

# **Black Wind Study Guide**

## **Black Wind by Clive Cussler**

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# Plot Summary

*Black Wind* opens in a Japanese submarine I-403 in World War 2. The submarine captain reluctantly takes on a doctor and a secret payload. Their plan, he learns, is to attack America with something called "Makaze," the Evil Wind. Once near American shores, though, a naval vessel destroys them.

More than sixty years later, the story opens on the Aleutian Islands where several scientists and meteorologists begin to experience bizarre health symptoms and die. Moments before three scientists are about to die, a man in a wetsuit, with green eyes, appears from the water. It's Dirk Pitt, Jr., and he arrives just in time to save the three scientists, one of whom is a beautiful woman.

On the mainland, everyone is checked out and given a clean bill of health. However, subsequent tests show the attack was cyanide poisoning. Pitt investigates instances of cyanide poisoning in the US and finds a link to a Japanese sub that attacked American soil during World War II. A friend discovers that several Japanese subs were sunk close to American shores, including the I-403, which was carrying a mysterious payload.

Dirk finds the I-403 and discovers the payload to be cyanide. After more research, he learns that there is another sub with more canisters of poison, the I-411. He boards a NUMA ship, checks out the I-411 and finds the canisters of poison intact. The NUMA ship, however, is taken over by a group of villains. Pitt and his sister are kidnapped and taken to Korea, where they meet the mastermind behind several killings, Kang. Kang admits that he plans to kill a lot of people with a super-virus he is concocting from the viruses and chemicals taken from the submarines. After revealing his plan, he plans to kill the Pitt siblings.

Dirk and Summer escape, make their way back to America, and reveal the plan to the authorities. With the help of NUMA, the Coast Guard, and the Navy, the West Coast is patrolled for any incoming Japanese or Korean vessels, but they find nothing deadly.

Meanwhile, Kang's group takes over a floating rocket launching platform, and they insert their super-virus into the rocket and plan to launch it over Los Angeles. There, it will wreak immediate havoc, but will also have a prolonged and terrible effect on the United States.

In a blimp, Dirk Pitt, Sr. notices that the former oil-drilling rig seems out of place. He learns they are not supposed to be there. Meanwhile, his son takes a prototype core-drilling machine and tries to stop the launch. Dirk Pitt Jr. is unsuccessful. His father, though, lands in the blimp, rescues his son and the sea launch engineers, and they leave in the blimp. Dirk Pitt, Sr., learning that the launch cannot be stopped, gets into the prototype core drilling submersible and drills holes in the pontoons of the sea launch platform, altering the angle of the rocket when it takes off. It splashes harmlessly in the water.



Pitt survives the chaos and resurfaces in the submersible. He is picked up in the blimp by his son, and they chase some of Kang's henchmen, stopping them. Then Dirk Pitt, Jr. accompanies a SEAL team to Korea, where they attack Kang's fortress. Dirk Pitt, Jr. ends up in a face-to-face battle with Kang. He wounds the villain and jumps off of the yacht, before it crashes and explodes. Then, he returns to America where he meets up with the beautiful scientist. They drive off into the sunset together.



# Introduction

## Introduction Summary

In a Japanese naval shipyard during World War 2, Lieutenant Commander Ogawa waits in his submarine, I-403. It is nighttime, and he is waiting for a highly unusual meeting. Soon, a truck drives up, and a swarm of guards jump out, followed by two other men. One of the men is his boss, and he is introduced to the other man, Dr. Tanaka. Ogawa is ordered to take Dr. Tanaka and his cargo to the Northwest coast of America to attack them. After asking about the nature of the cargo, Ogawa is told that it is "Makaze," an evil wind.

Ogawa's submarine is a specially constructed vessel that can carry and launch a couple of airplanes, which Tanaka intends to use to deploy his cargo. The submarine makes the long journey through the ocean, underwater by day and on the surface at night. It weathers a severe storm after docking briefly for refueling.

During the voyage, Ogawa learns little more about the evasive Dr. Tanaka, except that Tanaka is with the Army Medical School's Epidemic Disease Prevention Study Group, and that they had developed a weapon they intended to use against the United States. It would be dropped from canisters out of the two airplanes in sub's hold.

When they arrive just off the coast of Vancouver Island, they are discovered by a fishing boat. I-403 destroys the fishing boat, but not before the US navy is alerted to their presence. An American destroyer is nearby and gives chase, ramming the submarine and sinking it before either of the planes could be deployed.

## Introduction Analysis

In classic Cussler fashion, the introduction serves as a mirror into the past, describing for the reader the events that would lead up to the current adventure. Since both the author and his main character are linked closely with NUMA, the National Underwater and Marine Agency, the story begins with a water-related incident. Most Cussler readers, though, will expect it to reach far beyond the ocean floor. While no clue is given in this section as to the exact nature of the disease-related weapon, the reader is given several clues as to its ferocity. It is called "an evil wind," the author tells the reader that Tanaka is lying when he is asked by Ogawa if the crew is in danger. The introduction closes with a paragraph telling the reader that the sailors on the destroyer had no idea how close they had come to "the unspeakable horror" they had just saved the country from. It foreshadows the primary adventure when it says, "Nor could they know that the horror still awaited," (Introduction, page 23) closing out the introduction.



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 1 opens 62 1/2 years after the introduction. The Aleutian Islands are a string of islands off of Alaska. In a small Coast Guard weather station are two meteorologists, who are watching the storm come in. One of the meteorologists climbs up onto the top of the weather station to fix an antenna. Inside a weather station, the second meteorologist watches as their pet Siberian Husky begins to froth at the mouth and then dies. The meteorologist on the top of the weather station returns quickly, in response to his colleague's cries, but succumbs himself to a painful death after gasping out that there is something in the air. Moments after he dies, his colleague perishes as well.

Meanwhile, on the same island, three scientists from the Center for Disease Control are investigating the mysterious deaths of sea lions in the area. They have paused for supper and one scientist, an attractive 30-year-old girl named Sarah, watches as the other two scientists begin to choke and collapse on the ground in pain. Moments later, she begins to feel pain and shortness of breath and collapses as well. Just as she is about to black out, through her hazy vision, she sees a gray colored figure rise out of the ocean and walk toward her. She sees a scuba mask and through the mask, she sees "a pair of deep, opaline green eyes" (Chapter 1, page 34) just before blacking out herself.

## Chapter 1 Analysis

While the introduction set the stage over 62 years ago, the main story is a modern-day adventure, taking place in 2007. Just before his death, one of the meteorologists is able to gasp to his colleague that there is something in the air, which explains to the reader the unusual death of the dog. The meteorologists' deaths follow in short order, like a staccato indicator that a wave of something deadly is moving across the island. Meanwhile, at the scientists' camp, all three drop to the ground, seemingly dead as well. Moments before the last person on the island is about to black out, she sees something that Cussler readers will recognize: opaline green eyes, although the only thing described in this chapter, belong to Dirk Pitt. Pitt typically makes his first appearance in a book in a heroic, with-not-a-moment-to-spare style. This lends itself toward the theme of audaciousness, in which a larger-than-life hero saves the day just-in-time.





# Chapter 2

## Chapter 2 Summary

While the green eyes from the last chapter do belong to Dirk Pitt, it is revealed in this chapter that they more accurately belong to Dirk Pitt, Jr. Sarah awakes to find herself on a science vessel belonging to NUMA where she meets her savior, who arranges a date later with her. She learns that, although the meteorologists died, she and her fellow scientists survived, because they were exposed to the same airborne toxin but at a much lower potency. Pitt and his friend Jack Dahlgren take a helicopter back to the island to investigate. Based on wind patterns, they are able to determine the direction from which the airborne toxin came from. It is not long before they come upon a fishing trawler. Right away, they notice that there is something wrong with the trawler, since it is not flying a national flag and has no identifying markings. It appears to be poaching sea lions. Suddenly, their helicopter is fired upon, so they head back to the island. The damaged helicopter plummets into the ocean. The chapter closes as Dirk Pitt and his friend work furiously to open a door to escape. In the moments before the helicopter goes underwater, they gasp in their last breath of air.

## Chapter 2 Analysis

Dirk Pitt, Jr. shows himself to be a brave and dashing hero, who is able to save the beautiful girl one moment and still have the presence of mind to crack a joke and ask for a date. And like a classic hero, he heads back into danger in order to create a solution. Of course, the solution to the question, "what killed the meteorologists?" is not easily answered. Their efforts are thwarted by a mysterious fishing trawler who destroys their helicopter. Without answering the questions raised, the events on the island and with the trawler suggests that great evil is afoot, and this is the first introduction the reader has to the primary theme of destruction for personal gain. The reader is at first led to believe that the personal gain may be poaching sea lions, and the people in the trawler seem to have no concern for human life.



## Chapter 3

### Chapter 3 Summary

The research vessel launches into an immediate search and rescue operation for Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Dahlgren. Three hours later, they are spotted near a fire on the island roasting crab legs. When the rescue team shows up, Pitt asks them why they didn't bring lemon or butter. It is explained that after the helicopter went down, Pitt found a way to escape. Back on the research vessel, they decide to head back to port so the sick scientists can get medical care. Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Sarah finish the chapter by talking about the mysterious deaths of sea lions in the area. They also question whether the fishing trawler was there for more than poaching purposes.

### Chapter 3 Analysis

Dirk Pitt, Jr. is shown to be resourceful and calm under pressure in this chapter. The idea is suggested to the reader that the mysterious fishing trawler may have had other devious reasons for being in the area, which could be related to the toxins in the air. Although the specific gain is not immediately apparent, the theme of destruction for personal gain is intoned once again.



# Chapter 4

## Chapter 4 Summary

In Japan, the US ambassador to Japan and the British ambassador to Japan are on the golf course. They are strolling toward the green as they talk about different aspects of their job. The British ambassador to Japan congratulates the American ambassador on an economic partnership with Tokyo, and they spent some time talking about politics in Korea. Without warning, the American ambassador is shot and killed. From 600 yards away, the assassin hides his gun, chips his ball out of a sand trap, and putts his ball into the hole. He leaves the golf course, just as the police and ambulance arrives.

## Chapter 4 Analysis

The reader cannot be sure of the reason for the assassination. Little detail is given on the work projects that the ambassadors are talking about. What is certain, is that the ambassador's death was well-planned and performed by an expert, which is shown by his excellent shot from a great distance as well as his calm demeanor to finish the golf game that provided him with cover. Although not a lot of details are given about the assassin, the detailed description of his bald head, wrestlers build and "Fu Manchu" mustache probably foreshadow his reappearance.



# Chapter 5

## Chapter 5 Summary

Back at the American port, the three scientists are sent to a hospital, and the research vessel, along with Dirk Pitt, Jr., heads to Seattle. Later, Pitt joins up with Sarah and another of the scientists he rescued, Sandy. He learns from them that no toxins were discovered in their body and they were given a clean bill of health. Then they speak about the sea lions which appeared to have died from cyanide poisoning. Since the human body can expel cyanide quickly, they hypothesize that they, too, had contracted airborne cyanide poisoning but were able to overcome it with medical help. They expelled it quickly, which explains why no trace was discovered. Since cyanide of that potency is not likely appear in nature, they believe its origin to be human-made. Furthermore, while most cyanide needs to be ingested to be poisonous, they believe this cyanide to be airborne.

## Chapter 5 Analysis

An explanation is given for the bizarre deaths on the island. The explanation, however, raises more questions than it answers for the reader, forcing the reader to continue. Without becoming boring or technical, the chapter is able to explain the history of cyanide poisoning and its effects on the human body. Since the toxins are human-made in origin, the idea is again repeated that someone is purposefully using this destruction, although it is not apparent for what purpose.



# Chapter 6

## Chapter 6 Summary

A luxurious Gulfstream V jet touches down in Tokyo and, Chris Gavin, the high-living CEO of SemCon Industries, is whisked to the grand opening of his latest facilities. During the ceremony, an explosion goes off inside the building. The glass exterior of the building shatters and rains down on the crowd. During the ensuing chaos, Gavin feels a sharp pain in his neck. As his security guards rush him to his limo, he loses the ability to use his limbs. He dies almost immediately. The reader then reads about a bald man who is seen leaving the scene.

Meanwhile, Dirk Pitt, Jr. goes to a car auction. On the way, he pauses in a small town called Warrenton. He stops at the library and asks the librarian about a set of mysterious deaths that occurred in 1942, which he had heard about from Sarah when they last met. The librarian, who is familiar with the story, helps Dirk find the newspaper reports from the incident. He learns that the authorities chalked the deaths up to cyanide poisoning that they hypothesized were related to the cyanide that was kept in the deceased's leather-tanning workshop. The librarian, though, disagrees. Her father believed that it was a military incident, because the poisoned people died on the beach, along with hundreds of birds.

Pitt hits the road again but takes a short break at a river-side military memorial denoting the location in which a Japanese submarine shelled an American military base during World War II. It was on the same day the cyanide incident occurred. He calls his father's trusted friend and nautical historian, Perlmutter, to research Japanese submarines and arsenal. Then, he continues on to the car auction where he buys a classic car, a passion he shares with his father. Before long, he receives a call from Perlmutter, and they talk about Japanese submarine usage in World War II. There were only a handful of subs that attacked American soil, but all met with little success. The I-25, the sub that Pitt had learned about earlier that day, may have held a cyanide bomb but there is no record of it. Another sub, the I-403, was destroyed in an attempted attack on American soil at a time when the Japanese Imperial Army was very weak. It was known to be carrying something called "Makaze," or Black Wind.

## Chapter 6 Analysis

This busy chapter teaches the reader a lot. It begins with another assassination, and the assassin is recognizable to the reader as the same bald man from the golf course. He is again shown to be a skilled killer. He's not only an expert as a sniper, which the readers knows from the golf course killing, but he's also able to set timed explosives and kill with a poisoned bead from a blowgun straw. This is the second killing, and there is no explanation given. The reader is unable to connect the two deaths, yet. Meanwhile, Dirk Pitt, Jr. learns about the cyanide-related deaths and connects it to the Japanese military.



Perlmutter alerts Pitt to the I-403, the sub that the readers first encounter in the book. The reader is forced to keep asking "why?" with every destructive paragraph, as the evidence piles up that someone is using destruction for personal gain without fully explaining what will be gained from the destruction.

As Dirk Pitt, Jr. is driving to the car auction; he spots a Cadillac a few times en route. Nothing more is said about the Cadillac beyond a brief mention, but the reader can be sure that its appearance foreshadows an encounter in the future. The chapter also suggests the audacity of the villain, who is willing to set timed explosives and wreak mass chaos, injury and death in order to achieve the aim of killing the American businessman. Audacity is a theme in the book, and it is a trait shared by heroes and villains alike. Without flashing back, this chapter incorporates several aspects of history to help the reader learn about the history of Japanese warfare on American shores, as well as the relevance of cyanide poisoning to Japanese subs.



# Chapter 7

## Chapter 7 Summary

This chapter opens with a brief glimpse back into the life of Irv Fowler, who was a scientist from the beginning of the book, saved by Dirk Pitt, Jr. from the Aleutian Island poisoning. In just a couple of short paragraphs, he wakes up with a terrible headache, has to leave work early, and tries unsuccessfully to rest. A glance in the mirror shows that he is developing a rash. In Tokyo, the US embassy's deputy chief of Mission, Robert Bridges, is attending a function on Japanese trade. He excuses himself to go to the washroom and is accompanied by a security guard. The guard inspects the bathroom, determines that the only other person in the washroom (a hotel staffer) is not a threat, and allows the deputy ambassador to use the washroom. The hotel staffer is a familiar stocky, bald man. He expertly uses a silenced weapon to kill the guard with one shot, and the deputy with two shots. He then leaves a note rolled up in the deputy's mouth and disappears.

## Chapter 7 Analysis

This chapter fans the flame of rising action, as Irv Fowler detects something inexplicably wrong, and the bald assassin strikes again. The reader is given a hint that soon something will be revealed, since the assassin left a note. The contents are not revealed in this chapter.



# Chapters 8 and 9

## Chapters 8 and 9 Summary

Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Jack Dahlgren investigate the I-403. From military records they pinpoint the approximate location of the sunken sub and spend hours combing the sea floor with sonar until they discover it. They don wetsuits and dive to investigate, exploring the wreckage. Unfortunately, their air supply doesn't allow them to be down for very long, but it's long enough for Pitt to discover that someone else has been down there recently and removed one of the canisters.

## Chapters 8 and 9 Analysis

The mystery grows, as it appears someone else is aware of the existence of the Makaze payload and, in fact, beat Pitt and Dahlgren to the sub. Dirk notes that someone had gone to a lot of trouble to acquire a bomb, and as they talk about it on the surface, it appears there are more questions than answers. Although not destructive in nature, it is apparent that someone wants the Makaze payload as much as Pitt wants to find out what it is and if it is connected to the events on the Aleutian Islands.





# Chapter 10

## Chapter 10 Summary

In Washington, President Garner Ward and his advisors are discussing the recent assassinations. The advisors are trying to deflect blame elsewhere from the lack of intelligence they had on the killings. The contents of the note are revealed to be from the Japanese Red Army, a terrorist group thought to be largely defunct. The JRA's wishes are for America to stop their work in Japan: "Be vanquished, American imperialists who soil Nippon with greed, or death will blow her cold, sweet breath to the shores of America." Political avenues are discussed, including travel restrictions on ambassadors in order to ensure their safety. The President reflects that he believes there is still more to come.

## Chapter 10 Analysis

With the killing of the Americans, the political ramifications are explored with a quick snapshot of Washington's response. The President voices for the reader an indication by the author that there is still more to come, foreshadowing the events that are to continue to unfold in the book. More questions are asked than answered with the revelation that the Japanese Red Army is apparently still active.



# Chapter 11

## Chapter 11 Summary

Keith Catana is a master sergeant in the United States Air Force, stationed in South Korea. Seated at a bar, he spots a Korean woman who he expects to be a high priced Korean prostitute. She introduces herself, and the two of them go to a motel. In the motel room, Catana is surprised by a third person, a bald man, who injects Catana with a needle. Catana loses consciousness. When he wakes up, he is in the same hotel room and is lying in a pool of blood, but it is not his own. Beside him is a body of a young woman, but not the one he had met earlier. Suddenly, the police burst into the room and arrest him. He soon becomes international news as the American serviceman who raped and killed a 13-year-old Korean girl.

## Chapter 11 Analysis

This brief chapter follows someone the reader has not met before and successfully raises even more questions. Who is this bald assassin, and why is he in South Korea? Why does he work with the prostitute to frame Catana? This shocking chapter very clearly connects the events in Japan and the events in Korea, and shows the reader that someone is willing to go to great lengths to gain something (without knowing what) from these terrible deaths. This chapter, more clearly than any of the others so far, demonstrates that there is a mind at work who is orchestrating these destructive events for some purpose.



# Chapters 12 and 13

## Chapters 12 and 13 Summary

A biologist for the Philippines government, Raul Biazon takes a small craft out to the Mariana Explorer. The Mariana Explorer is a NUMA research vessel, and when he boards the ship, Biazon meets the legendary Dirk Pitt, Sr. and his friend Al Giordino. Biazon tells them about dead fish that have been washing up on shore in one section of the Philippines, and Pitt decides to investigate. The ship sails to the suspected area, and after a series of tests and sonar searches; they determine that the fish have been dying of arsenic poisoning which seem to emanate from a sunken vessel. Pitt and Giordino dive below and discover a Japanese ship from WWII that appears to have hit a coral reef and sunk. They trace the toxin to the source and find ammunition that has deteriorated over time and is leaking the deadly arsenic into the water. They take samples and return to the ship.

## Chapters 12 and 13 Analysis

The reader finally gets a glimpse of Dirk Pitt Sr., now the Director of NUMA. He appears not to have changed a bit, still preferring the open sea to his desk. The discoveries in these chapters continue to raise questions in the mind of the reader, without adequately answering any. This chapter also raises a character type seen throughout the book. This is the type of character is usually the one who is willing to roll up his or her sleeves and do the dirty work, rather than the person who sits behind a desk all day.



# Chapter 14

## Chapter 14 Summary

An opulent yacht, a familiar sight on the Han River in Korea, enters a private inlet and docks. Three politicians emerge from the yacht and enter the home which is owned by Dae-jong Kang. Kang is a wealthy businessman in South Korea with secret ties to the North Korean government. The three politicians join him in his mansion, and he talks to them about the advantages of uniting North and South Korea. He mentions that, in order for North Korea to be willing to reunite with the South, the American military must be out of the country. Then he asks them to support an upcoming resolution in the National Assembly for the removal of the American military from South Korea, and he reminds them that it was his own wealth and influence that put them in their positions of power. One of the politicians voices his concern to Kang and security guards appear and throw the politician over the balcony to the rocky beach below. The other two politicians acquiesce.

Later, after the politicians leave, Kang speaks with one of his aides about several ongoing projects in his devious plan: the vote on the resolution, organized student protests, and media bribes to paint the American military in a bad light and focus attention on the murder of the Korean girl and the framed Sergeant. Then, their talk turns to another project which they call "chimera." The aide indicates that news from the biochemical lab has come back, and that test they did on the Aleutian Islands was successful in showing that they have been able to rejuvenate the virus. Kang's concern is that they cannot produce enough of the virus, but is pleased with the discovery of a second submarine carrying the same cargo. However, they are not sure where it is. In his update, the aide tells Kang about a small problem that needs to be brought to his attention. The pilot and copilot of the helicopter shot down in the Aleutian Islands were not killed as originally thought and were the same people that located the I-403. Kang shrugs off the news as being a mere consequence, and he instructs his aide to take care of it.

## Chapter 14 Analysis

The beginning of the second part of the book introduces the reader to someone who is the primary candidate for the role of antagonist. After all, in the past 13 chapters, the only dangerous person the reader has met has been the bald assassin, but Kang is shown to be a possible mastermind. Yet, there is no real connection made between the assassinations in Japan and the events currently unfolding in Korea. Kang is shown to be wealthy, ruthless and devious, which are the classic characteristics of Cussler antagonists. Although the reader does not yet know why, it is now apparent who is behind the missing torpedo from the I-403. Tension is increased by the revelation that there is another submarine out there with a deadly payload. The theme of audacity is

further extended from Pitt and the bald assassin to Kang as well. His opulent life and viciousness point to his larger-than-life character.

# Chapters 15 and 16

## Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

The brief chapters 15 and 16 begin by covering the history of smallpox from as early as 1518 and its introduction to the Aztecs, up until present day, reporting that smallpox has virtually been eliminated as a threat. Only small and controlled samples remain in the world for study. Then, the reader's attention is turned to Irv Fowler, still in Alaska, who discovers that he has smallpox. Sarah contacts Dirk Pitt, Jr. and tells him about her colleague, and they gather the crew of Deep Endeavor to make sure that none of them is infected as well. Dirk brings the bomb canister he took from the I-403 and gives it to Sarah to have it tested at the Center for Disease Control.

## Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

The brief history of smallpox helps to catch up readers who may not know very much about it and demonstrates that, while it is a terrible and powerful virus, it has virtually been conquered by science. So far, the scientist, Fowler, is the only one who appears to have contracted it.



# Chapters 17 and 18

## Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

Dirk and Sarah drop off the bomb casing at the lab and go for lunch. They observe that a black Cadillac, which was noticed on a previous trip to the car auction, is following them. The Cadillac follows his own classic car onto the ferry, and the boat takes off down the river. Dirk approaches the Cadillac and looks in the window, noticing that the two Asian men inside are carrying weapons. He returns to his own car, and when the ferry docks, he and Sarah drive to nearby restaurant for lunch. After lunch, they return to the road to head back to the ferry and are followed by the Cadillac again. This time, the men in the Cadillac open fire and Dirk's quick thinking and quick driving keep them alive. An exciting car chase ensues with the Asian men riddling Dirk's classic car with machine-gun bullets. Dirk does his best to get away, but the Cadillac manages to stay close and the guns damage Dirk's car enough for things to look bleak.

Just when all hope is lost and the car is about to fall apart as he drives, Dirk gets an idea, and he gives Sarah an enigmatic clue. Chapter 18 opens where Chapter 17 left off as Dirk Pitt's damaged Chrysler struggles to elude the Cadillac. In the distance, the ferry is pulling away from the dock and Dirk hammers the accelerator, shoots off the dock, and crashes onto the deck of the ferry. The Cadillac attempts to make the same stunt, but crashes against the ferry and sinks beneath the waves. Chapter 18 closes at the morgue with the chief coroner filling up the paperwork. Investigation by the Immigration Department had revealed that they were Japanese nationals who were in the country illegally. The coroner casually observes that they look Korean rather than Japanese.

## Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Having appeared in other chapters, the Cadillac and its mysterious occupants finally surface in a conflict with Dirk. In classic Cussler style, and supporting the theme of audacity, the hero is stuck in a situation that seems hopeless. Yet, he is still able to crack a witty comment and give a cocky wink to the girl he is saving. Although he is outgunned, his quick wit and courage saves the day in an audacious escape that is over-the-top. At the end of these chapters the question is once again highlighted for the reader about the mysterious connection between the Japanese and Koreans and foreshadows that the confusion between the two may be at the heart of the problem. These chapters also serve as a symbolic statement of Cussler's hero against the villains, almost as if this book were a summary of the book itself. For example, the hero in his classic car, driving with his beautiful girl, pushes himself and his car to the limit to effect a daring escape, which he ultimately turns into an offensive tactic. Outgunned, he only has his wit and his guts to help him succeed. It's an old versus new, guts versus muscle image, and Pitt wins in this scenario.



# Chapter 19

## Chapter 19 Summary

Emerging relatively unscathed from the harrowing car chase, Dirk Pitt, Jr. helps Sarah home from the hospital. She has broken her leg in the previous chapter's excitement. They learn that no one else on the Deep Endeavor is infected with smallpox. Dirk takes a NUMA jet back to Washington and meets with Hiram Yaeger, NUMA's computer guru. Hiram and his computer help Dirk with the research on Japanese biological warfare during World War II. Some of his questions cannot be immediately answered, so he goes to a meeting he's scheduled to attend with Rudi Gunn, NUMA's Assistant Director, and some bureaucrats from Homeland Security. The meeting does not go well, as Pitt gives his theory that the JRA may be involved in both the Aleutian Island killings, as well as Irv Fowler's smallpox. The bureaucrats do not agree. Pitt shows them the bomb casing he retrieved from the lab and explains how it was designed to work: The viruses could be carried in small compartments inside the porcelain body of the torpedo. Although the bomb casing he holds only contains trace amounts of cyanide, Dirk theorizes that the bomb could have contained both cyanide and small pox. The cyanide would have an immediate effect on the target site, and the small pox would have a prolonged, spreading affect afterward. The bureaucrats do not believe him and the meeting gets heated, before Gunn steps in and ends it.

Hiram meets up with Dirk to deliver more information he found from his research on Japanese biological warfare. During the I-403's final voyage, they made a refueling stop, and one ill crewmember was offloaded. That crewmember had discovered the payload to be "Makaze" or the Evil Wind. The payload was freeze-dried small pox, which would be re-hydrated in the air to cause devastation on the target. Hiram points out, as the chapter ends, there was another sub carrying the same payload: the I-411.

## Chapter 19 Analysis

The reader is brought up-to-date on the history of Japanese chemical and biological warfare in history. Dirk, in his heated meeting with the bureaucrats, ties many of the loose ends together for the benefit of the reader. Although his theories are not accepted by the people from the Department of Homeland Security, his theories are supported by subsequent findings from Hiram's research. A few chapters earlier, the arch-villain Kang mentions an additional sub with a deadly payload. NUMA now knows of it, too. The tension rises further since both sides realize the need to get there first. This chapter furthers the image that Cussler uses of the character who is willing to work and fight and risk versus the character who sits behind a desk. In this case, it is Dirk Pitt, Jr. versus the bureaucrats. Even though the reader knows that Pitt has the knowledge and experience, the bureaucrats are the ones who make the decisions.





# Chapters 20, 21, and 22

## Chapters 20, 21, and 22 Summary

Opening in a naval port, Chapter 20 briefly tells about a mishap on the loading dock as a submersible vessel is attempted to be loaded onto a ship called "Baekje." The submersible crashes to the ground after being incorrectly secured. Meanwhile, Dirk Pitt, Jr. lands in Osaka's airport and meets up with his sister, Summer, where they board the NUMA research vessel, the Sea Rover. In a fancy bar in Korea, Kang pressures a reluctant South Korean business owner to support the move to reunite the Koreas. After his meeting, Kang learns from his aide that the submersible vessel was damaged and it would be three weeks before a repair or replacement could be found. The only other option, he learns, is a NUMA vessel in Osaka that has a submersible they could use. Kang instructs his aide to see that it is taken care of. Once at sea, the Sea Rover begins its search for I-411. Everyone settles in for a long, tedious search, but the sunken sub is found quickly. As they begin the preparations for the dive, they notice a large ship floating nearby. It's the same ship that was supposed to be fitted with the ill-fated submersible.

## Chapters 20, 21, and 22 Analysis

While the question about the Japanese/Korean connection is unanswered still, many loose ends are quickly coming together to develop the plot and increase the tension. Instead of two submersibles racing to the same payload, now the reader may expect a fight over the submersible itself. The I-411 is found quite quickly, leading the reader to wonder if NUMA will beat Kang's team to the punch, but Chapter 22 closes with heightened tension with the appearance of Kang's ship. The theme of destruction for personal gain is finally starting to take shape. Hinted at in an earlier chapter, Kang blatantly tells the businessman (and the reader) that wealth is his ultimate goal through the takeover of South Korea by North Korea. Although all of the details are not yet in place, the reader now knows that Kang is somehow behind the deadly events and his personal gain is simply the wealth and power he will achieve when the two countries are united.

# Chapters 23 and 24

## Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

The Sea Rover releases its submersible with Dirk and Summer inside. They take the submersible down to the depths and begin their inspection of the sunken submarine. At first, their exploration reveals no porcelain canisters, designed for biological warfare. Close to the sub, they send in a smaller remote operated vehicle that could get into places their submersible could not. The remote camera explores for some time, but they cannot find any of the torpedoes. They move the submersible carefully into the sub but get stuck. They can hear the Sea Rover, but the sub's hull is blocking them from responding and it is calculated that there is only about three or four hours before they run out of oxygen, but they decide to explore with the remote operated vehicle. While they are exploring, they come across the weapons they had been looking for.

## Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

It's another exciting and dangerous encounter for Pitt. This time, he and his sister are wedged inside a submarine and the clock is ticking. Although they found what they were looking for, their situation does not look good.



# Chapter 25

## Chapter 25 Summary

Trapped inside a sunken World War II submarine, Dirk Pitt, Jr. and his sister Summer cannot communicate with the outside world. Forced to affect their own escape, they use the submersible's mechanical arm and a handle from a piece of the submarine's equipment for leverage and pry themselves out to return to the surface. Once back at the Sea Rover, they update the team, repair the submersible, and work in rotation with other crew members to start bringing up the Makaze payload. The work is tedious, since the submersible can only bring two canisters to the surface at one time. Meanwhile, on the Baekje, nearby, Kang's team prepares to board the Sea Rover.

## Chapter 25 Analysis

This chapter serves to show how well the siblings work together to get out of trouble; which they always seem to be in! No sooner do they extricate themselves from the submarine, then the reader is taken to Kang's ship in and learns of the upcoming takeover. This chapter foreshadows events to come in which the siblings find themselves in a deadly situation and work together to overcome the situation.



# Chapters 26 and 27

## Chapters 26 and 27 Summary

A dozen commandos race across the black ocean from Kang's ship to the Sea Rover in special inflatable boats, in the dead of night. They board the ship and are able to quickly subdue the inhabitants, most of whom are sleeping and completely unprepared for an attack. Very few shots are fired, and only one commando is killed. Kang's team herds the NUMA researchers into a hold in the back of the ship, and they wait for Dirk and his sister to resurface in the submersible. When the siblings return with the ninth and 10th torpedoes, they discover the ship has been taken over and are told they must return for the last two torpedoes or the crew will be killed. They dive down once more as they try to develop a plan to help the captive scientists. The last two canisters are retrieved in a return to the surface and put their plan into action. Summer distracts the commandos, while Derrick uses the mechanical arm of the submersible to open an escape hatch in the hold where the crew is trapped. The chapter closes with the Pitt siblings taken hostage aboard the Baekje. As Kang's ship leaves the scene, they stare out of the porthole and notice that the NUMA ship seems to be sinking.

## Chapters 26 and 27 Analysis

The rising action continues as the courageous and resourceful Dirk and Summer find themselves under the control of Kang's team. To save the lives of their colleagues, they must reluctantly comply with the wishes out of the commandos. The success of their last ditch effort to save the crew is not yet known, and now they are completely at the mercy of Kang's team. Once again, Kang's willingness to destroy people for his own personal gain is echoed again when his men leave a ship to sink full of helpless people locked in a cargo hold.



# Chapter 28

## Chapter 28 Summary

Chapter 28 opens with a brief glimpse back at the NUMA headquarters, where Rudi Gunn learns of the disappearance of the Sea Rover, which is no longer transmitting a GPS signal. Meanwhile, on the Sea Rover, and trapped in the hold, the crew frantically fights for their lives as water fills the hold. They try to use braces to open the heavy overhead doors, but those do not work. At the last possible moment, someone discovers the escape hatch that Dirk Pitt unlocked in the previous chapter. Some of them escape, run to a crane, and use the train to lift the overhead doors, saving everyone. Unable to alert anyone to their situation because the communication system was destroyed, the scientists board their lifeboats and evacuate the ship moments before it sinks beneath the waves.

## Chapter 28 Analysis

The rising action is relieved for a moment, as the reader discovers that Dirk and Summer's attempts to save the crew from drowning are successful. Although the scientists have not been rescued, they are no longer facing a grim death in the hold of the ship.



# Chapters 29 and 30

## Chapters 29 and 30 Summary

Inside Kang's ship, Dirk tells Summer that he thinks they're not going to Japan as they thought, but rather to Korea based on his navigational estimates from looking at the window. Meanwhile, the survivors of the Sea Rover are discovered by American search and rescue pilots from an air base in Okinawa. The Baekje, which has been traveling for a day and a half, arrives in Korea and disappears into a large structure built to house the ship. Kang receives a report of the situation that 10 of the 12 canisters were recovered intact, and he is pleased that everything is going according to plan. Meanwhile, Dirk and Summer are taken off the large ship and put a smaller ship, which sails out of the large structure. As they leave, workers swarm over the Baekje to transform it into a completely different looking ship.

## Chapters 29 and 30 Analysis

The reader is relieved to discover the NUMA scientists are saved. Once again, this chapter highlights the curious link between Japan and Korea that has gone unanswered so far in the novel. Tensions rise as the fate of Dirk and Summer is uncertain. The puzzle expands even bigger when the reader learns that the large ship is about to be transformed into a completely different to ship. The reader knows the destructive power of the Makaze and the ultimate aim of Kang. His purpose in wanting the Makaze or why he is willing to create such a destructive weapon at such a great cost is still unknown. As the mental dollar figure tallies in the readers mind as Cussler tells about the workers who swarm over the Baekje to reconfigure it, the theme of audacity is coupled to the theme of destruction for personal gain to show that Kang is a man who will spend a lot of money to see his plan come to fruition.



# Chapter 31

## Chapter 31 Summary

Admiral James Sandecker, now Vice President of the United States, enters the NUMA headquarters to personally deal with the situation. In Korea, Dirk and Summer find themselves captive in a luxurious boat, which is moored at Kang's dock. In his house, Kang learns that Dirk and Summer Pitt are on in his boat, and he relates to his assistants that the news has reported that the scientists escaped from the ship. He is very displeased. He plans on personally meeting Dirk and Summer.

## Chapter 31 Analysis

Cussler fans will be glad to see the return of Admiral Sandecker, a regular in previous books, who was replaced by Dirk Pitt, Sr. as director of NUMA. Unfortunately, the glad news that the NUMA scientists were saved will probably mean that Dirk Pitt, Jr. and his sister will face an unpleasant death.



# Chapter 32

## Chapter 32 Summary

Close by the large structure that houses the Baekje is a lab run by a scientist from the former Soviet Union, who is been hired by Kang to create a chemical/biological weapon. He has discovered some success by combining HIV-1 with smallpox into a super-virus that is freeze-dried. Highly paid and a very sadistic, Sarghov the scientist is introduced in the book.

## Chapter 32 Analysis

This chapter does not have a lot of action. It is more descriptive. It describes the sadistic scientist and alerts the reader to the level of danger that is imminent. However, the reader still does not know who the target is. Once again, without using flashback, Cussler is able to catch the reader up to the present by telling about the history of the lab, the scientist, and the virus effectively.





# Chapter 33

## Chapter 33 Summary

At the NUMA headquarters, Rudi Gunn is frustrated in learning that the Baekje seems to have disappeared, along with Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Summer. Although they are able to track down its history and ownership, they are at a loss to pinpoint its current location.

Meanwhile, in Korea, Dirk and Summer prepare for a meeting with Kang. Dirk does his best to bluff Kang into revealing part of his plot. Although Kang never states the target, he does tell Dirk and Summer about the super-virus that his scientist has created, and he goes on to tell them that his part of plan is to see the American military out of South Korea at which time the North Korean army can overrun South Korea within three days. Kang also admits that the actions by the supposed Japanese Red Army against Americans are meant to focus public attention away from Korea.

Lastly, Kang suggests that his motivation for doing this is for monetary gain in the reunification of Korea. Then, Kang has three security guards take them out of the room into an elevator to take them to something he refers to as "The River Cave." In the elevator, Dirk and Summer attack the three guards and neutralize them, but when the elevator doors open, they are subdued by more guards who had witnessed the attack on the closed-circuit camera.

## Chapter 33 Analysis

The pieces of the puzzle are starting to fall into place for the reader as Kang relates to Dirk and Summer (and the reader) what part of his plan is. Although no one is quite sure yet who the target of the super-virus is to be, Kang's plot and motivation is now known, and the relationship between the assassinations in Japan and the events in Korea are starting to connect. Things are looking bleak for Dirk and Summer, as well. The theme of justice is starting to solidify in these chapters, as the reader learns that Kang is behind all of the destructive events so far in the book. As the balance between justice and injustice begins to tip, and the reader senses that the great injustices are going to go unpunished, there is a greater sense of urgency for Summer and Dirk to escape the situation. Unfortunately, though, they fail in this chapter.



# Chapter 34

## Chapter 34 Summary

In the previous chapter, Dirk Pitt, Jr. was subdued by the guards, and they hit him in the head with the butt of a gun. In this chapter he wakes up and finds himself and his sister chained to cement blocks inside Kang's River cave. The tide is rising, which means they will drown. In the previous chapter, when they were getting ready for their meeting with Kang, Summer had slipped a nail file into her pocket, because she had chipped a nail. In order for her to get a nail file, one of her restraints must be broken. Dirk is able to kick at one of the iron rings to break it, freeing Summer enough to get a nail file to get out of the rest of her restraints. Then, she goes to help her brother, but the water is rising so rapidly that there is barely enough time. He tells Summer to save herself, and she disappears. He blacks out before the filing is finished.

## Chapter 34 Analysis

In yet another predicament, the Pitt siblings worked together to escape. It is very tense in the cave, as the water rises, and the reader is curious when Summer uncharacteristically disappears, leaving Dirk to black out. Once again, the theme of audaciousness is used, since Kang could have just had Summer and Dirk shot and the problem would be ended (for him). However, he chose a more audacious method of killing (a dramatic drowning in a cave), and that may be the salvation of Dirk and Summer.



# Chapters 35 and 36

## Chapters 35 and 36 Summary

Chapter 34 closed with Dirk blacking out and beginning to drown. Chapter 35 opens with Summer swimming underwater. Reluctantly, she left her brother's side and dove underwater, where she now finds a large rock. Returning to her brother with the rock, she smashes open the iron ring and swims with her brother's body toward shore. She performs CPR on him and revives him. They rest for some time and then get back into the water, realizing that they need a boat to get anywhere. Silently, they swim to the dock and pull one of the boats off the shore and start rowing away. Before long, however, they are discovered and another boat gives chase. They may get out of the inlet into the Han River and leap from the boat just as it is torn apart with bullets from their pursuers. The pursuers discover that they escaped and begin a search in increasingly large spirals to look for the siblings. Dirk and Summer manage to escape by docking underwater for half a minute, then coming up for a few moments for air before ducking underwater for moment longer. They know that the searching ship will eventually find them. As luck would have it, Dirk notices a three-masted Chinese junk sailing nearby, and he and his sister beg for help from the occupant. They are thrown a line and climb aboard, where they meet the ship's owner, an American who goes by the name, Clive Cussler. His ship is a beautifully appointed, and he offers them gracious hospitality. Dirk and Summer tell Cussler about their situation, and he agrees to help them.

## Chapters 35 and 36 Analysis

The reader is relieved to discover that Summer has not abandoned her brother, but rather disappeared only for the end of the chapter in order to look for a means to save him. The indomitable siblings escape from the cave and steal a boat to get away. Just when they are about to be caught again, they are saved by another character who has made periodic appearances throughout the series. Clive Cussler has written himself into the book as a world-traveling adventurer who bumps into Dirk Pitt (and now Dirk Pitt, Jr.) periodically. This time, he rescues the siblings from certain doom and will be vital to helping them alert the authorities to Kang's evil plot. With Dirk and Summer's escape, the idea of justice is not restored, but its potential is revived.



# Chapter 37

## Chapter 37 Summary

The first chapter of Part Three opens in Long Beach, California. Danny Stamp is in charge of preparing an oceangoing vessel for departure. The vessel is called the *Odyssey*, and it is an offshore oil rig that has been transformed into an ocean based rocket launching structure. Reconfigured for the telecommunications industry, the *Odyssey* is designed to sail from California to the equator, where satellite-dispensing rockets can be launched and sent into orbit with maximum efficiency. Stamp is the one in charge of preparing the vessel for its next excursion, which is to send a rocket into the atmosphere to release a Kang Enterprises telecommunications satellite into orbit. In Korea, Kang is reviewing the last minute plans in his plot, and the reader is given a glimpse into the upcoming action. Kang's men have secretly copied the rocket launching software and plan on taking over the *Odyssey* with the help of the *Baekje*, which has been transformed into another ship, called *Koguryo*. Kang's plot is further revealed to indicate that his satellite is not designed to achieve orbit, but rather to fly over Los Angeles during a summit meeting of G8 leaders.

## Chapter 37 Analysis

Broken up into two parts, this chapter gives the reader the first glimpse of Kang's devious plot, as well as his intended target. Although Kang's motivation is not known yet, this chapter provides enough to inform the reader that the climax is approaching. The audaciousness of Cussler's characters knows no bounds, as the reader learns that Kang is going to use a giant former oilrig to fulfill his plans.



# Chapter 38

## Chapter 38 Summary

This chapter steps out of the narrative and gives a brief history of the G8 summit meetings, which is a 35-year-old conference of major industrialized nations. In the novel, which takes place in 2007, G8 summit leaders are meeting in Los Angeles. Kang plans to send his disease-laden weapon over Los Angeles, and it would trail a deadly vapor of smallpox. Of the potentially 200,000 people that could be infected with the smallpox, a few people would notice immediately and Kang estimates a delayed reaction. Then, hospitals and medical centers would become overrun with people who haven't directly or indirectly contracted the virus, or suspect they have. He expects the CDC to react by providing the health industry with vaccines, but his scientists have created a super-virus that makes the smallpox immune to current medical defenses. Not only that, the super-virus also contains HIV-1 elements which will break down the immune system of the infected over a longer term. Kang expects the outcome to be catastrophic. The health industry cannot provide effective vaccinations to patients, so the economy will grind to a halt, because everyone will become afraid to go to work, and disease will run rampant as bodies pile up. Even the crematoriums will not be able to keep up with the flow of the dead. The effects on America will be so terrible that their attention will be turned from Korean efforts of reunification, which is Kang's ultimate goal.

## Chapter 38 Analysis

After effectively building the action, the author tips the villain's hand for the reader. At first, the plan seems excessively complicated to infect only a few people in one American city, but, by the end of the chapter, it is apparent how wide-ranging Kang's plan will be. This chapter pulls all three themes together. The first theme is the idea of the level of injustice that Kang is going to get away with. The second theme is the audaciousness of his plot. The third theme, and most importantly, is how far Kang is willing to go and how much destruction he's willing to do in order to achieve his personal goal of wealth and influence in a reunited Korea.



# Chapters 39 and 40

## Chapters 39 and 40 Summary

In Korea, the reader joins Dirk Pitt, Jr., Summer, and Clive Cussler on Cussler's Chinese junk. Cussler helps the two out of their handcuffs and gives them money to make a phone call. Not long after that, they are picked up by United States Air Force personnel stationed in Korea and flown back to America. Meanwhile, in California, the command boat that is supposed to launch with the Odyssey experiences a fire in a critical circuit room, delaying its launch. Danny Stamp decides to launch the Odyssey anyway and allow the command vessel to catch up later. The fire inspector inspects the damage, which has destroyed much of the critical wiring, and determines the fire to be the result of a short. However, readers are made aware that a small, well-placed can of napalm with a timer was the real culprit.

## Chapters 39 and 40 Analysis

Dirk and his sister have rested up on the author's boat and are headed back to the states, where the reader can be sure they will return to the conflict. Other pieces of the puzzle are starting to fall into place and questions, such as, how Kang plans on commandeering the rocket from the Odyssey, are answered. Now, the key elements of the plot are known by the reader. It just becomes a matter of time whether the heroes will get to the Odyssey in time to stop the rocket.



# Chapters 41 and 42

## Chapters 41 and 42 Summary

The siblings arrive in the US and brief the authorities on some of the details they know. Specifically, they inform them that the real culprit is Kang, and his motivation is for the reunification of Korea. Japan is just a diversionary tactic. Unfortunately, the bureaucrats admit that their hands are tied, saying there are few links that point back to Kang directly. Dirk and Summer make the suggestion that if they can find the Baekje, then that might be the best link back to Kang. A team of Navy SEALs are dispatched to Korea to investigate the location of the ship. They enter the giant water hangar, but find nothing. The ship is gone.

## Chapters 41 and 42 Analysis

After a brief pause in the action to explain to the reader the basic elements of the upcoming climax, the attention is returned to the primary conflict. Of course, had Kang's ship been in the hangar, the story would have ended quickly, with little excitement. But the reader will know, without having to read Chapter 42, preparations were made several chapters back to transform Kang's ship into a different ship. Injustice continues to be highlighted here, as the threat looms, and the potential of Kang getting away with mass murder may be the result.



# Chapter 43

## Chapter 43 Summary

American authorities are baffled at how the giant ship can just disappear without their knowledge. Dirk Jr. and his sister Summer are at the NUMA headquarters trying to figure out how it could have happened. They meet up with her father and Al Giordino, back from the Philippines. There is a brief, but happy reunion before they turn their attention back to the problem at hand. The possibility is suggested that the ship was reconfigured to trick onlookers. Without knowing how the virus is to be spread in America, the NUMA team and homeland security officials put together a plan to monitor Japanese and Korean ship traffic sailing close to American soil. With the help of the Coast Guard, the Navy, and NUMA, the West Coast of the United States will be protected. The chapter closes with Dirk Pitt, Sr. speaking to Al Giordino about his plan. He has no intention for the two of them to be on a boat searching incoming vessels, but hints that his idea is "much higher."

## Chapter 43 Analysis

Pitt Sr. and his two children are finally back together and plans are in place to protect the American coast. Unfortunately, the reader knows it is not enough. Readers of Cussler will know that Dirk Pitt will use whatever means necessary to get the job done, and his suggestion to Giordino that his solution will take them "much higher" foreshadows the method by which they will travel, and perhaps identify the threat and stop the villain.





# Chapters 44 and 45

## Chapters 44 and 45 Summary

Due to the recent fire on the command ship, Danny Stamp held back many of the engineers to help with the rewiring. The *Odyssey* is grossly understaffed. In spite of that, the *Odyssey* sails out of the harbor and into the ocean toward the equator. Meanwhile, the *Koguryo* sails to intersect with it. The baldheaded assassin from the previous chapters, Tongju, speaks with his second-in-command, Kim. The two men discuss the upcoming takeover of the *Odyssey*. The *Odyssey* is staffed with engineers to get the rocket airborne, but those engineers must leave before the actual take-off, because the rocket fuel envelops the platform with dangerous gas. The actual launch is remotely controlled by the command ship. Tongju plans to take over the launch, prepare the rocket for its altered mission, and then remotely initiate the launch from the *Koguryo*. After the launch is a success, a small group of Kang's closest men will leave the ship and scuttle it. In Chapter 45, the sea launch platform meets up with Kang's ship, who expertly takes over the *Odyssey* without firing a shot. Once commandeered, the sea launching platform is sailed in a new direction to put it at a calculated launch site for maximum impact on Los Angeles. On the way to its new destination, Kang's engineers and scientists transfer the deadly cargo into the rocket and prepare it for release.

## Chapters 44 and 45 Analysis

The action is clearly rising at an exponential level as Kang's plan is falling into place quickly. Most of the details of the plot are known to the reader, so the reader moves from being the unknowing observer who accompanies the protagonists on the cusp of the action, to and now become actively involved in the story as an all-knowing observer who wants to shout the answer to the protagonists. The reader knows that unless someone can get to the launch in time all will be lost against this well planned plot.



# Chapter 46

## Chapter 46 Summary

Skipping from character to character, Chapter 46 updates for the reader some of the key players. In the ocean, preparations are successfully completed, and the rocket is ready to launch its deadly payload. On the mainland, Rudi Gunn directs his NUMA ships to support the Coast Guard and Navy in protecting American soil. Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Summer fly to San Diego, where they join the Deep Endeavor to start patrolling the waters and assisting the Coast Guard. Here, they learn that they can only patrol up to 12 miles out into the ocean and that they will be boarding incoming ships with bomb sniffing dogs. They also find a new, smaller vessel, called the Badger, which is an unusual submersible vehicle designed to drill out core samples but can travel quite quickly through the water.

## Chapter 46 Analysis

Each part of the plot is like a thread, and the third part of the book begins to draw them together. Chapter 46 successfully shows the reader how each one intertwines to help develop the story toward the climax. However, the reader wants to again shout to the protagonists that they are looking in the wrong place for the virus.



# Chapter 47

## Chapter 47 Summary

A problem has arisen in Kang's plan, and Tongju is awoken to solve it. On the Koguryo, Kang's scientists are arguing over an unforeseen weather system that is forcing them to reconsider their calculations. The assassin examines the options and decides that the best plan of action to see the plot carried fulfillment is to move slightly closer to the American coast.

## Chapter 47 Analysis

The rising action is getting intense, and it looks like the villains will be able to pull off this treacherous plan. However, chapter 47 may have been the break the protagonists need to successfully stop the rocket from launching.



# Chapter 48

## Chapter 48 Summary

Dirk Pitt, Sr. and Al Giordino land at LAX and drive to a smaller airport, where a blimp is moored. The blimp is equipped with the latest in high-tech surveillance imagery, and Pitt and Giordino are going to provide air support for the patrol ships in the water. They take off and quickly learn how the blimp responds to their controls. The blimp travels out to sea and begins its surveillance over the large area. Meanwhile, the Odyssey has reached its new position, the recalculated position to adjust for the new weather pattern. The pontoons are flooded to lower the platform farther into the water to increase stability during the rocket launch. Once ready, they continue preparations by erecting the rocket into place and the chapter closes with the command to begin the countdown.

## Chapter 48 Analysis

Cussler fans are always exposed to unusual machines in every book. In this book, it's Dirk and Al's giant blimp, as well as the Badger from a previous chapter. The villains have reached their position and final preparations are made to launch the rocket. The antagonists have not been discovered yet, so the tension continues to rise, as the reader is forced to ask whether the rocket will be discovered and disarmed in time. This blimp is one of the ways that the protagonists will match audacity with audacity. The villain is attacking America with a rocket-launching oil rig, and America's best hope is two men in a helium-filled blimp.



# Chapters 49 and 50

## Chapters 49 and 50 Summary

On the ocean, the Pitt siblings help to inspect inbound ships, but the search seems futile and tedious. Above the ocean, Pitt Sr. spots several ships in their surveillance system. One is moving, and two are stationary. They investigate the two stationary objects. On the launching platform, Kang's team has finished preparing the launch, and the countdown has started. With just over three hours to go, the team begins evacuation of the platform. Pitt's blimp identifies the Odyssey and knows they are not supposed to be there. He radios the platform and gets a curt response that they are conducting systems tests. The blimp turns away.

## Chapters 49 and 50 Analysis

The tension is nearly at the breaking point, as the rocket is so close to firing, and the American patrols are still looking in the wrong place. At first, the tension seems like it might break when Dirk and Al stumble onto the platform, but they seem to be tricked and turn away. All hope seems lost.



# Chapter 51

## Chapter 51 Summary

The Deep Endeavor, finished inspecting one inbound ship, decides to go observe the platform. Three miles away, the Coast Guard vessel Narwhal approaches the platform to inspect it and notices the giant numbers on the countdown clock. It tries to radio the platform, but there is no response. Then the reader listens in on a call to the Sea Launch Director of Information in California from the Coast Guard central dispatch. The Coast Guard asks for the location of the Odyssey, and the Sea Launch Director responds that the Odyssey should be headed to the equator, confirming that it is not where it is supposed to be. Back on the Narwhal, finding no response from the platform, the Coast Guard ship moves to the Koguryo and repeats its call. Suddenly, the Japanese ship fires at the Coast Guard ship, destroying it.

## Chapter 51 Analysis

It seems like the jig is up for the antagonists, who have now been discovered. However, the platform is non-responsive, and the Koguryo appears to be well armed. As well, Kang's willingness to destroy an armed Coast Guard vessel shows how much destruction, he is willing to do in order to advance his own desires. The countdown is on, and there's not much time to do anything.



# Chapter 52

## Chapter 52 Summary

On the nearby Deep Endeavor, the destruction of the Narwhal is witnessed by Dirk Pitt, Jr., who recognizes the transformed Baekje. Unfortunately, there's not much the NUMA ship can do, because it is an unarmed research vessel. Tongju, who is still on the Odyssey platform, has observed the destruction then turns his attention to the last minute details of the devious plot. He has the prisoners transferred to a nearby shed, so that they will be killed from the rocket's blasting off. Then, he goes into the control room and destroys the key computer components so that anyone who may end up on the platform prior to the launch will not be able to stop it. The countdown clock shows only about an hour to go. Back on the Deep Endeavor, Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Jack Dahlgren climb aboard the Badger and ride the unusual submersible vessel toward the sea launch platform.

## Chapter 52 Analysis

The assassin seems to be prepared for any kind of heroics, as he destroys the computers, ensuring the launch is inevitable, and again shows himself to be truly evil as he prepares the Odyssey's engineers to die at the launch. Pitt and Dahlgren race to the platform, and the reader knows that the real action is about to start. In fact, one might say that this is the beginning of the climax, and in the next few chapters, the rising action will reach its height. Once again, the villain's audacity is highlighted by having the innocent Odyssey engineers doomed to a terrible, torturous death inside a shed, while Dirk Pitt, Jr.'s audacity is highlighted, as he rushes toward danger unarmed and outmanned.



# Chapter 53

## Chapter 53 Summary

Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Jack Dahlgren raced to the sea launch platform in the submersible, The Badger. It reemerges under the Odyssey, and the two men get out, tie the submersible to the platform, and climb up the ladder. They observe Kang's team herding the sea launch engineers into a shed and locking them in, where they will die when the rocket goes off. They arm themselves with tools and split up. Jack hides inside a motorized platform and drives it toward a couple of the guards. The guards inspect the moving platform, and Dahlgren attacks with his ranch, knocking one out. He is just about to be attacked by another guard, when that guard is dropped by Dirk. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, the bald assassin stands before Dirk and Jack with a machine gun.

## Chapter 53 Analysis

The action has begun. This is the moment the book has been building up for. All the pieces to this point have created a sense of rising tension drawing the reader to wonder first what is happening, and then how to stop it. With a countdown clock ticking nearby, the protagonists are finally taking action to stop the plan that has been unfolding throughout the book. This is by no means the end of the climax, just the beginning, and there is more rising action yet to come, but the heroes are finally turning the tables and being proactive rather than reactive. In spite of their proactive efforts, the skilled assassin Tongju reappears and threatens the protagonists' attempt.





# Chapter 54

## Chapter 54 Summary

Freshly captured, Dirk and Jack are tied to the platform, and Tongju tells them that even if someone helps them escape, the launch will proceed as planned, because it cannot be stopped. Then Kang's team leaves the platform, get into their boat, and head to the Koguryo. The countdown clock reads only 26 minutes left before takeoff. Unfortunately, Dirk and Jack cannot free themselves from the restraints, and things look bleak. Meanwhile, in the blimp, Dirk Pitt, Sr. and Al Giordino spots the Badger tied up under the Odyssey, and the Koguryo distancing itself from the platform. Suddenly, they see Dirk Pitt Jr. and Jack tied to the tower, so they move in to rescue them.

## Chapter 54 Analysis

Tongju gets the upper hand, only momentarily, but the tension is raised when the reader learns the launch cannot be stopped. It is raised even more with the discovery that there are only 26 minutes before takeoff. Will Dirk Pitt Sr. and be able to save his son in time?



# Chapters 55 and 56

## Chapters 55 and 56 Summary

On Kang's ship, the engineers go over the readings, and everything looks like the launch will proceed as planned. On the platform, Dirk Pitt, Sr. unties his son, and Jack and they go to work to try to stop the launch and save the prisoners. The shed door must be broken off, so Pitt uses the small, motorized platform that Jack had driven earlier to break open the door, and the crew is saved. Pitt and the captain of the Odyssey try to stop the launch, but discover that Kang's team has destroyed the computers, making that impossible. Everyone, but Dirk Pitt, Sr., squeezes into the gondola, and the blimp takes off. Packed with more people than it was designed for, they make a harried escape. With Al Giordino at the controls, they manage to fly without crashing into the water. The chapter closes with Dirk Pitt, Jr. observing that there are only about 10 minutes before the rocket launch.

## Chapters 55 and 56 Analysis

Just when it looks like the protagonists are going to get the upper hand, the captain of the Odyssey confirms that the launch cannot be stopped. Suddenly, it looks like the antagonists may win this one and bring America to its knees. In classic Dirk Pitt form, the hero will make a last ditch effort to save humanity.



# Chapter 57

## Chapter 57 Summary

Aboard the Koguryo, Kang's team observes the escape of the Odyssey's engineers, but they are focused on the success of the launch. While preparing for the launch, they completely miss the person who is still on the platform. Dirk Pitt climbs down the platform and gets into The Badger. He aims the submersible, which was designed to drill core samples, at a rear support column and drives the core probe into the column. He reverses and surges forward again, driving the probe into the column again. Again and again, he does this, creating several holes, allowing water to get into the support tanks. The platform begins to tilt, and although the Odyssey's computers accommodate for some tilting, the computers cannot accommodate so much tilting. Inside the submersible, Dirk takes a beating, as the submersible is broken apart slowly with every strike.

## Chapter 57 Analysis

Out of time, and with no other option, a good hero in a good climax should throw caution to the wind and risk personal safety for success. Dirk Pitt does that time and time again, and this time is no different. In fact, his action is the complete opposite of Kang's. In a sense, the theme is reversed for the moment. While Kang is willing to commit terrible destruction for personal gain, Pitt is willing to commit destruction and personal loss to save humanity. Even though his selfless action is the opposite of Kang's action, they share one characteristic, audacity. The reader may not have immediately thought of this option as a way to stop Kang's plan, but the audacious and larger-than-life Pitt risks life and limb to cause enough havoc to stop Kang's larger than life plan.



# Chapter 58

## Chapter 58 Summary

Aboard Kang's ship, they noticed that the platform is tilting, but do not feel it is tilting enough to be concerned. In fact, the platform is only tilted  $3^\circ$ , and the rocket can handle a  $5^\circ$  differential and still be successful. In the Badger, Dirks aggressive solution is seriously damaging the submersible, and Dirk risks drowning and electrocution, while he continues his assault. Meanwhile, on the platform the rocket engines fire, and the rocket takes off. The blast from the rocket engines nearly tears the Badger apart and increases the temperature to dangerously high levels.

## Chapter 58 Analysis

Again, the climax comes down to the time factor. Will Dirk's plan be successful in time to stop the rocket from deploying its payload over Los Angeles? Suddenly, the rocket takes off but the reader does not have to wonder if Dirk was successful, as a glimpse into the Koguryo tells the reader that the tilt deviation was over  $15^\circ$ ! So the reader is pretty sure that Dirk is successful; but will he live through the devastating heat that burns the Badger?



# Chapters 59 and 60

## Chapters 59 and 60 Summary

In the Badger, Dirk feels like he is cooking alive. Then, the chapter skips to a nearby island, where the Odyssey engineers are watching the rocket takeoff. One of them notices that the rocket begins to oscillate beyond the norm. In Kang's ship, the engineers also observe the excess oscillation and discover that the rocket deviating  $16^\circ$  before it was launched. Following the rocket, the reader learns that Dirk's successful attempt to tilt the platform, along with the villains' hastiness in only partially filling the fuel tank has left the rocket over compensating the wobble before breaking apart and falling into the ocean.

## Chapters 59 and 60 Analysis

The reader can only hold their breath and keep reading in order to learn if Dirk's plan is successful and to see if Dirk lives. Fortunately, the first concern is answered right away, when the reader reads of the rocket's destruction. They will have to wait for an answer to the second question.



# Chapter 61

## Chapter 61 Summary

In Korea, Kang tries to make the best of a bad situation by determining that well-placed media leaks will still be able to ensure American anger against Japan in order to turn focus away from Korea. On the Koguryo, the assassin and some of his closest soldiers prepare to make their escape from the ship, which they plan to sink. Before they scuttle the ship, they instruct the unknowing captain to destroy the blimp, which is returning to the platform. Dirk Pitt, Jr., Al Giordino, and Jack Dahlgren have returned to the Odyssey to save Dirk Pitt, Sr. Before Kang's ship gets a chance to destroy the blimp, Air National Guard fighter jets suddenly appear and make them change their mind. The men in the blimp spot the Badger, and they land on the platform to pick up a weary and wounded Dirk Pitt, Sr. They decide to chase after the small getaway boat, carrying Tongju and a handful of his cronies.

## Chapter 61 Analysis

The reader will be relieved to hear that Dirk Pitt, Sr. lived through his ordeal, but now it looks like the villains are going to get away. Although most of the tension has abated, a sense of justice has still not been realized, drawing the reader to continue reading to discover the justice.



# Chapter 62

## Chapter 62 Summary

Although the assassin on the getaway boat does not know it, the people remaining on the Koguryo observed the betrayal. Because of it, they chose not to fire on the fighter jets. The bombs set by the assassin meant to sink the ship were ineffective, because the ship was double hulled so the bombs that went off and penetrated one hull but not both. Meanwhile, the blimp chases the small getaway boat, which is headed for Mexico. Although gigantic in size, the blimp is much faster, and they quickly catch up. Tongju and his commandos fire on the blimp, but their shots are ineffective, because a blimp can actually withstand many holes. Then, the commandos turn their gunfire on the gondola, and its engines, which are nearly destroyed. In fact, one engine begins to fail, but Dirk Pitt has a plan. He instructs Al to fly over the boat, and he unloads the fuel ballast onto the boat and follows it with a lit cigar. The boat erupts in flames, and when the flames strike barrels of spare gasoline, the boat explodes.

## Chapter 62 Analysis

The protagonists have been successful in stopping the destruction of human kind and are now on a quest for justice. An exciting chase between a boat and a giant blimp is classic Cussler, involving unique vehicles in the climax. The sense of justice is attained not only because of their success, but because of the grim death of the assassin.



# Chapter 63

## Chapter 63 Summary

This chapter begins with a brief update for the reader of the U.S. Navy taking the Koguryo crew into custody. Kang's attempt to salvage his plan by creating well-placed media leaks to blame the Japanese is successful, and the Korean vote for the removal of US troops is lost in the news. NUMA quickly and successfully finds the wreckage of the rocket and determines that the super-virus is not unleashed. Dirk Pitt, Jr. is not completely satisfied because Kang still lives.

## Chapter 63 Analysis

This chapter is written to tie-up the loose ends that have been left dangling: the fate of the crew of the Koguryo, as well as whether or not the super-virus was released into the ocean. It finishes with Al Giordino asking Dirk Pitt, Sr. if his children are surfing, and Pitt doesn't say, but his thoughts reveal that now is not the time for surfing. Readers looking for a sense of justice can probably answer that question now, but will likely turn the page to see how the next chapter unfolds.





# Chapters 64 and 65

## Chapters 64 and 65 Summary

Dirk Pitt Jr. and Summer are on a government jet headed to Korea in order to provide the military with intelligence on Kang's defenses at his mansion. Dirk insists that he accompany the special ops team, and they grudgingly agree, although Summer does not join them. Although he is supposed to be unarmed, the commander of the team secretly slips him a gun and a bulletproof vest, just in case. The seal teams attack. Amidst the gunfire, Dirk notices that the yacht is beginning to sail away from the dock, and he jumps in after it with the commander of the seal team. The two of them search through the yacht and engage in gunfire with the heavily armed security guards. They are separated, and after several close calls, the SEAL team commander ends up in the bridge where a guard, the captain of the yacht, and Kang are standing. The guard shoots at the SEAL team commander, and the commander shoots back, killing him, but taking a few bullets himself. One of those bullets damages his gun. Seeing that the commander's gun is now useless, the captain of the yacht grapples the commander to the floor in a deadly bear hug that almost kills him, but the commander uses his gun like a club and knocks out the captain. Kang steps up with a pistol and is just about to shoot the commander, who is still trapped under the captain. There is a shot, but it is not from Kang, it is from Dirk Pitt, Jr. He shoots the gun out of Kang's hand, then shoots Kang in each knee, sending him to the floor. Then, Dirk and the commander jump off the yacht and watch as it sails at top speed into a large boat that is also on the river. The yacht is blown apart and completely destroyed. Dirk jokingly says to the commander that Kang was killed in a boating accident.

## Chapters 64 and 65 Analysis

It is now the end of the climax, and not only has the villain's plot been foiled, but a sense of justice has been attained and the last person, the kingpin, has received his "just desserts." Even though it is the end of the climax, there are still a few loose ends to tie up. In fact, the story would not be complete without the next two chapters.



# Chapters 66 and 67

## Chapters 66 and 67 Summary

Chapter 66 steps outside of the narrative for a moment and gives a bird's eye view of the aftermath that immediately followed Kang's death. The assistants are captured, incriminating evidence is found, and the evil scientists who created the super-virus go to jail for a long time. The super-virus is analyzed and then destroyed. Kang's ties to North Korea are exposed, and the motion by the South Korean government to remove American troops is voted down, so the troops will stay. The Air Force sergeant Keith Catana, who was framed earlier in the book by the assassin, is released from prison. In Washington, NUMA receives special funding to replace the damaged equipment and to acquire a blimp. Chapter 67 returns to the narrative with Dirk Pitt, Jr. reuniting with Sarah, who is healing up from her broken leg. The two get into his partially repaired car and drive off into the sunset.

## Chapters 66 and 67 Analysis

Although a sense of justice was achieved in previous chapters as the climax was brought to a close, not all of the loose ends were tied up nicely. For example, the reader might still want to know what happened to the rest of Kang's plan to reunite Korea, or what happened to the super-virus. This portion of the story would be incomplete with a returning momentarily to the story to see the hero and his girl drive off into the sunset.



# Characters

## Dirk Pitt, Sr.

Dirk Pitt is the hero of a couple dozen Clive Cussler novels. In this book, he is the newly promoted Director of NUMA and has married a congresswoman with whom he has had a relationship over several novels. He is described in *Black Wind* from the point of view of a Filipino government employee, who meets him for the first time. From the Filipino's point of view, Dirk is "nearly a foot taller than his own five-foot-four frame, the NUMA chief carried a tan, lean, muscular body that showed few indications of having spent much time behind a desk... The face was weathered and the ebony hair showed tinges of gray at the temples, but the opaline green eyes sparkled with life. They were eyes that had absorbed much in their day... reflecting an assorted mix of intelligence, mirth, and tenacity." Chapter 12, Page 106 - 107.

In *Black Wind*, Pitt is barely mentioned in the first two parts of the book, appearing occasionally from a boat in the Philippines, where he tries to solve an underwater arsenic leak.

Pitt figures much more in the third section of the book, taking a major role in the action. He and his sidekick, Al, are the first to discover the platform. Then, Pitt saves his son and the crew of the *Odyssey*. Then, risking his own life to spare the lives of the others, he selflessly sends them from the *Odyssey* while he gets into *The Badger* and performs a near-suicidal act of ramming the platform with the drilling core. In spite of the abuse his body takes, he does it to save the world. Even when that's over, he is not done. He gets back on the blimp and chases Tongju down and destroys the getaway boat. These actions show the tenacity Cussler mentions, as well as his ingenuity and selflessness.

The other thing that makes Dirk Pitt who he is, is the constant joke-cracking even during the direst of circumstances. These wisecracks are a character trait he shares with his son.

## Dirk Pitt, Jr.

Described as a spitting image of his father, Dirk Pitt, Jr. is like him in more ways than just appearance. Working for NUMA in the same role his father held until recently, Dirk Pitt, Jr. plays the role normally played by his father in previous books in the series, that of the initial just-in-time savior to a disaster that initiates the book's main conflict.

Like his father, he runs toward danger and is always able to do it with a quick wit and ingenuity. When he and Sarah were chased by the gunmen, he managed to crack a joke about having already shaved that day when a bullet grazed his cheek.

Pitt, like his father, is in the thick of every moment of action in the book and usually one of the primary movers to solve it, with a little help from those around them. In *Black*



*Wind*, Dirk Pitt Jr. drove the submersible into the I-411 and got it stuck and was only able to get out with the help of his sister.

In the three movements of the climax, Dirk Pitt, Sr. took care of the rocket and the escaping assassin, but Dirk Pitt, Jr. flew to Korea to face off with Kang. Although he was not supposed to be armed, he procured a gun and a bulletproof vest and ended up in a face-off with Kang himself.

Pitt's selflessness is similar to his father's as well. In both men they adopt the classic hero's "save yourselves" attitude. In this novel, Pitt told his sister to save herself when they were near to drowning in Kang's cave.

## Dae-jong Kang

Kang has a complicated past, and he has complicated plans. With ties to North Korea, he operated in his younger years as an operative for them, but soon became a wealthy and influential businessman in South Korea.

Kang's goal is to see North Korea take over South Korea, and he can become even more wealthy and influential. To achieve this goal, he spends a lot of resources on disparaging the American troops who are stationed in South Korea, while creating a political diversion in Japan to create a larger focus on the Japanese situation. Then, he has his scientists create a super-virus to literally destroy the American way of life. The virus would be blamed on the Japanese, and no one would notice that the American military is pulled out of South Korea. When they're gone, the North Koreans can sweep in.

Kang's complicated plot is made possible with his vast wealth and influence, which he has from several ventures, including shipping and telecommunications. His opulent yacht and cliff-side mansion show his taste for nice things, which is part of what drives him to do evil.

Kang is ruthless. He seems to draw perverse pleasure out of watching two politicians squirm, as a third is plucked out of his seat and thrown over a cliff, and he choreographs several assassinations in order to achieve his end.

Ultimately, although he is perversely twisted, Kang is primarily greedy. Even when his rocket fails he is already adjusting his plans to see that the Japanese are still blamed in order to continue moving ahead with the reunification of Korea.

## Tongju

Tongju appears in several scenes before he gets a name. He is bald and has a distinctive Fu Manchu mustache. Acting as a Japanese Red Army terrorist, he



assassinates politicians and businessmen skillfully with a variety of weapons and in a variety of venues. He seems to be equally adept at a long range rifle, a pistol with silencer, and even a blowgun. He is also able to blend in with the crowd, as he finishes a golf game after his first appearance in the novel.

Toward the end of the book, he was influential in seeing the rocket launch preparations, and he planned to make his escape to Mexico on a small boat. However, Pitt caught up to him and killed him in a fiery explosion.

## Summer Pitt

Summer Pitt is the beautiful and voluptuous daughter of Dirk Pitt, Sr. Like her brother; she is actively involved in NUMA's underwater exploration. At points in the book, she acts as a sidekick, helping her brother get out of trouble. For example, when they are trapped in the submersible stuck inside the I-411, her expert use of the mechanical arm helps extricate them. When they are chained inside Kang's cave and about to drown, it was she who saved her brother. As a sidekick, though, she does not play a primary role in resolving the main conflict and seemed to disappear during the climax.

## Al Giordino

Al Giordino plays the role of Dirk Pitt's cigar-smoking, wise-cracking sidekick. He is described as a short, stocky Italian, who is able to sleep on demand and drive nearly anything. In *Black Wind* he expertly drives the blimp, delivering Dirk Pitt, Sr. to the platform, saving the trapped engineers, and chasing down the getaway boat with Tongju on it.

## Jack Dahlgren

Jack Dahlgren is to Dirk Pitt, Jr., what Al Giordino is to Dirk Pitt, Sr. Dahlgren is also a wisecracking sidekick, who can expertly drive vehicles and delivers Dirk to the action. At the beginning of the book, Dahlgren flew the helicopter that he and Pitt used to investigate the first appearance of cyanide poisoning that was being tested by Kang along the Aleutian islands. Although he shares the sidekick spotlight with Pitt's sister, Dahlgren holds his own in the climax when he and Pitt board the platform in an effort to save the engineers and stop the launch. Although their attempt fails, he proves himself to be a worthy hero's sidekick by racing into the action.

## Sarah Matson

Sarah Matson is a beautiful scientist with the CDC. At the beginning of the novel, she is nearly killed by the toxic fumes of Kang's cyanide test. Dirk Pitt, Jr. rescues her, and they begin a romance that is filled with adventure. Aside from being a beautiful love interest to one of the heroes, Sarah's character also provides vital clues to move the



story forward. For example, since she is a scientist, her connections with the CDC allow her have expert laboratories identify the diseases that are mysteriously appearing, as well she provides a clue to the vital link that helps Pitt identify the Japanese sub. When she and Pitt are out for dinner, she tells him about cases in recent American history of cyanide poisoning and Dirk's subsequent investigation leads him and Perlmutter to identify the I-403 as a potential source for the cyanide.

## St. Julien Perlmutter

Perlmutter is one of the world's leading maritime historians. He lives in a converted carriage house and appears in the book to provide important clues to Dirk Pitt. Living well, as evidenced by his 400 pounds of weight and Santa Claus-like beard, he seems to spend his time eating rich foods, drinking fine wine and living in his robe. His home is filled with maritime history books that seem to be strewn in piles everywhere, but he knows exactly where information can be found. He is able to quickly identify the I-403 and its mysterious payload of "Makaze," which leads Dirk Pitt, Jr. to the wreck and to the rest of the adventure.

## Hiram Yaeger

Hiram Yaeger is a denim-clad computer expert, who works for NUMA. He has developed his advanced computer to generate an image of his beautiful wife as an interface so that he and Dirk Pitt simply talk to the image when they want to retrieve information. The image, like many characters in the book, is smart-alecky and joke-cracking and seems to have a personality of its own. Hiram's computer skills allow his computer to access a huge supply of information that leads Dirk Pitt from the I-403 to the I-411, which is the link needed to introduce the main character to Kang. Unless the role was filled by someone else, if Hiram was missing in the book, Kang's evil plot would have been fulfilled.

## Clive Cussler

Writing himself into the book, Cussler makes an appearance in Korea while sailing on a Chinese Junk he owns. His appearance is brief, and he is described exactly as he appears on the back cover, with unruly white hair and a goatee, and twinkling eyes filled with mischief. Cussler's appearance in the book is almost an inside joke or a mischievous wink to his readers. In *Black Wind*, Cussler plays an active role in the story, saving Dirk Pitt, Sr. and Summer from the Han River when they are pursued by Kang's henchmen after escaping the cave. Cussler provides them with food and clothes and money to call the authorities. Then, he disappears from the book.



## Objects/Places

### WWII Japanese Submarine: I-40

This was the first sub in the book, and it carried the virus that would be acquired fifty years later for Kang to plot his destruction of the US. An American vessel sank the sub during wartime.

### WWII Japanese Submarine: I-411

The protagonists thought they were successful at stopping Kang, because they found the viruses in I-403, but then the I-411 was discovered to still have some. Without this second payload, the plot would have been foiled early on.

### Submersible

A two person vessel is used by Dirk and Summer to retrieve the canisters from the I-411. They have a harrowing brush with death in it, but escape because of their ingenuity. When they surface with some of the canisters, they are greeted by Kang's henchmen, who instruct them to return to the I-411 to acquire the last two canisters of virus. When they come up for the last time, Summer distracts the villains momentarily, while Dirk uses an arm on the submersible to unlock an escape hatch so that his trapped colleagues can escape from drowning.

### Canisters

Porcelain containers were used in the Japanese subs to transport the virus. Even after fifty years on the ocean floor, the porcelain allowed many of the virus samples to remain alive and undisturbed. If the canisters had been metal, they would have become corroded, but their porcelain make-up allowed them to exist unscathed.

### Baekje/Koguryo

This was a ship owned by Kang Enterprises. As the Baekje, it was a cable-laying ship that was leased out to another company, before it was used by Kang to follow the Sea Rover, acquire the canisters of the virus, and kidnap Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Summer. Then, it disappeared, since it was the only link that could have stopped Kang before he put his plan into action by linking him to the plot. When it reappeared as the Koguryo, it was used as the remote launch command vessel for Kang's henchmen to launch the rocket.



## Chimera

This super-virus is named Chimera after a mythological animal that is part lion, part goat and part serpent. It is a potent mixture of smallpox and HIV-1 meant to infect Americans, spread quickly, and be impossible to neutralize with current smallpox vaccines available. Over time, this virus would cause widespread death, which would lead to additional death, as well as fears of going in public and that would grind the economy to a halt and bring America to its knees. When the rocket is found after it crashes in the water, the super-virus is removed and every sample is destroyed.

## Chinese Junk

While many Chinese Junks are casually mentioned in the book, there is one that plays a significant role. This Chinese Junk is a three masted boat that has been transformed into a well-appointed floating home for Clive Cussler, who saves Dirk Pitt, Jr. and Summer, who are being chased by Kang's security forces. Cussler hides them on his ship and helps them to shore to contact authorities. Without the Junk and Cussler's intervention, the Pitt siblings may not have alerted the authorities in time.

## The Odyssey

The Odyssey is a sea launch platform that was once an offshore oil-drilling rig but had been transformed into a commercial rocket-launching platform with the addition of giant pontoons. Rockets launch into orbit most efficiently from the equator, so the Odyssey would load its cargo in California and sail with a command vessel to the equator. The rocket would be set-up, and the engineers would have to evacuate the launch and remotely fire the rocket from the command vessel, since the rocket would fill the platform with deadly gas as it blasted off.

## The Badger

The Badger is described as a bullet-shaped earthworm with propulsion units jutting out the side and a giant coring tool sticking out the front. It is a prototype vessel meant to help scientists drill core samples quickly, but its rapid movement and coring tool prove useful when Dirk Pitt, Sr. has to punch holes in the pontoons of the Odyssey to tilt it.

## The Icarus

The Icarus is a giant helium-filled blimp with a gondola underneath. Al Giordino and Dirk Pitt Sr. use this to watch for incoming Japanese or Korean ships, but they also spot the Odyssey and identify the threat. The blimp is used to drop Pitt off to rescue his son, it's used to get the engineers off of the platform, then it's used to chase down the getaway





boat and kill Tongju the assassin. Helium-filled blimps can still function even though they are riddled with bullet holes, and this one proves that.

## **Kang's Benetti Yacht**

The reader is first introduced to the decadent 55-meter yacht in the first chapter of Part Two as it carries three politicians to Kang's mansion. After the reader is introduced to Kang's history and personality, the yacht carries only two living politicians away. The yacht receives little use for most of the remainder of the book, until the very end when Dirk Pitt, Jr. jumps aboard, along with a SEAL commander and the two face off against the crew, and eventually Kang himself. When Kang is wounded, Pitt and the commander jump off the yacht, and it strikes another ship and blows apart.

## **1958 Chrysler 300-D convertible**

Less than 200 of these convertibles were ever made in 1958. Dirk Pitt, Jr. knew this when he bid on it at an auction early in the book. Later, he takes Sarah out for a drive in it and is attacked by two gunmen in a Cadillac. They do some serious damage to the car, nearly destroying it before Dirk and Sarah can get away. It is only from Dirk's quick driving that they successfully evade death and finally make it to the dock, where the ferry is just about to leave. Squeezing the last ounce of power from the almost-destroyed engine, Dirk jumps over the expanse of water and crashes on the deck of the ferry. At the end of the book, this car makes a reappearance when Dirk picks up Sarah, and the book closes as they head off together in the partially restored car.



# Themes

## Destruction for Personal Gain

Destruction for Personal Gain is the main theme in *Black Wind*. Calling it greed would be too simplistic, since it is greed at the expense of many others. Kang goes to extreme lengths to see his own personal desire of wealth and the success of a conquering North Korea.

For example, the reader is introduced to the level he is willing to go when the virus is tested on animals and innocent people on the nearly uninhabited Aleutian Islands. Then, the reader learns about assassinations of the key leaders to wound American/Japanese relations. Then, a thirteen-year-old girl is savagely murdered, and an American serviceman is framed. In each case, the deaths mount up and seem to be more extreme than the next. At Kang's house, as the reader is discovering who is behind it all, a politician is thrown over a cliff in a grim scene. The crew of *Deep Endeavor* is locked into a storage room to drown. Then, Dirk and his sister are chained to a cave to drown.

In each case, each death is meant to move his evil plot forward slightly. It will wound American/Japanese relations, wound American/South Korean relations, and acquire and test his virus. But these few deaths do not compare in quantity and horror to the mass slaughter he has planned once his super-virus is unleashed over the US.

His desire for wealth and power is so great that it can be called greed. He does it at a cost so great, it must be called something else: Destruction for Personal Gain.

## Audacity

Audacity is a theme shared by both hero and villain and is what makes the story difficult to put down. After all, part of the novel's excitement is the complexity of the villain's plan. It is arguable that in real life there are probably easier, cheaper, and deadlier means of wreaking mass chaos on a nation than to steal 50 year-old viruses from a sunken submarine, turn it into a super-virus and plant it on a rocket that is due to go off, then steal the rocket and the platform to change the trajectory. All of this is done to focus attention away from the reunification of North and South Korea.

In exciting adventure novels, and especially Cussler novels like *Black Wind*, the villain doesn't take the easy route to accomplish his goals. He chooses the most complex scheme he can, in order to wreak shocking chaos and mayhem on millions of innocent people. On top of his plan, the villain is also audaciously wealthy and opulent in his lifestyle and audaciously focused in using all of his resources to achieve his purposes.

Similarly, the heroes (because this book has two: Dirk Pitt, Sr. and Dirk Pitt, Jr.), are equally as audacious; Dirk Pitt Jr.'s exciting car chase from the gunmen ended with an



over-the-top jump off of a dock onto the edge of a ferry. Dirk Pitt Sr. managed to use a new type of submersible to alter the trajectory of the rocket, then a giant blimp to stop the assassin from escaping, and he did it all with a quick wit. In fact, both Dirks seem to run toward danger and remain nearly invulnerable to the hail of flying bullets around them

## Justice

A novel achieves a sense of balance and justice when the villain is stopped. If the novel is a scale, with justice on one side and injustice on the other, each chapter piles villainous act after villainous act on the injustice side of the scale, making the reader hate Kang and his cronies.

This sense of justice (or injustice) builds through the book as the action rises, but the climax does not successfully end the problem and restore equilibrium. In *Black Wind*, the exciting scene on the platform ends the primary conflict in the book of trying to save America from a greedy and villainous Korean businessman, but it does not end the book. In fact, there are two other mini-climaxes within the greater climax as Tongju is killed, then Kang is killed. In both cases, justice would not be restored if they were left to escape. Justice would feel inadequate if they were simply captured and incarcerated.

Even readers, who may not agree with capital punishment as a means of punishment, may still find *Black Wind* an exciting and satisfying read, because the sense of justice is restored at the end when the supremely evil villain is killed in a fiery crash.



# Style

## Point of View

The story bounces between limited third person and omniscient third person. Cussler effectively uses both.

At times, he pulls back from the action and acts as an all-seeing, all-knowing narrator to provide historical information or a bird's eye view of something. This is usually done outside of the narrative (almost as if a narrator were reading in a voiceover), but he effectively ties it to the story by mentioning a character in some way. Other times he pushes in close to the action but continues his omniscient third person narration by telling the reader what a character is thinking or feeling.

Often, and especially for increased dramatic effect in climaxes, Cussler acts as a limited third person narrator, not sharing the thoughts of a person.

For example, when Summer tries to free her brother from drowning in the cave, the chapter closes with Dirk Pitt, Jr. telling her to save herself. She disappears, and the limited narrator does not tell the reader why, allowing the reader to assume she did. However, the next chapter opens with a scene of Summer swimming underwater, looking for a way to save her brother. The omniscient third person narrator shares her thoughts with the reader.

## Setting

Like most Dirk Pitt novels, the story opens in a historical setting. This time, the introduction takes place in a World War Two Japanese Imperial submarine. The scene is set when it sinks and the story jumps forward a half a century and opens May 22, 2007. Some chapters are dated, and the last provided, in Chapter 66, is July 1, 2007.

The effective use of the "near future" allows the author to keep the book out of the realm of science fiction but keeps it just ahead of current times. He likely does this for two reasons. First, the book's first release does not let it become old news, so it allows the reader to think, "that could happen!" Second, it gives a couple years of leeway so that the author can introduce new technology and people (for example, like a fictional President) without disrupting the story. So, the main story is both far enough into the future and near enough to the present to be plausible.

Like all Dirk Pitt adventures, the story has to do with the water in some way, because both the author and the main character are closely related to NUMA. (In real life, Cussler founded NUMA, the agency he writes about in his stories). This story starts on the water and ends on the water. Even though there are many times the heroes are on



land, their strength lies in their knowledge of the water and their familiarity with water and sea vessels.

Lastly, this novel takes place over a wide range of locales, giving it an international flavor. The historical introduction opens in Japan, then takes the reader to the West Coast of North America. The modern day story starts in the Aleutian Islands, and the heroes hop all over the states, to the Philippines, and to Korea. The reader is also given a glimpse of events going on in Japan as well, during the assassinations. So primarily, the story is focused around the Pacific Rim and countries around that perimeter.

## Language and Meaning

Cussler is easy to read. He uses a combination of dialogue and the omniscient third person to explain difficult concepts to the reader. For example, during an omniscient third person description of the super-virus, Cussler is able to explain what it is, and how bad it can get without become technical or medical in his descriptions. While people may talk in shorter sentences in real life, Cussler's characters are often able to explain a concept for the reader by simply giving another sentence or two in their dialogue.

Cussler is very good at describing things and a scene with maritime scholar Perlmutter, for example, can be a brief paragraph but can easily show how he lives a life of ease and pleasure by talking about his thick carpets, his silk robe, his fine wine, and his rich foods. One of the challenges that Cussler may face when writing a book is to keep the action-packed climax exciting without filling it with distracting descriptions. During action sequences, sentences tend to be shorter, and the third person narrator is generally limited.

## Structure

The book is divided into three parts, although an introduction and two summary chapters fall outside of those parts. The introduction takes the reader a half a century to the origin of the key object to be used in the book.

The first part of the book, *Air of Death*, sets the stage for the novel, creating a lot of questions for the reader about the use of chemical weapons, about the purpose of the assassinations, about the framing of the American serviceman in Korea. In fact, no questions are answered, but more just keep cropping up.

The second part of the book, *Chimera*, answers only the question of "whom?" but asks many more. By the end of Part Two, the Pitt siblings have learned some of Kang's plan, are nearly killed, but escape on Cussler's boat. The tension rises, because no one knows exactly how the plot will play out, but simply that it will.



The third part of the book, *Sea Launch*, quickly answers the questions asked in the first two parts, but those answers do not abate the tension. Instead, the drama is transferred to another looming question, "Will the launch be stopped in time?"

The last two chapters tie-up the story by providing a bird's eye view of the results of foiling Kang's plot, and a close-up view of Dirk Pitt, Jr. and his new love, Sarah, driving off together.



## Quotes

"If I may ask, sir, what exactly is Dr. Tanaka's cargo?' Ogaway inquired. Horinouchi gazed forlornly across the bay for several seconds. 'Makaze,' he finally muttered quietly. 'an evil wind.'" Introduction, page 6.

"For Sarah, time seemed to slow as her senses became dulled. Sluggishly, she dropped to the ground as her muscles weakened and refused to obey the commands sent by her brain. Her lungs seemed to constrict themselves, making each breath a painful stab of agony. A thumping noise began to ring through her ears as she fell prone on her back and stared blurry-eyed at the gray sky above. She felt the blades of grass dance and rustle against her body, but she was frozen, unable to move.

Gradually, a fog enveloped her mind and a field of blackness began to encroach the edges of her vision. But a sudden intrusion jarred her senses momentarily. Into the sea of gray popped an apparition, a strange ghost with a tuft of black hair over a rubbery face that seemed to melt away like plastic. She felt the alien gaze upon her with frightening giant, three-inch-wide crystal eyes. But there appeared to be another set of eyes beyond the crystal eyes, gazing intently at her with a sense of grace and warmth. A pair of deep, opaline green eyes. Then everything turned black." Chapter 1, page 34.

"Gentlemen, it's high time we take seriously the effort to unify our two countries,' he spoke slowly, for effect. 'As a Korean, I know that we are one country in language, in culture, and in heart. As a businessman, I know how much stronger we could be economically in the global markets. The Sino-American threat, which has long justified the use of our countries as pawns to the superpowers, is not more. It is long past time that we throw off the shackles of foreign domination and do what is right for Korea. Our destiny is as one, and we should seize the opportunity now.'" Chapter 14, page 128.

"One round came in low and Dirk could feel it nearly graze his cheek as it whizzed by before smashing into the dashboard. 'I already shaved once today, you bastards'" he grumbled, his anger overcoming any feelings of fear. As he flung the Chrysler into the next turn, the old-fashioned bias-ply tires screeched loudly, leaving a smoking black trail along the roadway." Chapter 17, page 150.

"...the payload was a freeze-dried virus, which was able to be detonated and dispersed at altitude above the most concentrated population points of each city. Within two weeks, an outbreak of smallpox was expected all along the West Coast. With a thirty percent mortality rate, the deaths would have been staggering. The Japanese figured the resulting panic would allow them to negotiate a peace settlement on their terms.'" Chapter 19, page 178.

"There was a second submarine, the I-411. It, too was armed with the Makaze ordnance and was sent to attack the eastern seaboard of the United States,' Yaeger said quietly" Chapter 19, page 179.



"... Another monster, if you will, would be a hybrid mix of virulent agents combined into a single organism that maintains the lethal components of each element. A biological weapon against which your vaccinations would be laughably impotent." Chapter 33, page 287.

"By the time the chimera ran its course, tens of millions would lie dead in the U.S., with untold more around the world. Not a family would go unscathed by its black touch and not a soul would live free from the fear of a lethal biological shadow in the doorway. Amid the initial unfolding of the scourge, few would pay concern to political disturbances around the world. And, on the far side of the globe, when the old ally of South Korea was overrun by its totalitarian neighbor to the north there would be little response from the devastated nation aside from a feeble cry of protest." Chapter 38, Page 344.

"On a collision course with evil, the Odyssey plodded along from Long Beach at its meager pace, the ungainly assembly churning up ten miles of foam over the course of an hour." Chapter 45, page 379.

"You've got to be kidding me. A blimp?" Chapter 48, page 397.

"Very well,' he said. 'Begin the countdown.'" Chapter 48, page 406.

"They will not arrive in time. And if they do, there will be no consequence. The soft American military will not attack the platform for fear of killing the innocent workers aboard. There is no way to stop the countdown now. The launch will proceed, Mr. Pitt, and bring an end to the meddlesome activities of both you and your countrymen." Chapter 54, page 436.

"Holding the submersible steady, Pitt activated the controls to the bow-mounted coring device and, with just minutes to spare, prayed that his cockamamie plan would work." Chapter 57, page 457.

"To the unbelieving sight of those who watched, the huge rocket swung wildly in the sky before tearing itself apart from the inside out and literally snapping in two." Chapter 60, page 475.

"And beneath them, a scattering of burning timbers smoldered in the water, denoting the grave of Tongju and the sunken tender. 'Guess we showed your pal a hot time,' Giordino said to Dirk as he stuck his head into the cockpit." Chapter 62, page 495.

"I'm afraid Kang has an appointment with the grim reaper,' Dirk said, grabbing a life preserving off the bulkhead and throwing it over Gutierrez's head and shoulders." Chapter 65, page 518.

"No ferries,' Dirk laughed, slipping an arm around Sarah. Tapping on the accelerator, the old convertible rumbling deeply, he steered across the lush grounds and into the pink-tinted dusk." Chapter 67, page 530.





## Topics for Discussion

Pulp fiction heroes were popular between the 1930's and 1950's. Today's heroes are quite different from the pulp fiction heroes of that era, but there are some pulp fiction heroes that are popular today. Dirk Pitt is one of them, and Indiana Jones is another. What are the qualities of a pulp fiction hero; and how do pulp fiction heroes differ from other kinds of heroes?

The book has one climax, but that climax could be subdivided into three parts: The success of the launch, the survival of the hero, and the balance of justice. How would people react if the story only had the first two parts of the climax and missed the sense of justice? What other stories or movies have this idea of justice? Who decides what correct justice in fiction should be?

Because it is part of a series and the series' main character is aging, his son is involved quite heavily in the story. So this story, unlike most, has two heroes. Was Cussler successful at keeping the two involved? Did it distract from the story or add to it? Discuss the challenges of writing about two heroes and the challenges of reading about two heroes. What did the writer do to keep the reader involved in the adventure and identifying with both heroes?

Many good adventure heroes have a sidekick. Dirk Pitt, Sr. and Dirk Pitt, Jr. both have sidekicks: Al Giordino and Jack Dahlgren, respectively. What is the role of the sidekick in an adventure story? How would the story be different without the sidekick?

Another aspect of the pulp fiction hero is the characterization of women, which may be controversial. What is the role of women in the novel? How are women portrayed? Compare the treatment of women in pulp fiction to the treatment of women in other kinds of fiction.

The villain had a complex plan in the novel to bring about his greedy desires. When you first read about Kang's plan, what did you think of it? Was it brilliant or was it needlessly complicated? How would the story have been different if Kang's plan was much simpler?

In several Dirk Pitt novels, Clive Cussler has been writing himself into the novel. Why would an author do this? What effect does it have on the book? What effect does it have on the reader?

In creating rising tension, Cussler uses an effect of "just-in-time" heroics, where the hero appears on the scene without a moment to spare. Give examples in this book where it was effectively used and discuss other books or movies where just-in-time heroics play a part. What purpose does it play in fiction?

Both Dirk Pitts used witty one-liners under the most dire of circumstances, use the "save yourself" mentality, and one of them ended up driving off into the sunset with a girl. They



both have to continually dig deep to find the strength to carry on in spite of the challenges. In many ways these are clichys used to describe a hero and yet we come to expect them. What qualities make a hero? What characteristics make a hero? Use examples from the book to back up your claims.