

# **Cyclops Study Guide**

## **Cyclops by Clive Cussler**

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# Plot Summary

The book, *Cyclops*, by Clive Cussler, is a techno-thriller featuring well-loved protagonist, Dirk Pitt. The story opens with the puzzling events aboard the *Cyclops*, a Navy collier, in 1918 with a captain who drinks more than he works and a strange cargo with equally strange passengers that board in Rio de Janeiro. The *Cyclops* has been issued a no communications order by the Captain and refuses to answer a distress call from Crogan Castle fifty miles away, near the northern coast of Cuba. Shortly after, the *Cyclops* encounters a similar rogue wave that the Crogan Castle had mentioned; only the *Cyclops* did not survive. Her secrets lie deep under the water with her.

Dirk Pitt is participating in a seaboard marathon near the Bahamas when a runaway blimp crosses his path and threatens the lives of the people on the beach and in the hotel. His desire to save perfect strangers embroils him in a plot that has bigger secrets than any he has ever encountered before. His ability to see through subterfuge, his calm in stressful situations, and his unique way of approaching problems make Pitt the perfect addition to a plot that threatens possession of the moon, of Cuba, and the very principles and strengths of America.

Because of his vast aircraft experience combined with his NUMA expertise, Pitt is a logical choice to retrace the route last taken by financier Raymond LeBaron. It is his blimp that appeared in front of Pitt during the race, and now Pitt is a passenger, heading toward what he believes to be sunken treasure. He believes they are looking for the *Cyclops*, and her treasure aboard, the *La Dorada*. Instead, he, Giordino, and Gunn are deceived by Jessie LeBaron, who pilots the blimp. They are taken close to the shores of Cuba, where they are attacked by Cuban military and fall into the ocean. They are prepared for this event, and while they are in the vicinity, they dive down to the *Cyclops* to see if her treasure is still aboard. It is not.

Back on the surface, they face a hurricane, a treacherous boat ride to a nearby island, and a very unfriendly greeting from the Soviet military who are part of a top secret military installment on an island just a couple hundred miles off the coast of Florida. Pitt escapes back to the U.S. and returns with military aid. They are just in time to save the lunar colonists who have secretly created Jersey Colony on the moon, a colony the Russian intend to seize. The Russians are foiled on the moon, and then Pitt further ruins their plan by reaching the space shuttle before she attempts to land in Cuba and be shot down by friendly fire. Once his friends are rescued, Pitt and Jessie head back to the military ship, but Jessie has other ideas and with a gun at his chest, they turn toward Cuba.

In Cuba, there is a Soviet plot to assassinate Fidel Castro and his brother Raul. Once the two men are out of office, the Russians intend to take over Castro's regime and establish a Soviet foothold in the Western Hemisphere. Their plot intends to blow up Havana Harbor and most of Havana, then blame it on the United States. Because Dirk Pitt is involved, the Russian plan does not go as planned. There is an explosion, and

while it does kill a few people, it does not cause the vast devastation that is required for the Soviets to take over Cuba.

Finally, Pitt is able to continue his search for La Dorada, the fabled female statue that is to have the heart of a ruby and a head and hair of an emerald. Raymond LeBaron is known to have taken La Dorada to Cuba, and hidden her there. Once Pitt saves the world, he can finally finish his initial task of locating La Dorada.



# Prologue

## Prologue Summary

Cyclops, another Clive Cussler techno-thriller, brings protagonist Dirk Pitt back to fight for justice and peace. Amid the Star Wars battle between the United States and Russia, with battlefields both on the moon and on the beaches of Cuba, Pitt and his friend, Al Giordino, are tasked with preventing world-wide disaster. Russia has taken offense to the loss of their Selenos lunar probes, because the probes were manned. They told the world, however, that the probes were unmanned. Jersey Colony, the secret moon colony established by American industrialists, shoots down any of the Russian probes merely to keep their colony a secret, unaware that the probes are manned. Even the highest powers of the U.S. are unaware of the existence of a moon colony. Russia, believing that to be a superpower they must dominate, stands poised to take over both the moon colony, and use Fidel Castro and Cuba as merely game pieces in their desire for world dominance.

Lieutenant John Church, a 29-year-old man with twelve years in the Navy as of March 9, 1918, believes that this trip in the Cyclops is the strangest yet. They carry 309 passengers, and are bound from Rio de Janeiro where an odd cargo crate was carefully loaded aboard, accompanied by a very ill patient and a mysterious man, to their destination of Baltimore, Maryland. The captain, Lieutenant Commander George Worley, places crew members under house arrest when he is not too drunk to function when they do not strictly adhere to his orders. For Church, the final straw comes when they intercept a distress call and he orders the radioman to replay that the Cyclops will come to their aid. He discovers that the captain has placed the ship under a complete communications blackout order. Confronting the captain with this, Church finds himself ordered to his quarters for the remainder of the voyage. Rather than completely obeying the captain, Church adheres to his personal standards and chooses instead to inspect the ship. He meets Alfred Gottschalk, who asks to be escorted to the cargo hold to inspect the crate, which has evidence of being opened, upsetting Gottschalk. His anxiety is eliminated when a figure in the shadows jumps out and kills the American consul to Brazil. Church has little time to react, for the Cyclops reaches the unsettled seas off the coast of Cuba and her bow points directly down into the ocean, shifting her cargo, and accelerating her dive to her watery grave.

## Prologue Analysis

Cussler starts his tale with a mystifying event that happens in 1918, when a ship carrying a mysterious cargo and even more mysterious passengers. A distress signal is ignored, for the Captain has issued a communications blackout and arrests any crew member who chooses to cross him. The mysterious passenger is killed by a South American Indian disguised as a crew member. The crate has been opened despite chains and locks. Before anyone can take steps to solve the puzzling events, the



Cyclops encounters the treacherous seas that prompted the earlier distress call and she sinks to the bottom of the ocean, leaving the reader wondering at the Captain's actions, and the contents of the mysterious crate that prompts a murder immediately before the demise of the Cyclops.



# Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 1 - 3

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 1 - 3 Summary

October 10, 1989

Key West, Florida

Raymond LeBaron is an extremely wealthy publishing magnate who develops an interest in the ZMC-2 Zeppelin he refurbishes and restores to flying condition. He then learns to pilot the unusual aircraft. After a year, his interest in the blimp wanes, then waxes when he is introduced to the prospect of treasure hunting with the blimp. The slow pace of the aircraft makes it ideal to search for sunken ships. On October 10 he, copilot Joe Cavilla, and treasure hunter Buck Caesar take off on a treasure hunting venture. About six hours into the venture, radio contact ends abruptly.

The president of the U.S. is approached during his weekly golf game by an impersonator of his caddy. He is threatened with a bomb. This is designed to force the President to listen without warning his Secret Service guards. The intruder passes a folder to the President and gives him eight minutes to read it in the restroom of the next tee. The folder has information about Jersey Colony; a permanent self-sustaining moon base established during the Kennedy Administration, a twenty-six year-old secret. Ten men have been living on the moon for over six years. The rest of the project has been accomplished in the utmost secrecy and only the "inner core," an elite group of men who are totally informed. Raymond LeBaron is a member of the inner core and his blimp has been spotted near the coast of Cuba two days after the blimp's supposed disappearance. Time is vital, for Russia intends to send a manned lunar lander to the moon. The secrecy and integrity of the Jersey Colony will be compromised. One of Russia's unmanned probes crash-landed into the Caribbean and the intruder tells the president that LeBaron's mission was not treasure hunting, but to recover the Russian craft. If Russia learns of Jersey Colony, they will likely battle on the moon for possession of the colony and dominance of the moon. The intruder tells the President they only need two weeks to secure the men and the vital information.

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 1 - 3 Analysis

The prize is at stake between two world superpowers. The moon is the prize. Amid decades of secrecy, the U.S. has managed to establish a self-sustaining colony on the moon. The Russians have been sending unmanned lunar probes to the moon and one has crashed into the Caribbean. It is believed that LeBaron's treasure hunt is a disguised effort to recover the probe. LeBaron has disappeared, but his blimp has been spotted. This leads to a number of questions and concerns. The "inner core" is afraid that all their years of research and uncontested mastery of lunar living will be compromised if Russia first evaluates their newest photos and discovers the colony. The





more vital concern is that if Russia reaches the moon while their men are there, Russia will come intending to attack and take the moon colony and confiscate all their research at risk. The golf course intruder is obviously one of the "inner core" and he tells the President that they are acquainted, giving the President a hint to his identity, but nothing more. The intruder merely asks the President to keep Jersey Colony a secret for two more weeks while they get their men back from the moon.



# Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 4 - 6

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 4 - 6 Summary

Pitt is participating in a thirty mile board-sailing marathon around Biscayne Bay to Key Biscayne's Cape Florida lighthouse. Prosperteer interrupts the race by appearing out of nowhere and heading for people. Pitt chooses to chase the blimp rather than finishing the race, knowing the degree of devastation if the blimp hits the hotel. He gets help from people on the beach and they all manage to stop it just in time. Looking inside, he finds the crew of three dead at the controls. He does notice that there is very high tech equipment aboard, everything needed for an underwater search expedition. Looking at the corpses, he realizes that death has been present for some time for the three aboard the blimp.

Dade County coroner, Dr. Calvin Rooney assists with the presumed identification of Raymond LeBaron, based mainly on his personal effects. His corpse is badly decomposed. His wife, Jessie LeBaron shocks everyone involved by first insisting on seeing her husband's remains rather than accepting his identity based on his personal effects. Then, when she looks upon the corpse, she states firmly and without argument that the dead man is not her husband. Just for starters, her husband's fillings are gold and the fillings on the corpse are silver.

Dirk Pitt talks with detective, Lieutenant Victor, in a formal interview regarding his role in stopping the blimp. He is interrogated about what he touched inside the gondola, and whether anyone else could have entered the gondola. He is asked whether he recognizes any of the crew, which he does not. Then he is asked how he knows how to turn off a blimp, and Pitt acknowledges that he has extensive aircraft experience. He does give Victor one hint as he leaves, that the blimp had to have been refilled with helium within the past forty-eight hours as blimps such as the Prosperteer do not hold a constant volume of gas.

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 4 - 6 Analysis

This section is an excellent study in character profile. Jessie LeBaron is an interesting woman, and her determination to observe what everyone believes to be her husband's corpse show her to be very strong-minded, resolute, and controlled. Dirk Pitt's character begins to develop first with his willingness to do something about the out-of-control blimp. During his scene with Lieutenant Victor show him to be very observant and not easily toyed with when he notes that the policeman needs to punch down a button in order to get an open line in order to use the phone. The mystery deepens because the men are not who they are initially presumed to be. The corpses rate of decomposition is exceedingly fast. Lastly, the blimp had to have been refilled within the last two days, not the ten days ago when the men were last heard from.



# Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 7 - 9

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 7 - 9 Summary

Sweat asks Rooney's professional opinion of the three blimp corpses. Sweat is being pressured by unnamed federal agencies to give up the bodies; and he finds this to be very mysterious. Rooney believes the corpses froze to death. Sweat cannot buy this as the three men disappeared when the temperatures were in the 90s. Rooney then informs Sweat that the three corpses are not any of the three men who disappeared. He believes them to be foreign nationals. Their last meal consisted of dark bread, fruit and beets. The bodies are stolen while Sweat and Rooney are out on the boat. Rooney is not as upset as Sweat, primarily because they did not get the one piece of evidence that he withheld from his report; that the men died one or two years previously, not as recently as last week.

Pitt's home is an old aircraft hangar off of Washington Field. It looks old and abandoned, just as he likes it for it discourages trespassers. The hangar hides his vast collection of classic autos, a vintage airplane, and a railroad car from 1900. Pitt receives a call from Jessie LeBaron's secretary to meet Mrs. LeBaron at four this afternoon. Perversely, Pitt refuses and requests that Mrs. LeBaron call on him. Finally, he relents and agrees to call upon the widow, advising Ms. Cabot that he will be driving a 1951 convertible. This bit of news causes Mrs. LeBaron's secretary to instruct Pitt to park by the servants' house. Disliking the snootiness of the request, Pitt arrives in his beautiful vintage Daimler very late for his appointment. He is able to get past the guard by claiming to be late for an already established appointment. He chooses to arrive during Mrs. LeBaron's cocktail party. Immediately, Jessie LeBaron dismisses Pitt, informing him that he has not been invited. Pitt is dressed in a tuxedo and looks perfectly respectable. Pitt gives his arm to her bouncer and leaves without incident, but he does advise Mrs. LeBaron to never ask for his help again. After he is evicted, Mrs. LeBaron is informed of his NUMA connections and his father's standing on the Senate Oil committee.

Pitt immediately solicits help from Hiram Yaeger to dig up any and all information on Raymond LeBaron, using Hiram's pride and joy; a state of the art computer at NUMA. Pitt requests all information on the Cyclops, which Jessie had mentioned prior to bouncing Pitt from her party. Pitt reviews all material on the Navy Collier and her crew. The Crogan Castle is the ship that sent the distress call and her position was recorded. Crogan Castle made it to Havana, but the Cyclops perished.

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 7 - 9 Analysis

The disappearance of Raymond LeBaron becomes even more mystifying with the removal of the bodies by a federal agency. Raymond LeBaron is not one of the victims, instead they are foreign nationals and died one to two years previously. Pitt's disregard for wealth and its adornments is very evident with his interaction with Jessie LeBaron's



secretary and with Mrs. LeBaron herself. After his eviction from her party, Mrs. LeBaron discovers just how influential Pitt can be, especially to her at this point in time. It is very likely that the woman will regret her words and actions. Both Mrs. LeBaron and her secretary rub him the wrong way. Pitt purposefully antagonizes her by going to the party rather than keeping his appointment. Though he tells Jessie LeBaron not to ask for his help, he is intrigued about the Cyclops, her sinking and her possible cargo.



# Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 10 - 13

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 10 - 13 Summary

O'Meara tells Pitt the story of La Dorada as he knows it. South America abounds with stories of El Dorado and the kings who ruled a wealthy kingdom near the jungles of the Andes. The kings would paint their bodies in gum and cover the sticky skin with gold dust, becoming gold men. They would then throw countless treasures into a lake as an offering to the god. The greatest treasure is the La Dorada, a golden woman whose heart is an enormous ruby and whose head is a magnificent emerald. Only two men are known to have seen her. The first is a monk who escaped the cannibals. The other man, Sigler, is believed to have found and stolen La Dorada and then lost her off a raft in the river, having fought the Zanona Indians. Alfred Gottschalk, hearing of Sigler's story, finds the La Dorada and secretes her and the very ill Sigler aboard the Cyclops. Sigler was kept alive just in case he could reveal the lost city of treasure. Pitt cannot get the stories of the Cyclops and Crogan Castle out of his mind. He tries to discover what Raymond LeBaron knew. The wreckage is only twenty miles off the coast of Cuba, making it an undesirable attempt. Sandecker facilitates a meeting between Jessie LeBaron and Pitt to convince Pitt to help Jessie look for her husband. Pitt is intrigued despite his feelings about Mrs. LeBaron.

The President meets with undercover agent Ira Hagen who is also his brother-in-law, having married his sister, Martha. The President gives Ira all the information he has on the Jersey Colony and asks his opinion. Hagen initially is surprised that Vince has not shared the information with his Security Council. Vince's reason, the Inner Core has penetrated the highest levels of NASA, the Pentagon, and likely his own personal White House staff. Vince wants Hagen to discover the identities of the Inner Core, nine men, in eight days. This is a monumental task. Hagen identifies the golf course intruder as Leonard Hudson, the catcher on their high school baseball team. Hudson always won science fair awards. The problem is that Hudson is to have died in 1965 in a plane crash.

The Russians get data from the downed lunar probe, Selenos 4, and Rykov discovers that humans are on the moon. He notifies General Maxim Yassenin. They see a weapon in the hands of the unknown astronauts and Yassenin knows that they have used it against the Russian probe. At this point it is revealed that Selenos 4 was a manned probe. Star Wars has begun and the U.S. has landed the first strike.

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 10 - 13 Analysis

The plot becomes even more confusing. It seems that LeBaron is after the Cyclops because of the legend of La Dorada being aboard when she sank. However, this raises the question of the identity of the dead men aboard the blimp. Their nationality is virtually given away when it is revealed that their stomach contents contained beets.

Then there is the fact the Selenos 4 was manned points to the bodies being the Russian Cosmonauts. A potential war over the Jersey Colony is imminent, for the Russians now know Selenos was shot down. Complicating matters even further, the U.S. President knows of Jersey Colony, but has none of the specifics. He asks his brother-in-law, Ira Hagen, to get that information for him. Now NUMA's James Sandecker finds it imperative to find Raymond LeBaron and puts Jessie LeBaron and Pitt together to follow his last known route.



# Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 14 - 17

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 14 - 17 Summary

The FBI's Emmett is upset at not being given full disclosure about the situation with Jersey Colony, but he does give the report on the dead bodies to the President. The beets found by the coroner in Dade County are actually from borscht paste. Through a defector from the Soviet space program, they have established identities of the three bodies found on the blimp as Russian Cosmonauts. What they cannot reconcile is why the cosmonauts died in space and how they came to be aboard Raymond LeBaron's blimp dressed like the missing Americans. The President refuses to give Emmett any more information, despite the evidence that Raymond LeBaron might have been abducted by the Cubans. The link between the Selenos lunar probe disasters and Jersey Colony troubles the President. He has Ira Hagen begin his investigation into the Inner Core, starting the Pattendon Laboratory by pretending to be a government auditor. The stage is set for him to begin his intelligence work. He solicits phone records and through Mooney's most often called numbers he is able to reach another of the Inner Core.

The Russians have a council of war with the Soviet President, the Chief of the Soviet Space Program, and the head of State Security and with General Yassenin. They all view the images of the human figures on the moon and believe that no one can be responsible but the Americans, but their silence on such a feat is a puzzle to the Soviets. A piece of the puzzle is presented when one of their probes, Selenos 4, made its re-entry a year and a half after losing power and dropped into the Caribbean. This occurs at the same time as Raymond LeBaron's disappearance in his blimp. The Russians believe that the U.S. is still unaware of the probe's re-entry and landing in the Caribbean because there has been no evidence of an underwater search. They all agree, that their Selenos 8, scheduled to launch in seven days, should be armed to take over the American moon colony. Their reasoning is that the Americans struck first by shooting down their lunar probes.

## Part I, The Prosperteer: Chapters 14 - 17 Analysis

The U.S. President is in a difficult position. He has information that America has accomplished a feat believed to be impossible; developing a self-sustaining colony on the moon. However, he has no positive proof. How can he ask for help or even alert his security council when such information could merely be the ravings of a lunatic? This being the case, he must rely on his brother-in-law to get information for him without alerting the entire undercover community. This binding limitation plays directly into the hands of the Russians who plan to arm their cosmonauts to take over Jersey Colony. After all, how can the President claim seizure of a colony not known to exist?



## Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 18 - 20

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 18 - 20 Summary

October 25, 1989

Key West, Florida

Pitt, Giordino, and Rudi Gunn are joined by their blimp pilot who is none other than Jessie LeBaron. They are given a weather advisory about a possible tropical storm. When news comes that the storm has changed directions, the Prosperteer can no longer be reached by radio. She has disappeared, exactly as she did when Raymond LeBaron was piloting her. Sandecker contacts the President who claims to have notified Admiral Montfort to request assistance. When Sandecker calls Montfort to check, Montfort tells Sandecker that he has been given presidential orders to stay clear of the area. Sandecker is furious. He feels that a vicious trick has been played on him and on Pitt.

Onboard the Prosperteer, the three men argue with Jessie on their direction. Jessie has spilled coffee on the transmitter, which explains the radio silence. They believe they have found the wreckage of the Cyclops, but efforts are hindered by the increasingly inclement weather and the company of a Cuban helicopter and gunboat. All those aboard the blimp don scuba gear and seek shelter behind a bullet-proof screen. The helicopter fires on the blimp and she heads for the water, but not before Giordino fires on the helicopter with a M-72 missile. The gunboat searches for survivors from either craft and find none. They leave, seeking shelter from the oncoming hurricane.

Below the surface, the four crew members of the Prosperteer assess their physical damage. Rudi has a broken ankle and Giordino has a broken rib or two. They really fared well. Now it is time to see what the Cyclops looks like up close.

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 18 - 20 Analysis

It is not clear yet who is deluding whom, but the President has most certainly lied to Admiral Sandecker. There is something more covert going on than simply retracing Raymond LeBaron's last known path. Even Pitt seems somewhat suspicious, but evidently his desire to locate and investigate the Cyclops outweighs his concerns. The journey begins benignly, but once they reach unfriendly Cuban waters, they are besieged both by the weather and the Cuban military. This is a terrific storytelling technique. It creates a sense of impending peril and while Jessie is not the most sympathetic character, one would agree that Dirk Pitt does not deserve to be treated badly. Finding the Cyclops is good reward for Pitt being duped.





## Part II, The Cyclops, Chapters 21 - 23

### Part II, The Cyclops, Chapters 21 - 23 Summary

Giordino finds the nameplate of the Cyclops, confirming their find. Knowing that the La Dorada will be in the cargo hold, they head there. The air in their tanks is limited and they still have the hurricane above the surface to deal with. They find the crate, but to their disappointment, it is empty. The remains of a modern diver are there, but the treasure is gone. Pitt makes note of the diver's helmet make and model. On the surface, the inflatable boat they have toted since leaving the wreckage of the Prosperteer is now inflated in the savage seas of the hurricane. With only an hour to nightfall, Giordino starts the small motor and runs with the storm. They are close to the Cuban island of Cayo Santa Maria and their only hope of surviving the seas and sharp rocks is to steer into a small inlet between the rocks. It is a chance in a thousand, but one Pitt is willing to take. Rudi is thrown from the boat, but Pitt manages to grab hold of him before the next wave breaks. Just prior to reaching shore, the boat flips and all occupants are thrown every which way.

Meanwhile, Leonard Hudson is wondering what the President makes of their meeting on the golf course. In order to save Jersey Colony he had no choice but to notify the President. Now he must share the news with Eli Steinmetz, the leader of the lunar colony. Hudson cannot tell Steinmetz with absolute certainty the intent of the Russians when they land on the moon, but he wants the colony for the U.S. Steinmetz is reluctant to fire on unarmed scientists, but agrees to defend the colony against aggression. He, too, is unaware that the Russian probes they shot down were manned.

### Part II, The Cyclops, Chapters 21 - 23 Analysis

So far, it is established that the stories of the shipwrecked Cyclops are true; however, it appears that someone has beaten Pitt and his companions to the scene. They find the crate, but the treasure is gone. The remains of the modern diver is their only clue, but Pitt knows they cannot afford to stay on the bottom of the ocean much longer. When they reach the surface, Hurricane Eva is in full swing and the odds do not look good for the four divers. Meanwhile, Hudson is fighting a far different battle. He is trying to impress on Steinmetz the importance of retaining their moon colony. Steinmetz is a bit of a pacifist, and he is unwilling to engage in a gun battle if the Russians are ignorant of the Jersey Colony's existence.



## Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 24 - 26

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 24 - 26 Summary

After struggling through the gale force winds, Pitt, Giordino, Gunn and Jessie come to a building, drawn by the smell of food cooking. Pitt's companions are done in with exhaustion and injuries. A vote is taken and they agree to throw themselves on the mercy of the Cuban government. To their surprise, most of the officers are not Cuban but Soviet and near the head of the table is none other than Raymond LeBaron. While Pitt, Gunn, and Giordino try to make sense of Raymond LeBaron's presence on the Cuban island, Ira Hagen is in Colorado Springs. General Clark Fisher is on his list and by pretending to be a pest controller, Ira is able to search the general's office, but finds nothing. He follows the general and driver, then seizes his opportunity, knocking the general out and stealing his briefcase which he does not open until he is on his plane. Inside Ira finds notes on the flight of the space shuttle, Gettysburg. He also finds a coded list of the entire Inner Core. The Lear jet heads for Albuquerque where Hagen hopes to locate one of the Inner Core in person.

Admiral Sandecker bullies his way past Dan Fawcett to confront the President about what he believes to be the deaths of three of his dearest friends: Dirk Pitt, Al Giordino, and Rudi Gunn. The President explains how Cuba is being drowned by Russian policy and that Russia intends to take over Cuba. The Russians would love to have a foothold in the Western Hemisphere. The Soviets are suffering from economic problems, the standard of living for their citizens is appalling. Castro fears Soviet infiltration into his government and he is now afraid that the Soviets intend to assassinate him and Raul. The ploy with the blimp was to communicate back and forth between Castro and the U.S. without tipping their hand and alerting the Russians.

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 24 - 26 Analysis

The whole story is finally becoming clear. The true antagonist is Russia. Even Castro's Cuba is seen as more benign than having a Soviet governed Cuba just miles off the Florida coast. Russia is hungry for power. They plan to dominate the lunar colony as they plan to infiltrate Fidel Castro's Cuba and establish a Soviet Communist presence in the Western Hemisphere. It appears that Raymond and Jessie LeBaron have been pawns in a world power game, even though they are aware of the risks. The same cannot be said for Pitt, Giordino, and Gunn. They believed they were looking for a missing person. Now it appears they are prisoners, not of Cuba, but of the Soviet Union.



## Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 27 - 29

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 27 - 29 Summary

Pitt awakens to find himself treated for his injuries, bandaged, and having slept on a feather bed. The luxuries end there. He is locked in the room. Knocking on the door brings an armed guard who escorts Pitt to a study where he is courteously interrogated by Peter Velikov, the head of Russia's most secret military installation. Pitt responds with dry sarcasm that he and his companions know nothing of the island and their appearance is merely an accident. Velikov does not believe Pitt. He promises to get the "truth" out of them and then he will have to kill them.

Ira Hagen finds Clyde Booth's setup in a filthy gas station that is clearly a set. The giveaway for Hagen is the highly sophisticated surveillance system that was at odds with the ramshackle state of the station. Forcing the attendant to talk out of view of the surveillance system, Hagen learns that Booth is a space scientist who has a plant just outside of Santa Fe. Leonard Hudson is nervous because members of the Inner Core are being tracked down and that their video images of the one tracking them are always blurry. They know that he is a top professional who has serious backing, likely the President. Hudson is frustrated, for he believed that the President would back the security of the Jersey Colony from Soviet penetration. Hudson and Eriksen both know that the President will not willingly accept acts of war against the Russians, which the Inner Core is prepared to do should they need to.

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 27 - 29 Analysis

A secret Soviet military installation off the coast of Cuba is not good news for the U.S. Nor is the fact that the Inner Core responsible for the Jersey Colony on the moon are prepared to use deadly force to retain possession of the technological advance. The Jersey Colony is responsible for the destruction of three Soviet spacecraft. What is still unclear is whether or not the Inner Core is aware that the Soviet crafts were manned when they were shot down. The Soviets, certainly, intend to get what information they can from Pitt, Gunn, and Giordino and then dispatch them. There seems to be little difference between the two countries as to the lengths to which they will go to preserve their secrets. The President is trying to gather information to determine the best course of action, yet his power in this situation appears to be quite limited.



## Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 30 - 32

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 30 - 32 Summary

Pitt is introduced to Foss Gly, the Soviet interrogator and torturer. At first, Pitt tries sarcasm and jokes, but when he tries to tell Gly the truth, Gly responds that their real mission was to establish secret communications with the Castros. Because Pitt does not know this to be the truth, he believes Gly to be spinning a yarn. Gly is determined to get the "truth" out of Pitt and the scene ends with Pitt being hit so hard in his kidney that he loses consciousness. Pitt awakens to find himself being tended by none other than Raymond LeBaron who tells him that the "secret installation" is really nothing more than a businessman's retreat center. He gives Pitt an update on Al and Rudi and reports that so far he and Jessie have been well treated. He dissuades Pitt from an escape attempt, revealing the fate of Buck Caesar, whose shark-eaten body washed up onto shore. Raymond LeBaron, not independent, reports immediately back to Foss Gly that Pitt's story is true. Gly's response is to hurt LeBaron and then threaten Jessie should LeBaron mess with Gly.

Hagen meets with Senator Porter, another of the Inner Core. Their conversation reveals that the President is immensely pleased with their accomplishment with Jersey Colony. The grave concern, however, is the possibility of a war starting on the moon. The senator is still very angry with the U.S. for sharing its space technology with the Soviets. Senator Porter will not change his mind until the Kremlin decides to better the world rather than dictate it.

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 30 - 32 Analysis

Both sides are working against a tight deadline. The Soviets really need to know how much Pitt's group knows; and just who sent them. There is little reason for the captives to cooperate as they have been told they will die regardless. Even Raymond LeBaron is in trouble. He spies on Pitt, feeding him propaganda about the facility, but Pitt is truly in the dark. He tells LeBaron the story as he knows it to be true, omitting the fact that they did fire on the Cuban helicopter and that they managed to dive on the Cyclops. It would seem that Raymond LeBaron knows this since Jessie accompanied Pitt on the dive. Hagen is working against the deadline of the Soviet landing on the moon. He fears that if the lunar colonists start a war, then the Soviets will retaliate by shooting down the space shuttle or space lab.



## Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 33 - 36

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 33 - 36 Summary

Pitt's resourcefulness comes in handy. He figures out a way to keep his door from locking after his dinner is brought. Once his guard leaves, Pitt exits his prison room and explores. He finds a way out of the installation and is able to retrace their steps to the beach where he finds the boat motor from the destroyed inflatable boat that carried them to the island. Pitt hides the motor under a bathtub and other debris from an abandoned village before returning to get Gunn and Giordino. His friends, unfortunately, are in no shape to join Pitt, but they urge him to escape to at least get the word out about the secret installment. Pitt's next encounter with Gly Foss is even more brutal than the first time. Pitt takes some very bad punches. His goal, initially, is to merely avoid serious injury so that he can still escape. He does get so angry with Foss that he throws a punch or two and breaks the sadist's nose. Pitt has made a horrible enemy, but he does not really care. That night, he wastes no time. He finds Jessie, hoping to take her with him. Jessie knows she will only hold him up and urges instead for him to find the President and inform him of the events. Taking anything he believes will come in handy; Pitt retrieves his motor and uses the old bathtub as a boat. Using the stars to steer by, Pitt makes his way to Bahama Channel.

Leonard Hudson approaches the President at a public event, and the president invites him to accompany him in his vehicle so that they can talk privately. Hudson threatens Hagen, Senator Gorman, and the Secretary of State. The President jeers at Hudson, calling him a fraud and that his Jersey Colony is merely a figment of someone's imagination. This is not the reaction Hudson expects and he is incensed when the President evicts him from the car. It really is a reverse sting, for Ira Hagen follows the van that picks Hudson up. Hagen wishes to find the headquarters for the Jersey Colony project. He also wishes to learn the identity of the third man in Hudson's vehicle and will run voice recognition tapes on the recording. Hagen is foiled when Hudson's van stops at a mall and three men exit the vehicle and disappear into the mall. Hagen tries to find the men, but with no luck. They were able to disperse too quickly.

### Part II, The Cyclops: Chapters 33 - 36 Analysis

As per his reputation, Pitt is not one to sit tight and wait for someone else to save him. He manages to devise a way to jam the lock when his guard leaves so that he can get out of his room. The first he is able to leave is cell he manages to get all the way to the beach where they came ashore originally. This is merely a scouting expedition for him. Upon his return he finds Rudi and Al, but the two men are so badly injured that there is no way they can attempt an escape with him. They know that their only hope is for him to escape alone and get the story out. A second encounter with Foss injures Pitt, but not badly enough to prevent his escape. Jessie is also in no condition to join him, for she,

too, has been tortured by Foss. Pitt realizes that it is up to him to inform the world of the installment and what is going on Cayo Santa Maria.



## Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 37 - 39

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 37 - 39 Summary

October 30, 1989

Kazakhstan, USSR

The Soviets successfully launch Selenos 8, bound for the moon. A last minute substitution of five soldiers for trained scientists is accomplished. Obviously the Russians care more about dominance than scientific advances. They are planning to make a pre-emptive strike on the lunar colony. Discussion turns to the events on the island of Cayo Santa Maria, which reveals that Raymond LeBaron is merely a negotiation pawn. Jessie LeBaron and the blimp crew were unanticipated, but that they can be blamed for the upcoming disaster. News of Pitt's escape upsets the Soviets but the belief is that he will either drown or be eaten by sharks.

Back in the United States, the President still does not trust his staff and he lies to Dan Fawcett when he arranges to meet with Ira Hagen. Hagen has pinpointed seven out of ten of the Inner Core. Leo Hudson and Gunnar Erikson still elude him. The president realizes that he has only nine names. Hagen then hands him the name of the tenth man, but the reader is not told the man's identity. Ira promises he will round up Hudson and Eriksen while the President arranges for the remaining seven to be picked up for a meeting in the morning at Camp David. The President's next major concern is the plan of the Soviets to assassinate Fidel and Raul Castro, then take over Cuba. His biggest problem is his inability to reach the Castros to warn them. This is the role that the LeBarons played in the game. Hagen knows that the Jersey Colony headquarters is located somewhere in the mall where the men had previously disappeared. It is a small matter to follow individuals who do not match a typical shopping stereotype. Hidden amidst America's favorite pastime is the core of Jersey Colony and there Ira finds Hudson and Eriksen.

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 37 - 39 Analysis

At first the story seems to be focused on the shoddy behavior of the Soviets, but as events unfold, it becomes even clearer that they are intent on world domination, or even universal domination given their desire to conquer Jersey Colony. After all they have sent armed soldiers up to the moon on Selenos 8 rather than their scientists who are trained cosmonauts. They intend to wage war on the moon. They also intend to wage war in Cuba. A dialogue between the two nations, Russia and the U.S., is unlikely to yield good results for neither side can believe the words of the other. The two countries' understanding of one another is literally based on what they are able to discover covertly. Even then, they are unlikely to believe it. The U.S. knows this; that is why NUMA was kept in the dark about the true nature of the final flight of the Prosperiteer.



## Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 40 - 42

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 40 - 42 Summary

Pitt struggles with his bathtub boat, but is invisible to merchant traffic. Once he runs out of fuel the bathtub will likely sink. Fortunately for Pitt, the Denver is running maneuvers and picks up an anomaly on their sonar. When they surface, they find Pitt motoring along in a bathtub. Pitt is rescued. Then the chain of command must be altered in order to get Pitt stateside as quickly as possible. Clyde Montfort calls Admiral Sandecker with the news that Pitt is alive; news that brings Sandecker out of his depression. The likelihood that any of the blimp crew could still be alive was nil and Sandecker had begun the grieving process for the loss of his three friends. With joy he contacts the president to get a presidential order to get Pitt to the U.S. A bit of good news temporarily cheers the President, but his mind returns to the Inner Core and the meeting he will have with them tomorrow morning. The identity of the tenth member is revealed. It is Dan Fawcett, his Chief of Staff.

Pitt's rescue opens up a window of opportunity for the U.S. He has information that they have been unable to gather before. He is debriefed at Langley by Martin Brogan, head of the CIA. After talking for ninety minutes, Pitt answers the questions of the assembled experts. When Pitt is done, Brogan expresses skepticism, at which point Pitt gets up to leave the debriefing. His intention is to call a press conference and announce all he knows to the world. He is dissuaded, with the promise that everything that can be done for his friends will be done and Pitt will join them when they storm the island. As an added precaution, the news wires will be given a false story of Pitt's death.

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 40 - 42 Analysis

Against all odds, Pitt actually makes his escape from the island and is rescued just in time by the U.S. Denver, a submarine in the area. By pulling every possible string, Pitt is brought to Langley for a debriefing by the nation's top intelligence community where he gives them detailed information about Velikov's secret military installation two hundred miles off the coast of Florida. When Pitt's story is doubted, Pitt gets up to take matters into his own hands by intending to call a press conference. True to his nature, Pitt does not suffer fools well. He is worried about his friends, and feels that he has nothing to lose. He is not bound by the same constraints as an organization like the CIA is. He is a man of action and will not wait for idiotic conjecture. His authenticity convinces Brogan and a raid on the island is planned.





## Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 43 - 45

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 43 - 45 Summary

The President confronts the nine Inner Core members at Camp David. The Inner Core are proud of their accomplishments and are unable to understand the President's gravity as he speaks to them. When he tells them that the three Soviet lunar probes the colonists had shot down were manned, the Inner Core realize that they are responsible for the deaths of nine Soviet cosmonauts. The Soviets believe that the downing of their crafts are an act of aggression and will respond appropriately by manning Selenos 8 with soldiers, which is what they have, indeed, done. The President tells the Inner Core they have, in effect, started a war for the moon.

Pitt is taken care of physically, but he has a lead he wants to follow up and by throwing the equivalent of a temper tantrum, he manages to get permission to make a call outside the facility. The remains of the diver in the Cyclops had a diving helmet with a name and serial number. Pitt calls Weehawken Marine Products and gets the name of the diver who purchased the helmet in 1958. The diver is dead, but his widow's name is Kilda Kroenburg, and she lives in Leesburg, Virginia in a rest home. Pitt manages to convince Brogan to allow him to look up Hilda Kroenburg at the rest home. He is stunned to discover the atmosphere of the rest home to be more like a five star hotel; for a poor struggling diver, Hans apparently managed to leave a fortune to his widow. Then Pitt discovers that Hans's partner was Raymond LeBaron, who likely murdered him underwater because his lifeline and airhose were cut and Pitt had observed the cuts during his dive on the wreck. Hilda has always suspected that Ray killed Hans, but not for La Dorada, but for her. She tells Pitt that Ray salvaged La Dorada, but took it to Cuba rather than to the U.S. First he took the great ruby heart and sold it in pieces to launch the LeBaron empire. When Castro came to power, the statue was hidden somewhere in Cuba. Hilda is married to Raymond LeBaron, making the man a bigamist with his current marriage to Jessie.

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 43 - 45 Analysis

The Inner Core is briefed that because they violated the International space law treaty and conducted their space program in secret they may, inadvertently, have started a war between Russia and the United States. The Inner Core are scientists, not really politicians, and so they did not take the logical leap. The president does this for them. Now their colony and all the scientific data is at risk. In all likelihood the lives of the lunar colonists are at risk. While governments seem to flounder in papers and policy, such a situation illustrates why it is important to have regulations regarding space exploration. It would seem that a second "Cold War" crisis is imminent between the U.S. and Russia. On a more personal level, rules did not protect Hans Kroenburg. Because Ray LeBaron coveted his wife, Hans lost his life to his friend. LeBaron then takes possession both of

La Dorada and Hilda, whom he marries. After he illness he placed her in the rest home and married Jessie, showing him to be a man of very little conscience.



## Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 46 - 48

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 46 - 48 Summary

The President talks directly with the leader of the Jersey Colony, Eli Steinmetz, who he congratulates for his tremendous accomplishment. Then the President gets immediately down to business and warns the colony leader of the likelihood of a Soviet attack. In spite of the President's pleas, Steinmetz refuses to destroy the colony to avoid bloodshed. While his men are not well armed, they do enjoy the home team advantage for they have lived on the moon for six years. The Soviets land on the moon and indeed they are well armed. The biggest problem for them is that they are not trained cosmonauts, they are soldiers. Eli Steinmetz uses a flag of truce to initiate talks with the Russians. Petrov is a soldier, and is not skilled at verbal negotiations. He offers the falsehood of surrender to Steinmetz, which is refused. In turn, Steinmetz refuses to surrender to the Soviets, informing the Soviet leader they have a secret weapon.

The Soviets believe that Steinmetz is bluffing; and so walk into his trap. The Americans have buried themselves in the lunar sand and are picking the cosmonauts off from behind with knives. By the time Leuchenko realizes what is happening, he is alone. He manages to get a couple good shots off, squarely hitting one of the colonists, and hitting another in the shoulder. Leuchenko's dying request is not to be buried on the moon. The Soviets back on earth are devastated; their mission is a failure. Not completely ready to give up, the Soviets then prepare for one final play. They plan to force the space shuttle, the Gettysburg, to crash land in Cuba. By using the strategic military installment off the coast of Cuba they have the ability to mimic the voices of the astronaut's contacts with Houston Control.

### Part III, Selenos 8: Chapters 46 - 48 Analysis

For the Soviets, a battle for Jersey Colony is a long shot. For the American colonists, they believe that they have far too much invested in their lunar colony to just give it up. Having lived on the moon for six years, the colonists are able to prepare for the Soviet invasion by burying the colonists in the sand, armed with knives. As the Soviets spread out and approach the colony it is an easy matter for Steinmetz to order the closest man to rise from the dirt and kill the last Soviet soldier in formation. This seems to be a true victory, but the Soviets have one last dirty trick up their sleeves and that is to force the Gettysburg space shuttle down.



# Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 49 - 51

## Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 49 - 51 Summary

November 3, 1989

San Salvador Island

The Castro brothers discuss the effect on Cuba of helping the Soviet Union with revolutionary movements in other countries. This has cost Cuba millions of dollars and thousands of Cuban lives. Raul urges Fidel to turn against the Soviets lest the people of Cuba turn on him. Fidel agrees and plans to make an announcement during the Education Day Celebration in five days. The Castros believe that a new treaty between Cuba and the U.S. is imminent and even though the U.S. envoy likely died in the attack on the blimp, Fidel believes that the U.S. President will wait for his next exchange. On Cayo Santa Maria, Velikov is given orders to use any electronic capability at his disposal to bring the Gettysburg down on Cuban soil. Gunn and Giordino are given steak and eggs for dinner, wildly different fare from the typical foul-smelling chicken or fish stew. With dinner comes a visit from Foss Gly, bringing news that Dirk Pitt's body has been found by a fisherman. Gunn and Giordino know that Pitt has made it to safety.

Jack Sherman is apprised that someone is breaking into the communications channel of the space station. Jersey Colony is calling to ask permission to dock at the space station. Sherman believes this to be a hoax until Houston Control confirms that the transmission is not originating from earth. Finally, Irwin Mitchell informs the space station of the existence of Eli Steinmetz and his men; one of whom is dead and two others with gunshot wounds. The President has Hudson brief all his men and advisers about Jersey Colony and after a period of stunned silence, everyone erupts in an enthusiastic barrage of questions. After a time, they turn their attention to getting the astronauts safely home. It is freely understood that the Russians are furious that they lost possession of Jersey colony and all its research and that they will likely target the Gettysburg in order to get their hands on the research.

## Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 49 - 51 Analysis

The Russians now have two prizes they wish to win. The first is to remove Fidel Castro and his successor, Raul, from power in Cuba by assassinating them both. Fidel is smart enough to know that this is likely happening, but he really believes he has more time than he actually does. The second prize is the research gathered by the Jersey Colony on the moon's surface. If they cannot have the moon colony, they will then take possession of the space shuttle, Gettysburg, and all the data the lunar colonists are bringing home. Such a prize will surely advance their space program by dozens of years. The military installation where Giordino and Gunn are held will play a huge role in the latter objective.



## Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 52 - 54

### Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 52 - 54 Summary

As planned, the Russians simulate an order for the space shuttle to leave the space station and prepare for re-entry. All of Houston Control is compromised; they cannot communicate with either Gettysburg or the space station. The President is apprised of the situation and he orders two Air Force squadrons to be scrambled to escort the shuttle. If they are unable to redirect the shuttle the President will have to give the order for the shuttle to be shot down to prevent it from being taken by the Russians. The space shuttle is preparing for re-entry, but the pilot is becoming suspicious. For one thing, Merv Foley from Houston called him Don rather than Dave, and the shuttle's sensors are indicating that their landing path is off course and putting them down in Cuba. Lastly, for the first time in over thirty years Houston is having them make a landing in the dark.

Near Cayo Santa Maria, Pitt is being grilled by both Kleist and Quintana for a more exact position of the installment on the island. Just prior to their assault, Quintana and Kleist are informed of the necessity to destroy the compound before the Gettysburg is forced to land in Cuba. Pitt is charged with finding and destroying the antennae. However, when they reach the electrified fence, Pitt realizes the compound is closer and the antenna is a mile away. Quintana sends his fastest runner for the antennae array and Pitt and Quintana head for the compound and enter through the air vent where Pitt had originally escaped.

### Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 52 - 54 Analysis

The Russians can just about taste victory whereas the President is sick at heart for he will soon have to order the shuttle to be shot down. Through the secret military installation on Cayo Santa Maria, Velikov has been able to interrupt the communications from Houston Control to both the space station and Gettysburg and give them orders to come home. The shuttle pilot is suspicious, but not enough to completely disregard his orders. However, he does notice that they are heading for Cuba and not Florida. The tension of the book rises tremendously as the reader waits to find out if Pitt and Quintana can reestablish appropriate communications with the space shuttle before it is shot out of the sky. Years of lunar research will be lost, as will the expertise of all the lunar colonist who will die aboard the Gettysburg.



## Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 55 - 57

### Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 55 - 57 Summary

Pitt, Quintana and twenty-five men search the lower level of the military installment where Pitt had been a prisoner, but for a single guard, the floor is empty. Splitting up, about eight men to a floor should give them enough time to dismantle the communication system. Pitt has a singular goal in mind and when he reaches it he finds what he is looking for. His friends are still alive. He breaks into the room where they are being tortured by Gly in front of the Soviet officers. Pitt shoots several of them, then goes after Gly with the baseball bat he brought with him. Pitt fights valiantly, but Gly is superhumanly strong. Only by gouging Gly's eye out with his thumb does Pitt get out of the man's deadly embrace and Jessie LeBaron calmly shoots the torturer three times in the groin with a handgun. Beyond Velikov's study is a secret passageway to the command center. Quintana's men breach the other side and gun down the man operators. Pitt shoots is one remaining bullet at Velikov who uses one of his officers as a shield. Velikov then slips into another passageway that locks automatically, preventing Pitt from following. It is too late to kill the communication center, so Pitt works the radio attempting to make contact with Gettysburg himself. Unbelievably, he reaches them and tells them not to land in Cuba. He diverts them to the Key West Naval Air station. Jurgens was just about to attempt the same thing,

Major Hollyman is having a true fit of conscience. He cannot believe that he is being ordered to shoot down the Gettysburg before she lands in Cuba. He even demands to know who is the highest command for the order. Once he hears it is from the Commander in Chief of the White House he resigns himself to his duty. Meanwhile, aboard the Gettysburg, Jurgens is convinced that they are being put down in Cuba and he cannot understand it. Against Houston's orders, he goes to manual controls to keep the shuttle in the air as long as possible.

### Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 55 - 57 Analysis

Pitt and Quintana are at their deadline and they have not been able to kill the false communications center, so Pitt has to try to make contact with the shuttle himself, using Russian encoded equipment. The tension is very, very high at this point, because Major Hollyman has been given the order to shoot down the Gettysburg, and hesitates. This would be considered one of the major climax points of the story, specifically the storyline of Jersey Colony and the race for lunar dominance. Cussler uses numerous storylines to give his books depth and great interest. Each storyline is handled throughout the book, but there are the usual plot points for each storyline that do not coincide with the remainder of the book.



## Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 58 - 60

### Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 58 - 60 Summary

Hollyman has no trouble seeing the Gettysburg in the night sky since she is lit from front to back with navigation lights. He is given the order to fire on her, but Hollyman is burdened with indecision. If he shoots her down, he will forever be known as the executioner of the Gettysburg space shuttle. If he does not, he is defying a direct order. Neither choice is much good. Just as Hollyman is about to press the fire button, the Gettysburg breaks off her approach to the landing strip in Cuba. At that same moment the real Merv Foley makes contact with Dave Jurgens. They give instructions for the shuttle to land at Key West Naval Air station. Just when it does not seem that things could get any worse, Houston discovers that the Naval station's power is out due to an earlier fuel tanker collision. Hollyman is the pilot to save the day. He and the other escort planes can light up the runway with their landing lights. Dave Jurgens manages a beautiful landing with the assistance of his escorts.

Back in Cayo Santa Maria, Pitt returns to Velikov's study to find that Raymond LeBaron is dying from a gunshot wound, received when he tried to come to Pitt's aid earlier. Just before LeBaron dies, Pitt asks about the location of La Dorada. He thinks the man says, "Look on the main sight." (Page 353, Chapter 59.) They join Quintana and the rest of the invasion force taking the Dashers back to the waiting boat. About one mile off the shore of the island, Dirk is rerouted. Jessie is holding a gun to his rib cage. She only says that their job is only half done and then they deliberately head for Cuba.

### Part IV, The Gettysburg: Chapters 58 - 60 Analysis

The U.S. has triumphed in this portion of the Star Wars game. They did manage to keep the Gettysburg out of the hands of the Russians and they did not have to shoot her out of the sky. The Jersey Colony survivors and all their research are now on earth and will likely be placed in the hands of hundreds, even thousands of scientists. This is truly a day to celebrate in the U.S. Unfortunately, all is not over. Pitt is forced to join Jessie on some plan of her own. Likely Jessie is the U.S. envoy who is to have contacted the Castros regarding the peace treaty between Cuba and the U.S. The threat of the Russians taking over Cuba is not over and with the loss of the Gettysburg technology, Russia is like to be even more determined to win a presence only two hundred miles away from the United States.



# Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 61 - 63

## Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 61 - 63 Summary

November 6, 1989

North Coast of Cuba

With the loss of Gettysburg and the annihilation of Cayo Santa Maria, the Soviets are playing the blame game. Polevoi cleverly redirects Anatov's attention to the plan to assassinate Castro and gain a foothold in the Western Hemisphere. Fortunately for the Russians, their recent losses should have no effect on Rum and Cola, but intelligence could alter its course. The Russians also have the upper hand in negotiations with the U.S. regarding the SALT-IV agreement. It is likely that if the U.S. does not share the Jersey Colony scientific data, the Russians will walk out of the treaty signing. The President assures his staff that they have a wealth of medical, geological, and astronomical information that can be shared without giving away space and defense secrets. The President truly hopes that Jessie can get through to Castro so that they can work on the treaty proposed by Castro. The problem now is that the plot to assassinate Castro has been uncovered, but there is no way to communicate with Jessie or Dirk. The plan is to detonate an explosive in Havana Harbor, mainly to throw blame on the U.S. and sway the Cubans to the side of the Soviets after Castro's death.

Pitt and Jessie take the Dasher as close to shore as the batteries allow and from that point on they must swim. Fortunately, Jessie is a strong swimmer and very determined. As they reach land, Pitt knocks out a guard and gives that uniform to Jessie. A five mile hike in the pre-dawn is all that Jessie can manage and they seek shelter in a concrete pipe where they finally stop and sleep. When Jessie and Pitt are rested, Pitt gets the whole story from Jessie about how she is to meet with Fidel Castro on orders of the U.S. President to try to develop a peace treaty initiated by Fidel. She also admits that Pitt and his friends had been horribly wronged. They had been told nothing of the covert operation. She apologizes for their pain and suffering. Pitt's response is to make love to the beautiful woman. He also agrees to help her to reach Castro. They get a ride in a 57 Chevy after Pitt helps Herberto build a new wire with tape and a knife.

## Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 61 - 63 Analysis

Jessie has been on a secret mission all along. Castro had made an opening gesture to the President regarding a possible peace treaty. Because the Russians have infiltrated Castro's government, such an offering must be covert, as must its response. General Velikov suspects Castro of such a move, this is why Pitt, Al, Rudi, and Jessie were treated so badly on Cayo Santa Maria. Pitt and his friends gave the Russians no





information because they truly had none. Jessie knows how vital it is for her to speak with Castro so when they leave Cayo Santa Maria, rather than heading to the comparative safety and comfort of the ship, she forces Pitt at gunpoint to go to Cuba. Whether she believes Pitt to be an asset or she was merely reluctant to kill him remains to be seen. Either way, Jessie LeBaron is an incredibly brave woman and a true patriot.



## Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 64 - 66

### Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 64 - 66 Summary

Herberto is a Cuban taxi driver and this status gets Pitt and Jessie past three checkpoints. Their luck runs out at the fourth, where they are stopped by a youthful yet zealous guard. A Russian car comes up behind them carrying General Velikov, who had managed to escape the island in a hidden helicopter Pitt and Quintana's men had failed to find. Pitt kidnaps Velikov and leads the General's Russian driver in pursuit on a chase through the Cuban countryside. Pitt finally manages to get the Russian car to crash, then knows he must change vehicles. He takes a manure truck and places the driver, Velikov and Jessie in the bed of the truck hidden under the cover of smelly manure. He drives the truck unimpeded to Havana where he finds Jessie injured and the two men gone.

Ira Hagen travels to Cuba with a goal of preventing the bomb from exploding and leveling Havana. Tom Clark reveals that they have been searching the docks and three ships in question, but so far have not located the bomb. As the two men enter the grounds of the Swiss Embassy, their car is quickly followed by a taxi that carries Jessie and Dirk Pitt. Pitt, Hagen, and Clark quickly bring one another up to speed on the results of the various operations. Pitt agrees to help locate and neutralize the bombs. A quick glance at the harbor map gives him a clue as to which ship is likely to explode causing the most damage. Pitt also scrutinizes the manifests of the ships and tells Clark and Hagen they have been tricked. There are no nuclear devices. The three ships in question contain military munitions, oil, and fertilizer respectively. There is enough material to create a massive bomb.

Colonel General Kolchak and General Velikov discuss the progress of Rum and Cola. Velikov advises Kolchak to leave two hundred fifty Russian people and military behind to die in the explosion. He coldly states that this will give the Russians greater credibility when they establish a new government. Velikov will carry the transmitter that will detonate the primary explosive.

### Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 64 - 66 Analysis

A wild chase scene through the Cuban country with a kidnapped Soviet general is classic Dirk Pitt. He gets the most out of the derelict 57 Chevy he had to take from Herberto. Pitt and Jessie make it to the Swiss Embassy. This was previously the U.S. Embassy until relations between Cuba and the U.S. became strained. There, Pitt determines that the bomb that they've been looking for with antiquated Geiger counters does not exist. Rather than a nuclear device, the Russians have put all the components in place for a large and powerful bomb with adequate fuel that will cause a lot of

damage and destruction to the city of Havana. The Russians are determined to make it look as though the CIA is responsible for the explosion so that they can more easily take over the Castro regime.



## **Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 67 - 69**

### **Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 67 - 69 Summary**

Pitt meets the three CIA undercover operatives known to him only as Manny, Moe, and Jack, who have spent days searching for the bomb. He shows them that the Amy Bigelow with her 25,000 tons of fertilizer could cause an explosion of greater force than Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The munitions ship will explode next and the oil tanker will explode and ignite, causing Havana to burn for days. There is no time to unload the ships, so the plan is to move them. The more knots between the ships and the populated area of the harbor the better. Clark uses intimidation to get the armed guards to vacate the docks by the Amy Bigelow. The CIA agents make the awful discovery that the engines of the Ozero Zaysan have been destroyed with sledgehammers. The Amy Bigelow is a steam engine powered ship and with her engines shut down it will take time to get them up and running.

Ira Hagen and Jessie LeBaron manage to get in to see Raul Castro with Ira pretending to be Colonel General Kolchak. When Raul hears of the assassination plot, he wakes Fidel. Meanwhile, Velikov is notified of the change of guard at the docks, as well as the pre-dawn visit of Kolchak to see Raul Castro. When Velikov calls Kolchak's office, the Colonel General himself answers. Velikov is confused and uneasy. None of these developments are to his liking

### **Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 67 - 69 Analysis**

Now that Pitt and the CIA know what they are looking for, their entire approach changes. The goal now is to either find and dismantle the detonators or move the ships out to sea. This is easier said than done, for the Russians have damaged or shut down the engines so that the ships are immovable. Ira Hagen and Jessie LeBaron are finally able to meet with Raul Castro and tell him and Fidel about the assassination plot. Velikov is notified both of the unexpected change on the docks and of Raul's midnight visitor. The clock is ticking and both sides have more and more information about the Rum and Cola plan. It remains to be seen whether the U.S. or Russia will prevail. It appears that the U.S. is in a very bad position.



## Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 70 - 72

### Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 70 - 72 Summary

The battle of the harbor begins. Jack uses the Pisto tugboat to begin moving Ozero Baykai. He manages to delude the harbor patrol and overcomes its crew, then sinks the boat. This gives Pisto full access to the first ship. Pitt is aboard the Amy Bigelow, trying to find the detonator, but after two hours he gives it up as a lost cause. By 4:30 in the morning the Pisto comes back and begins to work on the Zero Zaysan, but just at that moment an armed convoy comes up the dock. Clark must create a diversion and confuse the Russians, easy to do because Clark is dressed in a Cuban military uniform. Clark is killed in this exercise. While the battle blazes on the dock, the Pisto struggles to move the Ozero Zaysan by connecting the Pisto, the Ozero Zaysan and the Amy Bigelow together. This is taking the two most dangerous ships away from the populated areas of Havana. They manage to create a four knot distance before they are blocked by the patrol-frigate who believes them to be counter-revolutionaries trying to reach the U.S. The frigate has four inch guns aimed at the strange trip of ships. By this time, the Amy Bigelow is underway and is on a collision course with the frigate. She plows through the frigate and sinks it.

Velikov gets the news that the Rum and Cola operation ships are no longer moored to the docks. He knows that only Dirk Pitt could have accomplished this. Velikov orders the Soviet Naval ships to block the way out to the open sea and force the Rum and Cola operation ships back into the harbor. Moments later Velikov attempts to leave but is forced to a meeting with Jessie LeBaron and Fidel Castro.

### Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 70 - 72 Analysis

The battle in Havana Harbor is one of the most exciting parts of the book. Everything is timed so tightly, and hundreds of thousands of lives are at risk if Pitt fails. With bravado, bluster, and bravery, Pitt and the undercover CIA agents manage to put quite a bit of distance between the ships and the populated harbor town. Velikov, so sure of his success in Cuba, cannot believe it. He must certainly wish he had dispatched Dirk Pitt some time ago. Now with Rum and Cola operation looking dismally like another failure he tries to flee. Instead, he is apprehended and brought for a face to face meeting with Fidel Castro.



## **Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 73 - 75**

### **Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 73 - 75 Summary**

Pitt, Moe, Jack, and Manny fight valiantly to keep their ships headed seaward, but the Soviet Naval vessels, one of them a destroyer, begin an attack on the trio of renegade ships. Pitt and Manny manage to escape prior to the destroyer firing upon them. Pitt is disappointed that they were not able to get the ships further away. Back on shore, Velikov is facing a furious Fidel Castro. Velikov purports diplomatic immunity, but Castro will have none of that. Instead, he threatens Velikov with torture if he does not reveal the location of the transmitter and detonators. Velikov's answer is to pull a transmitter from his pocket and press the button. In the harbor, the Amy Bigelow vaporizes. As planned, the Ozero Zaysan, then the Ozero Baykai explodes. Hundreds of people are killed while they sleep and four miles of waterfront erupt in flames. The resulting tidal wave carries Pitt deep into the city. The Castro brothers, Hagen, Jessie, and Velikov survive the catastrophe. The blast, while horrific, was only one tenth of what it would have been had Pitt and the CIA not moved the boats far out into the harbor, near the open sea.

### **Part V, The Amy Bigelow: Chapters 73 - 75 Analysis**

While Pitt did not completely manage to prevent Velikov's ships from exploding, he did manage to keep the disaster from having the massive proportions that were planned. This is truly a terrific plot point, for it shows Dirk Pitt to be human. He tried the best he could and yet was unable to completely foil the Russians in their attempt to take Cuba. It would appear, however, that because Fidel and Raul are still alive, the Russians will have a hard time explaining the explosion to the Cuban people.



# Part VI, Eureka! The La Dorada: Chapters

## Part VI, Eureka! The La Dorada: Chapters Summary

November 8, 1989

Washington, D.C.

The United States gets word that the ships detonated four hours ahead of schedule and that much of the port of Havana is in flames. Loss of life is estimated to be in the thousands; but it is infinitely better than initially expected. The U.S. offers relief aid immediately under the auspices of the Red Cross. Open communication between Castro and the U.S. looks promising. In Cuba, Castro is rounding up disloyal government officials and military officers. They are arrested and taken to underground prisons and are never heard from again.

At this point in the story there is no news of Pitt. Admiral Sandecker and Al Giordino fly to Cuba to help search for him, expecting him to be merely a body. Everyone they speak to give the same report, only two men survived who were on the docks at the time of the explosion; and they believe Pitt was at the helm of the Amy Bigelow when she blew up. Then, like a phoenix pied-piper, Pitt appears with a little boy on his shoulders, a little girl cradled in his arms and nearly a dozen more children following behind. Medical care and rest are given to all. Pitt is awakened from too short a sleep period to personally receive the thanks of Fidel Castro. Offering to grant Pitt any favor, Castro allows Pitt to ship a 57 Chevy to Herberto Figueroa. Then he asks for a boat with a crane. La Dorada is buried off the coast of Cuba at the Maine site, where in 1898 the battleship Main blew up and started the Spanish American War. Indeed, Pitt finds La Dorada.

## Part VI, Eureka! The La Dorada: Chapters Analysis

The devastation of Havana is heart wrenching, especially the children who are lost and injured. It is just like Dirk Pitt to show up, when everyone is looking for his corpse, not only alive, but with a small band of children to whom he is teaching an American song, Yankee Doodle. His heart is as big as the world, and he never fails to lend a hand. Injured, fatigued, and hungry, he still finds it in himself to render assistance. He is personally thanked by Fidel Castro, who asks for a detailed account of the Rum and Cola operation and how he managed to avert a far worse disaster. In thanks, Fidel offers to grant anything Pitt wishes. His first wish is to find a restored 57 Chevy so that he can properly thank Herberto Figueroa for having to take his taxi. His second wish is for a boat with a crane. He knows where the La Dorada is. Had LeBaron dropped her overboard, it might be impossible to have found her, but Pitt suspected that LeBaron

intended to one day come back for the golden lady and so he set her down on the bottom of the ocean, feet first. When Pitt finds her, he comes face to face with her beautiful emerald head.





# Characters

## Dirk Pitt

The protagonist of the story and a member of NUMA, the National Underwater and Marine Agency. His love of the ocean and varied abilities underwater make him the perfect choice to help Jessie LeBaron try to track down her husband, believed to have perished looking for the Cyclops wreckage off the coast of Cuba. This act takes him on a collision course with danger, treachery, espionage, and adventure. They encounter a hurricane, the Cuban shore patrol, a dive on the Cyclops, and then a desperate landing on Cayo Santa Maria during the hurricane. Looking for help and medical assistance, they find instead a secret military installation built by the Soviets just two hundred miles off the coast of Florida.

Pitt's sardonic demeanor does not sit well with the Soviets, or the man they use to torture the prisoners into confessions. Deciding that staying on the island is a waste of time, Pitt manages to escape using a small motor and a bath-tub. He gives succinct details of the island and the people left on it to the top security advisers of the U.S. Going back to the island does not bother Pitt, for his friends are still there and he is duty-bound to rescue them. After they accomplish their mission on the island, Pitt is forced at gunpoint to head to Cuba where even more adventures await him. His quick mind is able to see through the Soviet's great bomb plot. The CIA operatives in Cuba have been looking for a nuclear device, and Pitt determines that the Soviets are using a more basic yet very lethal device using fertilizer and proximity. Using every ounce of his physical and emotional strength, Pitt manages to avert what could have been a horrible catastrophe. Hundreds of people still die, but he has prevented the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cuban citizens. In general, Pitt is a freewheeling and sarcastic man who can easily liven up a room just by walking into it.

## Al Giordino

Assistant Projects Director of NUMA. Al is also Dirk's best friend, short and stocky build of Italian descent. He and Pitt have known each other since before they started school together. Al is willing to join Pitt on any adventure Pitt deems worthy of undertaking. This time, he joins Pitt and Rudi Gunn on an adventure aboard the *Prosperiteer* in order to track Raymond LeBaron's last flight to see if they can find any clues to the financier's whereabouts. Giordino suffers a torn knee tendon and suffers brutal torture at the hands of the Soviets. He willingly encourages Pitt to make a run for safety, for his escape just might free those left behind on the island. Sandecker knows Giordino to be the sort of man who is outgoing and readily volunteers for the dirtiest jobs and projects and loves to steal Sandecker's expensive cigars. Al's relationship with Dirk goes back to their kindergarten days when they first met. They have known one another nearly all their lives, and have become closer than brothers. Al's personality is a wonderful addition to the story. He is an Italian, short, barrel-chested, easy-going, but as acerbic as they



come. His friendship with his NUMA friends is a cherished possession for him, and he will do everything in his power to see to it that he comes to the aid of any of them at any time.

During their incarceration on Cayo Santa Maria, Giordino and Gunn are held in the same room, both of them having been injured in the crash of the *Prosperteer* and then hurricane-aided landing on the shores of the island. They join forces and give each other great moral support. Al never loses his sense of humor, and uses it to keep their spirits up even though they have been assured that they will be killed. At the end of the story, Al joins Admiral Sandecker in Cuba looking for what they believe to be Pitt's body. His friendship is such that he could not allow even his friend's body to be abandoned.

## **General Peter Velikov**

Commander of Russia's most secret military installation. He is well educated, well-read, and completely cold and without conscience. He does not care that Pitt and his companions ended up on his island by accident. The purpose of the island is a secret, and he will kill all of the intruders in order to maintain that secret. He is wily, and manages to escape when Cayo Santa Maria is invaded and the military installation destroyed. He goes to Cuba where he continues to work on the Soviet goal of assassinating Fidel and Raul Castro, and then taking over the Cuban government and installing a very strong Soviet presence in the Western Hemisphere. Velikov is the antagonist of the book in the form of a person.

## **Raymond LeBaron**

Very wealthy publisher who refurbishes the *Prosperteer* and embarks on what seems to be a treasure hunt for sunken ships, but instead is looking for more modern treasure, a Russian spacecraft.

## **Jessie LeBaron**

Wife of Raymond LeBaron, though not exactly. She has acted as his wife, but is unable to marry Raymond because he is still married to his previous wife. Jessie is a bit of a snob in the beginning of the story, but she learns to appreciate the finer qualities of a man like Dirk Pitt, a man willing to do anything to aid his country, and to prevent harm to innocent people. She is also a nationalist, and having been given the task of making contact with Fidel Castro, she is absolutely determined to accomplish her mission. So, despite her capture and imprisonment on Cayo Santa Maria, her torture at the hands of the Soviets and the true death of her husband; Jessie still forces Pitt to turn toward Cuba when they were heading back to the U.S. and safety. There, she appreciates Pitt's tremendous varied talents and is able to accomplish her mission.



## **U.S. President**

Discovers the well-kept secret of the moon colony, Jersey Colony only because it is in trouble. His job is to keep world peace as well as celebrating the phenomenal accomplishment of the United States in their successful effort to live on the moon. His hands are tied in many different directions.

## **Buck Caesar**

The owner/operator of Exotic Artifact Ventures. Essentially, he is a treasure hunter, and he is responsible for reigniting Raymond LeBaron's interest in his blimp.

## **Joe Cavilla**

LeBaron's copilot aboard the blimp. He is sixty years old and a Brazilian native.

## **Reggie Salazar**

Golf caddy to the president who is knocked out and replaced by an intruder during the president's weekly golf game.

## **Calvin Rooney**

Dade County coroner, native Floridian, U.S. Army veteran, and Harvard Medical School graduate.

## **John Church**

Lieutenant aboard the Cyclops during her final voyage in 1918.

## **George Worley**

Lieutenant Commander of the Cyclops on her final voyage in 1918.

## **Alfred Gottschalk**

American consul general to Brazil who dies aboard the Cyclops just prior to her sinking in the Carribean.



## **Tyler Sweat**

Dade County Sheriff, investigating the three corpses aboard the blimp.

## **James Sandecker**

Director of NUMA - the National Underwater and Marine Agency. He is a fitness freak and a very close friend to Dirk Pitt, Al Giordino and Rudi Gunn.

## **Raphael O'Meara**

Archaeologist, specializing in pre-Columbian art and artifacts.

## **Hiram Yaeger**

Computer wizard at NUMA.

## **Colonel Ralph Morehouse Sigler**

Trained geologist and engineer in the British Army.

## **Ira Hagen**

Undercover agent and brother-in-law to the U.S. President. He is commissioned secretly by the President to discover the identities of all remaining nine men of the Inner Core, the ones responsible for Jersey Colony on the moon. Ira moves around the country, and almost like a ghost he manages to get in and out of places without being apprehended. He rounds up all the Inner Core in time for a debriefing with the President at Camp David.

## **Anastas Rykov**

Soviet geophysicist who sees humans on the moon.

## **Maxim Yassenin**

The second Russian to know of men on the moon.

## **Sam Emmett**

Chief of FBI.



## **Sergei Zochenko**

Russian Cosmonaut.

## **Alexander Yudenich**

Russian Cosmonaut.

## **Ivan Ronsky**

Russian Cosmonaut.

## **Earl Mooney**

Head of the Lab.

## **Gunnar Eriksen**

Supposedly died in 1965, and was known to be obsessed with building a colony on the moon. He did not die in the plane crash, he is alive and part of the Inner Core.

## **Georgi Anatov**

Soviet President.

## **Vladimir Polevoi**

Head of State Security of the Soviet Union.

## **Sergei Kornilov**

Chief of Soviet Space Program.

## **Rudi Gunn**

NUMA overseer who joins Pitt and Giordino on the blimp, retracing Raymond LeBaron's last known path. He is driven to be perfect and has the drive to accomplish this. His ability to organize is unsurpassed, and is one of the most friendly men alive.



## **Clyde Monfort**

Caribbean Joint Task Force.

## **Ed Steinmetz**

Engineer and leader of Jersey Colony on the moon.

## **Dan Fawcett**

The U.S. President's Chief of Staff, everything concerning the President goes through him. He is the last member of the Inner Core to be identified.

## **Foss Gly**

American turned Soviet interrogator and torturer.

## **Grigory Leuchenko**

Assault team commander on the moon.

## **Lyeu Maisky**

Deputy head of First Chief Directorate.

## **Marty Grogan**

Director of CIA.

## **Alan Mercier**

National Security Adviser.

## **Kermit Fulton**

Commander of the attack sub Denver.

## **Raymond Kleist**

U.S. Marine Corps, retired.



## **Angelo Quintana**

Head of the Cayo Santa Maria invasion.

## **Hans Kroenberg**

Identity of the diver whose body is found at the Cyclops wreckage.

## **Hilda Kroenberg**

Actually Hilda LeBaron, widow of Hans Kroenberg who married Raymond LeBaron but when she grew ill he places her in a nursing home and pretends to marry Jessie.

## **Dmitri Petrov**

Lunar landing party member.

## **Willie Shea**

Colony geophysicist.

## **Ivan Ostrovski**

Afghan veteran, member of the Soviet lunar landing party.

## **Mikhail Kruschuk**

First Soviet to be shot on the moon.

## **Fidel Castro**

Ruler of Cuba.

## **Raul Castro**

Brother to Fidel.

## **Jack Sherman**

Commander of the Space Station.



## **Irwin Mitchell**

NASA director of flight operations.

## **Dave Jurgens**

Commander of the space shuttle, Gettysburg.

## **Carl Burkhart**

Co-pilot of the Gettysburg.

## **Merv Foley**

Houston Controller.

## **Gus Hollyman**

The Air Force pilot who is ordered to shoot down the Gettysburg.

## **Alicia Dorder**

Secretary of the Central Committee to be named Fidel's replacement.

## **Herberto Figueroa**

The taxi driver and owner of the 57 Chevy that Pitt takes.

## **Tom Clark**

Chief of Special Interests section in Cuba.

## **Viktor Kolchak**

Chief of Soviet Military Forces and Advisers based in Cuba.





# Objects/Places

## Cyclops

A Collier, or ship carrying 309 passengers and crew that has a strange crate aboard on her final voyage from Rio de Janeiro to Baltimore. She sinks off the coast of Cuba.

## The Prosperteer

An aluminum clad ZMC-2 Zeppelin Clad Number Two blimp refurbished by Raymond LeBaron and purportedly used for treasure hunting over the Caribbean, looking for sunken ships.

## Inner Core

The few key men who are totally informed about Jersey Colony. They are purported to have penetrated the highest levels in NASA, the Pentagon, and likely the President's White House staff.

## Southern Comfort

Sweat's thirty-five foot cruiser. Utilized as his second office and as a backup police cruiser.

## Crogan Castle

The ship that sends Cyclops a distress signal.

## Daimler

Pitt's 1951 convertible, a vintage British car.

## NUMA

National Underwater and Marine Agency .

## La Dorada

The great treasure reputed to be aboard Cyclops. She is a golden woman thought to be a representation of the wife of a ruler called on to kill her.



## **Borscht Paste**

A food substance given to Russian Cosmonauts.

## **Harvey Pattenden National Physics Laboratory**

Where Ira Hagen first picks up the trail of the Inner Core.

## **Cayo Santa Maria**

The Cuban island where Pitt and his companions are tortured and held prisoner. It is also the site of the most secret Soviet military installment outside of Russia and it is only two hundred miles off the course of Florida.

## **Door Number Six**

The torture room on Cayo Santa Maria.

## **Motor and Bathtub**

Objects Pitt uses to create a makeshift boat used to get off of Cayo Santa Maria.

## **Rum and Cola**

The code name for the Russian-planned Cuban takeover plot that includes killing Raul and Fidel Castro and blowing up Havana harbor to lay blame at the feet of the United States and its CIA.

## **Selenos 8**

The Soviet moon vehicle that will carry seven cosmonauts, five of them soldiers armed to take over the American lunar colony.

## **Denver**

The U.S. attack submarine that rescues Dirk from the Bahama Channel.

## **Diving Helmet**

The Mark V, Serial #58-67-C. The helmet that Pitt finds on the modern diver's remains at the wreckage site of the Cyclops.



## **San Salvador Island**

Smallest island of the Bahamas where Pitt and the assault team train.

## **SALT IV**

Agreement to halt all future nuclear missile placement.

## **57 Chevy**

The taxi that Pitt takes from Herberto Figueroa.

## **Ozero Zaysan**

Soviet cargo ship loaded with military supplies and equipment.

## **Ozero Baykai**

200,000 ton oil tanker.

## **Amy Bigelow**

Cuban operated ship filled with 25,000 tons of ammonium nitrate.

## **Pisto**

Tugboat Jack uses to move the Ozero Baykai from its docking position.



# Themes

## Evil Is a Matter of Degree

Fidel Castro has long been considered the evil dictator of Cuba, and that nothing could be worse than him. Russia, wishing to use Castro's regime as a cover for their own nefarious plot to seek world dominance, is actually far worse than Castro. In the story, Castro is seen as a benevolent dictator, who does seem to care about his people. The Russians, instead, use Castro's people as a cover, and have no compunction about blowing up the harbor, killing thousands of people to falsely lay blame elsewhere.

When the Soviets realize that there are men on the moon, they immediately know that only the Americans can have accomplished this feat. Instead of contacting the U.S. President, and opening dialogue and negotiations, the Russians decide that they will send up a lunar lander, and change out the scientists for soldiers so that they can take over the moon colony. They now understand why their previous lunar probes have failed. They consider the Americans to be evil for shooting down their probes. The Americans, however, were unaware that the probes were manned, and so when the lunar colonists shot them down they knew they were damaging valuable Soviet property, they never realized that they were killing people. The Soviets, on the other hand, have no compunction about sending up an armed military invasion to take over the moon colony.

## Patriots Come in Many Guises

The Inner Core are seen throughout part of the book as an enemy. Their initial approach to the President is one of threats because they finally need something from the President. Their intention, however, is to keep their magnificent triumph secret enough so that their lunar colonists and all their research data and samples can come home to earth safely. They made mistakes. Their decisions to fake deaths, establish an Inner Core that has such secrecy that no undercover agency in the U.S. knows about them, to put men in high positions in NASA, the Pentagon, and in the White House in order to maintain their secrecy are all choices that can be construed as possibly evil. However, their intentions were never evil. Even when they downed the Soviet lunar probes, they were still striving to maintain secrecy. They did not know that the probes were manned, so they were shocked to realize they are responsible for the deaths of nine men. Despite all this, the men are patriots.

Jessie LeBaron and her husband are both patriots. Raymond LeBaron is one of the Inner Core. How he manages to reach the social and financial position to be of value to the Inner Core can be construed as nefarious. He murders a man in order to have the man's wife. He is not married to Jessie, but pretends to be. He steals the La Dorada and uses the huge ruby to start his financial empire. Yet, he still believes in the Jersey Colony and keeps the secret. Jessie is even more of a patriot for her role in becoming



an envoy between the U.S. and Cuba. She lies to NUMA. She is a snob and rude, but deep down, the woman is strong, courageous, determined, and ultimately an American patriot, for she did not stop when she could have. She endured horrible torture and cruelty at the hands of the Soviets, and yet she did not yield. Instead, she forces Pitt to join her in Cuba to put an end to the Rum and Cola Operation by informing Castro of the assassination plot and the fact that the U.S. President is open to peace treaty negotiations.

The hero of the book can be seen as the most evident patriot of all. Dirk Pitt is willing to do anything for his country. While he does not have the highest regard for men or women because of their social, political, or military standing, he does know the difference between right and wrong. He knows that the military and intelligence agencies have their hoops. He also knows that he is not constrained by the same ropes. When Brogan is skeptical about the events on Cayo Santa Maria, Pitt has no compunction about leaving the debriefing and notifying the press. He believes the public has a right to know that there is a dangerous Soviet Military installation just off the coast of Florida. Dirk Pitt is a true patriot.

## **Sometimes the End Does Justify the Means**

Rules are made for reasons, but there are sometimes good justifications for breaking rules. The effort required to establish a colony on the moon is tremendous, and had the Inner Core gone through traditional channels, it is highly likely that Jersey Colony would never have been achieved. Instead, it would have remained a dream. Unfortunately, the lunar colonists killed nine Soviet Cosmonauts by shooting down their lunar probes, attempting to keep Jersey Colony a secret from the Russians. The Americans had previously given the Soviets Space-age secrets, but the Russians still play for keeps and have no wish to share any of their information. From the point of view of Cyclops, Clive Cussler shows the Russians to be unbending, unyielding, and impossible to negotiate with. Because of this, the Inner Core chose to keep Jersey Colony a secret, even from the U.S. government. Because they did this, Jersey Colony is truly a success, and a triumph for the U.S. A good case where the end justifies the means.

Jessie LeBaron had reasons for her silence. The Rum and Cola Operation threatened negotiations between the U.S. and Cuba. Fidel Castro had made a tentative approach to the United States to establish a peace treaty. Because Cuba has a strong Soviet presence, Castro had to use subterfuge in order to get his message to the U.S. In return, the U.S. had to do the same thing, by sending an envoy, Jessie LeBaron, to Cuba in the Prosperteer. Castro was unaware of the purpose of the blimp, and only realized later that it likely contained the individual who was bringing his message to him. Jessie knew just how vital it was that she reach Fidel, but that it absolutely must be kept a secret from the Soviets. Landing on Cayo Santa Maria must have been a horrible surprise for her, for she knows that the Soviets will be very suspicious of her landing on the very same island where her husband is being held captive. Jessie keeps her secret even from Pitt and the rest of the NUMA team that she used to get her to Cuba. At first it seems to be a horrible withholding of information, because Pitt, Giordino, and Gunn

suffer horribly on the island, but when viewed overall, the fate of the entire western hemisphere might possibly be in her hands, one can easily see why she kept her counsel. In this case, her ends did justify the means.



# Style

## Point of View

The story, *Cyclops* by Clive Cussler is a limited omniscient third person point of view, with multiple narrators. The main protagonist, Dirk Pitt, is not in every scene, and in order for the story to move forward the reader is actually given information that Pitt does not have. This is a traditional story-telling technique that actually increases the sense of crisis and suspense. Each chapter has several scenes that often take place at exactly the same time, just in different parts of the world or different parts of the universe. The entire story takes place in four short weeks, and the survival of the world as it hangs in the balance for much of that time. The reader is part of the story, experiencing it exactly as each event unfolds. Because this is a plot-driven story, there is minimal intrusion into the thoughts and ideas of the characters.

The story begins in 1918 with a single night in history where a Navy Collier experiences an encounter with a rogue wave that engulfs the ship and her secrets. One of her secrets is able to stand the test of time, the *La Dorada*, the golden woman. She is a treasure of untold value, and treasure hunters have searched long and hard for her. Dirk Pitt is brought into the story entirely by accident. He simply is in the right place at the right time, and is unable to turn down the invitation. He continues to assist, believing that he is looking for the wreckage of the *Cyclops* and the treasure, *La Dorada*. He is not aware that he is deeply embroiled in subterfuge and espionage that is so covert that only a handful of people really know what is going on.

Russia is the main antagonist, personified by General Velikov. The U.S. is the main protagonist, personified by Dirk Pitt. Russia and the U.S. vie for both the moon and Cuba. Russia attempting to take both by force. The U.S. has a colony on the moon, but a colony so secret that only the Inner Core know of its existence. Not even the President of the United States is aware of its existence. The U.S. also has no desire to rule Cuba, but is interested in opening talks toward a peace treaty between the two countries. As is typical with Cussler's novels, he has an enormous cast of characters and keeping track of them all is a challenge. As for which side they are on, that is not quite an easy task either. On a large scale, it is the U.S. against Russia, but it is also the U.S. government against the Inner Core as well.

## Setting

*Cyclops* begins on the open ocean and three thirty in the morning in 1918. The Navy Collier is bound from Rio de Janeiro to Baltimore, Maryland. Aboard is a treasure beyond measure as well as some secret passengers. The ship sinks off the coast of Cuba and her story remains a ghost of a story until the *Prosperteer* shows up in the Bahamas, manned by three corpses. In this way, Cussler brings the story to 1989 with all the difficulties of world politics completely exposed.



The story moves around from the Bahamas to Washington, D.C.; from Kazakhstan, USSR to the surface of the moon; from the bottom of the ocean to the countryside and harbors of Cuba. Pitt enters the story in the Bahamas when his board-surfing marathon is interrupted by the flight of an out of control blimp. He returns to his home in Washington and is invited to meet with Jessie LeBaron, Raymond LeBaron's rich widow at her expensive home. Jessie's treatment of Pitt is a personal affront to the man, and it takes quite a bit of convincing to get Pitt to help Jessie look for her husband by going over the last known route of the Prosperteer, just off the coast of Cuba. A hurricane and unfriendly fire from Cuban military helicopter and boat knock the Prosperteer out of the air and Pitt and crew end up on the bottom of the ocean. This is not a problem for skilled scuba divers, and as luck would have it, they are right over the Cyclops. La Dorada is not there.

Back on the surface, fighting the hurricane, the four make their way to an island that turns out to be the most secret Soviet military installation outside of the USSR. Once on the island, General Velikov is determined to keep his guests, torturing them for information, then promising to kill them. Pitt has no desire for this end, and escapes back to the United States where he joins forces with a military unit and leads them back to the island just off the coast of Cuba. While all this is happening on the earth, the colonists on the moon in the secret Jersey Colony are fighting a Soviet attack from Selenos 8. Russia wants the colony on the moon, but are overcome. Repeatedly, the Soviets try to gain the upper hand. They lost the moon, so they want the Gettysburg. When they lose the Gettysburg, they want Cuba. Once they lose Cuba, it looks as though the unthinkable will happen; peace talks between Cuba and the United States will open.

## Language and Meaning

The language of Cyclops depends very much on who is speaking. When it is an American, the language is clearly American. The nature of Americans is one of independence, and this is demonstrated throughout the story when individuals are given a task and often they do not obey. For example, when the moon colony is warned of a possible Russian invasion and that they should prepare for battle, the colonists are unwilling to shoot unarmed scientists. Then, when the danger becomes more clear and urgent, the President asks them to just give up the colony and avoid bloodshed. Again, the colonists ignore the request.

When the pilot of the space shuttle is bringing Gettysburg back to earth he realizes that they are off course. Even though the people he has been trained to trust implicitly tell him that everything is fine, he ignores their assurances. He thinks for himself, and decides to take control of the spacecraft. Because he is an independent thinker, the Russians did not get their hands on the treasure trove of information that the Gettysburg carries. Major Gus Hollyman is ordered to shoot down the Gettysburg to prevent the Russians from taking control of her and obtaining all the space age secrets of the United States. Because he doubts the validity of the order and wishes not to be





remembered as the executioner of the Gettysburg, he delays shooting for a moment. That brief moment is long enough to save the lives of all the astronauts.

Americans are outspoken, sarcastic, optimistic, and independent thinkers. When the Russians are portrayed, their language is stiff, formal, and almost antiquated. They think what they are ordered to think, and expect the Americans to do the same. Comparing the two countries by comparing their people is an interesting exercise.

## Structure

The novel, *Cyclops*, consists of eighty chapters and a prologue and is divided into five parts. Part I, *The Prosperteer*, deals with the blimp by that name owned by financier Raymond LeBaron. He evidently took off from the Florida Keys in order to locate the wreckage of the *Cyclops*, a Navy collier that sank off the coast of Cuba in 1918. Rumored to be aboard the *Cyclops* is one of the greatest treasures ever created by man, *La Dorada*, the golden woman. Raymond LeBaron and his crew disappear and the *Prosperteer* reappears with three dead men aboard who really are Russian Cosmonauts.

Part II deals with the *Cyclops* and the search for her. The search is really a cover for Jessie LeBaron to get close to Fidel Castro, but no one else on board the blimp is aware of this. When they are all captured on *Cayo Santa Maria*, they are tortured by General Velikov's orders because he suspects that Castro is in communication with the United States. Because no one but Jessie is aware of the truth of this, no one gives up any information.

Part III deals with *Selenos 8*, and the Russian desire to take control of the moon colony. They have found evidence that there are men on the moon, and because they believe that the colonists have shot down their cosmonauts, they believe that they are justified in going up to the moon armed for battle. Part IV handles all the portion of the story that is involved with the *Gettysburg*, the space shuttle that is to bring all of the lunar colonists home. Again, the Russians make a play to take control of the shuttle and everything on board by forcing the spacecraft to land in Cuba. Everything is taken down to the very last second, but the *Gettysburg* lands safely on American Soil. Part V is entitled the *Amy Bigelow*, one of the Rum and Cola Operations ships. She is loaded with 25,000 tons of fertilizer, enough to create a tremendous bomb. The Russians intend to use the *Amy* to start a series of explosions designed to devastate Havana, kill most of her people, assassinate Fidel and Raul Castro so that they can replace Castro's regime with one of a more Soviet friendly influence. Then Part VI handles the treasure that was part of the very beginning of the story. *La Dorada* is found, off the coast of Cuba, where the *Maine* sank, a ship whose sinking started the Spanish American War. The entire book has come full circle.



## Quotes

"Pitt told Victor of his sighting of the out-of-control blimp during the sailboard marathon race, the mad ride while clinging to the mooring line, and the last-second capture only a few feet away from potential disaster, ending with his entry into the gondola." Page 50, Part I, The Prosperteer, Chapter 6.

"Pitt shrugged and offered his arm to Angelo. 'Let's make it official. You lead me out.' Then he turned to Jessie. 'One last thing, Mrs. LeBaron. I don't respond to shabby treatment. You needn't bother to contact me again, ever.'" Page 63 - 64. Chapter 8.

"Rykov spoke very calmly, 'I have proof that someone is on the moon.'" Page 91, Chapter 12.

"But their intelligence analysts had no reason to believe Selenos 4 was anything but a scientific deep-space probe that was programmed to land in Cuban waters." Page 113, Chapter 16.

" 'For Mother Russia and the party,' he said solemnly. 'Arm the cosmonauts and order them to strike the Americans.'" Page 115, Chapter 16.

"I find that surprising. The Cubans detest the Russians. Their viewpoints on life don't mix at all." Page 176, Chapter 26.

" 'Very simple,' said Velikov in a manner as friendly as if he were passing the time of day with a mailman. 'Whether by accident or by design, you have stumbled onto our most sensitive military installation outside the Soviet Union. You cannot be permitted to leave. After I learn the true facts, you will all have to die.' " Page 186, Chapter 27.

" 'If you don't,' said Gunn gravely, 'you'll die too, and no one will be left alive to tell what's happening here.' " Page 213, Chapter 33.

"His name is Dirk Pitt, and according to Velikov he's the most dangerous of the lot." Page 238, Chapter 37.

"Do not judge harshly, Vince. These men are patriots, not traitors. Their only crime is silence. Take the case of Hudson and Eriksen. Pretending to be dead all these years. Think of the agony that must have caused their friends and families. The nation can never compensate them for their sacrifices or fully comprehend the rewards of their accomplishment." Page 240, Chapter 38.

"No one would have thought it to look at them. They considered themselves moral-minded citizens doing a job for their country. The last thing any of them expected to see in a mirror was the reflection of a cold-blooded killer. To say that the President had his audience in the palm of his hand would be an understatement." Page 263, Chapter 43.



"They wouldn't make contact under a flag of truce if they were acting from a position of strength. Their intelligence people and tracking systems on earth warned them of our arrival, and they must realize they're outgunned. Americans are capitalists. They look at everything from a business viewpoint. If they can't make a fight for it, they'll try to strike a deal." Page 283, Chapter 47.

"You don't know those men. They'll never allow the results of their efforts to be given away to a hostile government. If I was up there and Eli Steinmetz was down here, he wouldn't hesitate to blow the Gettysburg to ashes." Page 340, Chapter 56.

"Hollyman's distinguished career in the Air Force was finished. Despite the fact he was carrying out orders, he would forever be branded as the man who blasted the Gettysburg and her crew out of the sky. He experienced a fear and an anger he had never known before." Page 346, Chapter 58.

"Polevoi had unwittingly dug himself into a hole and now he shrewdly climbed out of it by switching the course of the briefing. 'Operation Run and Cola is still in progress. We may have been cheated out of the space shuttle and a rich source of scientific data, but it is an acceptable loss compared to gaining total mastery of Cuba.' " Page 368, Chapter 61.

"Velikov grinned crookedly. He seemed to have no nerves at all. 'Another man, another time, and you will surely be killed, Fidel. I know. I helped create five alternative plans in case this one failed.' " Page 448, Chapter 75.



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Pitt's reaction when he sees the blimp heading toward a populated area. How are his actions in keeping with his character?

Describe Pitt's initial reaction to Jessie LeBaron and her treatment of him at the Garden Party. What would your reaction be? How would you treat her later? Is this the same as Pitt's treatment of Jessie or different? Why?

Discuss the concept of Star Wars as it pertains to Russia and the United States.

Could the Russians and the Americans have found a way to share the triumph of Jersey Colony? How?

What was the President's purpose in deliberately antagonizing and ridiculing Leo Hudson and the story of the Jersey Colony?

What are the ramifications of substituting five soldiers for the five cosmonaut scientists? How is this significant? Give evidence from the text.

What difference do you believe there might have been had the U.S. and the Soviets talked about their issues rather than blindly reacting?

How did not truly understanding the American psychological profile hurt the chances of the Russian landing party on the moon?

How would you react if you were tasked with shooting down the Space Shuttle? Explain.

How might the Cuban Rum and Cola situation have been different if Velikov had been killed on Cayo Santa Maria?

Explain Velikov's motivations for all his actions. Do they change? If so, how? If not, why?

Would you consider Dirk Pitt to be merely a treasure hunter? Explain.