned maritime historian and gourmet. **Admiral Raphael Semmes** is his cat. **Martha** is the chief military records archivist at the National Archives.

Captain Haasis is in command of the U.S. submarine, *Asheville*, with orders to sink a ship. **Parker** is the officer of the deck. The *Oregon* just happens to be on hand. **Admiral Stewart** is a Joint Task Force Commander. **Commander Harold Joyce** is the base historian.

The Caribbean, 2016

Mexico

Dr. Eduardo Madero is an anthropology professor from the University of Veracruz. **Professor Miguel Torres** is an expert in Nahuatl.

Cuba

They've just had **Fidel "El Caballo" Castro Ruz's** funeral. His brother, **Raúl Castro**, has been president of Cuba since 2008. **Alphonse Ortiz** is a Cuban vice-president on the Council of State. **Roberto** is his driver. **Escobar** is the Agriculture Minister. **Minister Ruiz** serves as foreign minister.

General Alberto Gutier, Minister of the Interior, has aspirations to be president. **Commandante Juan Díaz** is his brother interested in archeology and with the Cuban Interior Ministry.

Maria, an artist who simply stopped, and **Salvador Fariñas** have a strong sense of what's right. **Jorge Castaneda** is a murderer serving time in Boniato Prison.

Bruin Mining and Exploration is...

...an ecologically responsible mining company. Supposedly. The company belongs to **Mark Ramsey**, a wealthy Canadian industrialist. He also likes to race his 1928 Bugatti. His yacht is the *Gold Digger*.

The *Alta* is a Norwegian drill ship owned by Bruin Mining and Exploration, exploring for oil and captained by **Kevin Knight Gordon** is his executive officer. **Warren "Pops" Fletcher** and **Will "Brownie" Brown** are the divers; **Tank** is the bellman in the mining bell.

The *Sea Raker* is an undersea mining ship that belongs to Bruin. **Commander Calzado** is a Cuban army officer aboard the ship. **Lieutenant Silvio Molina** is in charge of the docks.

Jamaica

Uncle Desmond and his nephew are out on their fishing boat, the *Javina*. **Samuel** is a fisherman with a mission. **Clive**, a.k.a., "Pops", is both curator of the Green Stone Museum and Bar and its bartender. **Mabel's** serves good seafood.

James Maguire, ex-Marine Corps sniper and CIA field operative, and **Marty Gomez**, an ex-SEAL, are mercenaries aboard the *Surprise*.

Caribbean, 1898

Dr. Ellsworth Boyd is with Yale University. **Roy Burns** is a colleague and friend. **Martin** was the lead diver.

Weylerites are an extremist faction loyal to the Spanish governor, **Valeriano Weyler**.

The U.S.S. *Maine* is a haven in Havana. **Lieutenant Holman**. **Charles Sigsbee** is the captain. **General Fitzhugh Lee** is the consul general of Cuba. **Dr. Ralph Bennett** is with the U.S. Naval Hospital in Brooklyn and performed the autopsy.

Dr. Julio Rodriguez is a Spanish archeologist without morals who escaped on the *San Antonio*.

Eagle Warriors, *cuāuhtmeh*, were an elite group of skilled veteran soldiers as were the **Jaugar Warriors**. **Huapalcalco** was an important Toltec city. **Tenochtitlan**, which is now the heart of Mexico City, was besieged by Cortés. **Huitzilopochtli** is an ancestral deity, war god, and the Aztec's founding father. **Quetzalcoatl** is a Toltec leader who lived centuries earlier. **Motecuhzoma**, a.k.a., Montezuma or Moctezuma, led the Aztecs when the Spaniards arrived.

The Cover and Title

The cover is a detailed gradient of deep blue up through the palest of blues at the top with an orange explosion blazing up at the stern of the foremost ship with another ship in the background of the heaving seas. In the background is a profile of Havana. The primary author's name is in an embossed, gold-outlined navy with the secondary author's name in white below it. The title is in an embossed, white-outlined gold at the bottom with the series information in white beneath it.

The title is, at the core, a *Havana Storm* that revolves around Cuban politics.

Desere says

First time read from this author for me, from the plot description it looked to be a promising action adventure

set in the Caribbean. It almost, almost made my top list, but there was some lacking in the actual action, the plot promised.

The read tells of Dirk Pitt , while investigating a toxic outbreak in the Caribbean Sea that may ultimately threaten the United States , Dirk becomes involved in something more dangerous, a post - Castro power struggle for control of Cuba. Meanwhile his children are on a treasure seeking adventure of their own, they are chasing an Aztec stone that may reveal the whereabouts of a vast historical Aztec treasure. Their adventure leads them to Cuba, and squarely in harm's way. Father, son and daughter have faced some desperate adventures before but this time it seems to be dire.

As I said the action was there but did not quite hit the BOOM mark I am use to finding in action adventure , treasure seeking reads. It peek through and before it actually takes full growth it fades out and the next part of the story kind of just drag onward to the next almost action part.

Aside from the lack of action the book is fascinating , it's a good typical plot that certainly is entertaining , I mean it's not everyday you get to read about a missing stone that holds the clue to a treasure unlike ever seen before, oh okay maybe the treasure of King Tut comes close, but this books describes the treasure , or rather the author tries to make it sound far greater than the treasure of King Tut.

And then there is the mystery of the toxic waters, now that little getting all scientific part was fun to read! I recommend this read for fans looking for some low key action adventure and for those who love to solve a mystery.

4.5 star review

" The Caribbean is meant to be magical , but what really lies beneath it's waters?"

Copy provided by Penguin Random House in exchange for a honest review

Neil says

I have mixed feelings about this book. I would say, 2.5 - 2.7 stars, generously rounded up to 3 stars. On the one hand, I enjoyed it and it was entertaining. Parts of it were mildly entertaining, and parts of it were "crazy scene from a movie" entertaining. Parts of it felt like a snooze-fest, like the authors were on autopilot in some parts of the story. It has two separate threads that combine towards the end because of the villains, and then the threads separate back into their own respective stories. It has some of the "usual shenanigans" that you find in Cussler's Dirk Pitt novels - blending historical fact with fiction, a love of the ocean, crazy chase scenes, mystery, international intrigue, foreign governments or corporations with nefarious plans that must be foiled, and villains who may or may not die before the end of the book, and the "usual" cast of regular "minor" characters who help move the plot along.

It was an interesting premise about (view spoiler) the *Maine* blew up in Havana harbor. Cussler, as usual, does an excellent job of weaving historical fact with fiction in this story while creating an environmental disaster that lures Dirk Pitt, Sr., out of his office and back out into the arms of his first love (the sea). Whereas in previous novels, where (if memory serves me correctly) the Chinese (and even Japanese) tended to serve as foes to be foiled by Dirk and Co, he takes a different tack in this book. (view spoiler)

Despite having his "usual elements" in the book, it felt like there was no real suspense in the book, no real

sense of imminent danger. It was a very "vanilla" book; there was very little flavor to it. It was like the book was sanitized and cleaned up, or something. I honestly could not see Dirk, Al, Rudi, and anyone else holding off a murderous band of over forty terrorists in an abandoned mill like they did in *Treasure*. There is nothing gritty at all in this book; the early books were filled with grit. While I never truly believed Dirk, Sr., would ever be killed in the earlier books, there was still enough suspense in them to keep me going and make me wonder if Dirk really might be killed (but not really). Not that I am a big fan of foul language, it can have its place in a novel. There was very little language that stood out in this book. In earlier books, offensive language was used at times; even salty language. None of that is to be found here. In prior books, Dirk had no compunctions whatsoever about killing those trying to kill him; in this book, he rarely uses a gun (and when he does, he shoots to make people duck as opposed to shooting to kill). He has many opportunities later in the book to grab weapons and use them, but fails to do so. It was annoying! Also, there is zero sex in the book. Prior to the intro of Dirk, Jr., and Summer . . . well, prior to his getting married, he had at least one lover in each book (well, except for maybe *Inca Gold* and *Shockwave*). There was no spice in this book of anybody flirting with anybody, let alone any action inbetween the bedsheets. It felt like Dirk has been emasculated, somehow, in the telling of this tale. I know he has to be 'more responsible' as he is in charge of NUMA now, but there still seems to be some kind of *oomph* that is missing in this book. Granted, I am happy that he married Loren (that was a long-time in coming!); the two have loved each other for a long time before deciding to get married. But there is still something missing in the book that was there in the earlier books.

I was happy to see that Al actually got in some "action" in this novel instead of constantly playing the "eternal sidekick" and foil so that Dirk can appear so smart to Al's "dumb" questions. He was more proactive in this novel, more apt to leap into the fray and aggressively take charge. It was a nice change of pace. He usually gets the short end of the stick in these novels, despite being an intelligent man himself (as shown in earlier novels).

What happened to St. Julien Pearlmuter!?! Holy cow! I nearly did not recognize him! (view spoiler)

I was also happy to see that the events in *Cyclops* were indirectly referenced in this novel. It seems like Clive has forgotten quite a bit in terms of what has happened in prior novels (view spoiler) when writing subsequent novels. Considering how warm the relations between Cuba and the United States were described as becoming after the events in *Cyclops*, I was surprised at how chilly relations had become by this story.

(view spoiler)

It was very weird reading a book where there was zero romance, zero grit, and zero tension. It was also very weird to me that such a book actually still had some "exciting" moments in it (mostly because of some crazy chase scenes). Still, though, it was good to see Al and St. Julien stepping up to the plate in some big ways in this story.

Despite the book's various faults, I did enjoy reading it. It was "fun" to see how the heroes would get themselves out of various situations, or how they would be rescued by somebody else. There was a twist or two for me, as well, which surprised me (as I did not see either coming). I also liked the "shout-out" to the *Oregon* at the end of the book. It was nice to have the ship (and, indirectly, its crew) mentioned (even if in passing) (view spoiler). I am tentatively looking forward to reading the twenty-fifth book after it comes out, and I am glad that I finally got around to reading this book (even if I did read *Odessa Sea* before this one).

Traci Lawrence says

This is the last Clive Cussler book I'm going to read.

Clive Cussler has been my favorite author for years. Yes, his plots are formulaic and fantastical. Also, his characters are over-the-top stereotypes. Yet, his formula always worked for me—until now.

I have overlooked his trademark: historical, documented fact mixed with exaggeration and supposition. His books never fail to make my heart race and make me smile, which are two of the reasons that I read books in the first place.

I have even, graciously, overlooked the fact that I must always suspend my disbelief. For example, his main characters seem to be cats; they have nine lives. They keep surviving the most outrageous situations. That's one of the main reasons that I read his books: I find the answer to questions, such as: "Okay, what next?", and "How can they possibly get out of this one?"

His books are undeniably entertaining.

On to the plot of Havana Storm itself: The main storyline deals with malevolent forces in the Cuban military and government who are hoping to hijack Cuba from the man they're trying to dupe: a relatively benevolent and cooperative Raul Castro. Enough said.

As usual: the main characters also avert global environmental tragedies; another current liberal pet cause.

This is a dream book for political liberals, even more so than his previous books. Personally, I've had enough! I'm done! I recommend this book only to readers who want more of what the mainstream media feeds us daily. I'll find my own news and make up my own mind, thank you!

Stacey says

For years my father and brother have been telling me to try Clive Cussler novels. My response has always been "that's not my type of book." Well, recently I've decided to branch out from what I normally read and I decided to give this a shot. I'm glad I did.

As a first time reader to the series, it was obvious to me that all the characters already had a backstory, probably revealed in earlier novels. It did make me wonder things such as why Pitt didn't meet his children until they were older and what other types of adventures Al and Pitt went on together, since they were clearly close. It didn't take away from the story though, so if you're a first time reader to the series, it can be read as a standalone. I will consider going back and reading the previous novels to fill in the backstories I'm missing.

The novel itself was fast paced and filled with action. Pitt's children, Dirk and Summer, are searching for Aztec treasure. Their search ends up colliding with Pitt's investigation in what's going on off the shores of Cuba, and what they uncover ends up engaging them in a battle to save to their lives.

I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it to old Cussler fans and to those, like me, who are willing

to try something new for a change.

A free copy was provided by Penguin in exchange for an honest review

Tom Tischler says

While investigating a toxic outbreak in the Caribbean Sea Pitt becomes involved in a post Castro power struggle for the control of Cuba. Meanwhile his two children are on an investigation of their own. They are investigating an Aztec stone that may reveal the whereabouts of a vast Aztec treasure. The problem is the stone was supposedly destroyed when the battleship Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor in 1898 which brings them to Cuba also and right into harms way. All three of them have been in desperate situations before but never as bad as the one they are now facing. This is book 23 in the Dirk Pitt series and some folks like Clive Cusslers books and some don't. I personally like him and have been reading his novels for ages. This one is typical and it kept my fingers moving and the story was interesting.

Phil Bova says

Yet another great book by Clive Cussler, and again Dirk Pitt and Co. continue to amaze. I often associate Pitt with Bond, as both frequent exotic locales, and the proverbial diabolical villain is always great for the story. The best aspect of this book is its close proximity to the United States relationship with Cuba. Cussler does a really masterful job at both projecting Cuba in a positive light, and also showing the hope that our countries can coexist on a political level: oddly enough that very same thing just took place with Obama opening up relations with Cuba.

Fantastic story. Rich characters. Historical perplexities, and twists at every page...definitely another great great work of fiction by Mr. Cussler.

My last book read in 2014!!!!

Pat Byrnes says

Another solid entry in the Dirk Pitt Series. Dirk & Al are investigating toxic waters in the Caribbean and Dirk's kids (Dirk Jr & Summer) are off looking for lost treasure. How can these two storylines cross paths? Well they do in true Cussler fashion.

The toxic waters are due to illegal uranium mining by people who want to ascend to power in Cuba. There are many hazards and rescues the gang must go through, before they solve the mystery to avoid a world disaster on many fronts.

If you have read Cussler before, you will not be disappointed. What I enjoyed the most about the novel, is most of the characters were present in this latest thriller. St. Julien is in action and he even gets physical!!!

Rudi even surprises me and goes out on a limb. VP Sandecker seems to betray his old friends, but there is always a Cussler reason.

One can't go wrong with Havana Storm, you will be cheering for all the characters as they are tested to their limits...
