

# **Deep Six Study Guide**

## **Deep Six by Clive Cussler**

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# Plot Summary

Deep Six is a Dirk Pitt novel by Clive Cussler. Dirk Pitt investigates the Pilottown, a ship found on Augustine Island in Alaska with a nerve agent in her cargo hold. During what seems like a routine investigation, an EPA agent is killed. Pitt is outraged by this needless death and becomes determined to find the source of the stolen nerve agent in order to get justice for the EPA agent's death. Pitt is a bulldog, determined even when his boss needs him to focus on other investigations. Deep Six is a novel of international intrigue, one that will keep Cussler fans, as well as new readers, on the edge of their seats.

Dirk Pitt is exploring a Civil War wreck when EPA agent Julie Mendoza recruits him to help find a shipwreck that is suspected of being the source of a nerve agent creating havoc off the coast of Alaska. Pitt finds the ship quickly. During their investigation, an earthquake causes Mendoza to injure her leg, tearing her suit in such a way that she is exposed to the nerve agent and killed. Although he only knew her for a short time, Pitt is outraged at this death and determined to find out who is responsible for the stolen nerve agent and the wrecked boat.

Pitt begins to track the Pilottown, the ship in Alaska, and soon learns that it was once a cargo ship by the name of San Marino. This discovery becomes public and a private investigator from California learns of it. The investigator, Sal Casio, travels to Washington, D.C. to speak to Pitt about the San Marino. It turns out that when the San Marino disappeared more than twenty years before, Casio's daughter was onboard. Pitt agrees to work with Casio in bringing to justice the people he believes are responsible for his daughter's death.

Pitt quickly begins to put together the pieces of the Pilottown mystery, learning how ships are often stolen and refitted, as well as renamed, in order to be used in illegal shipping practices. At the same time, Pitt is pulled off the investigation in order to find the Presidential yacht, the Eagle, that Secret Service agents believe has been sunk somewhere in the Potomac. Pitt again finds the yacht quickly, finding all the crew members murdered. Pitt is not curious about the Eagle, but suspects that someone important has been murdered. In fact, it turns out that the President of the United States, the Vice President, and two Congressmen have been kidnapped.

The President is being held in a secret lab and is undergoing brainwashing techniques. During the procedure, a KGB agent sneaks the two Congressmen out of the lab. These men are taken secretly onboard a Russian cruise ship. Ironically, Congresswoman Loren Smith is a passenger on this same cruise ship and witnesses the arrival of her two colleagues. Smith begins making phone calls, attempting to learn what is going on. During one of these calls, Smith is cut off and taken into custody. When Pitt learns about this, he quickly boards the cruise ship and rescues Smith. However, before Pitt, Smith, and her colleagues can escape the boat, it is sabotaged and begins to sink. Pitt and Smith are separated during the chaos of abandoning ship and Smith is once again kidnapped by Lee Tong, the mastermind behind the President's kidnapping.



At the same time, the President has returned to the White House, claiming to have been on a secret trip to visit the Russian President. The President of the United States begins making questionable policies and disbands Congress to prevent them from interfering. Congress begins planning to impeach the President while those close to the President realize what has happened and scheme to stop Russian control over him. The impeachment process begins, giving the government only a short time to find the Vice President in order to keep the Speaker of the House from becoming President.

Pitt goes after Smith, discovering she is most likely onboard a barge in the middle of the Mississippi River. When Pitt finds the barge, it nearly escapes his pursuit, but Pitt manages to board the barge thanks to the help of a riverboat and a squad of Civil War re-enactors. Pitt saves Smith and also finds the Vice President, saving him as well. The Vice President is returned to Washington in time to be sworn in as President.



# Prelude, The San Marino

## Prelude, The San Marino Summary

Deep Six is a Dirk Pitt novel by Clive Cussler. Dirk Pitt investigates the Pilottown, a ship found on Augustine Island in Alaska with a nerve agent in her cargo hold. During what seems like a routine investigation, an EPA agent is killed. Pitt is outraged by this needless death and becomes determined to find the source of the stolen nerve agent in order to get justice for the EPA agent's death. Pitt is a bulldog, determined even when his boss needs him to focus on other investigations. Deep Six is a novel of international intrigue, one that will keep Cussler fans, as well as new readers, on the edge of their seats.

Arta Casilighio, aka Estelle Wallace, is aboard the cargo ship San Marino enjoying the sun several days into her trip to New Zealand. Ms. Wallace has feigned illness since boarding the ship in San Francisco out of fear of being discovered as a thief. Arta Casilighio, until several days ago, was a teller in a San Francisco bank. Bored with her life and anxious to become someone else, Arta found Estelle Wallace's passport on a bus and decided to use it to start a new life. To fund this new life, Arta used her position at the bank to siphon thousands of dollars from the cash shipment the bank receives every Monday. Arta manages to smuggle more than one hundred thousand dollars over the course of two days. Now Arta is Estelle, beginning her new life.

Estelle has dinner with the captain and crew, enjoying their stories of the sea and the flattery they extend on their lone female companion. The crew also mentions the mass exodus of ten crewmen while they were docked in San Francisco. Some of the crew members find this odd, but Estelle thinks little of it. However, after dinner, while Estelle is checking to make sure her money is still where she left it, she suddenly realizes there is something odd about the missing crew. One of the Asian replacements breaks into Estelle's state room, ties a chain to her ankles, and throws her overboard.

## Prelude, The San Marino Analysis

The prelude introduces two important elements to the story. First the prelude introduces Arta Casilighio. Arta is a beautiful young woman who falls prey to the same temptations with which all people occasionally are faced. Arta, who normally does not think about the large amounts of money she handles as a bank teller, suddenly comes to the realization that it would be easy to steal the large amount of money needed to start a new life. Finding another woman's passport on the bus is like a message from the cosmos. Arta steals the money and seems to be getting away with it. Arta hides the first few days on the ship that will take her to New Zealand, showing the reader that she does have a moral conscience and that she knows what she has done is wrong. However, Arta overcomes her fears and begins her new life, coming out of the shell in which she has always hidden. Unfortunately, Arta is killed shortly after this dinner. The

reader is not clear at this point what Arta's death will have to do with the developing plot but can be sure that she will have an impact later in the narrative.

The second important element introduced in the prelude is the ship, San Marino. The San Marino is a liberty ship that is described in detail in this prelude. The description suggests to the reader that the San Marino is not merely a backdrop to Arta's story, but an important part of the story. The San Marino will also reappear as the story continues to develop, proving to be an important clue to a mystery that will unfold as the novel progresses. Part of the mystery the reader is already curious about is why Arta and the crew of the San Marino were thrown overboard. There is no explanation for this action at this point in the story, but it will prove to be an important action that will help the reader to understand a major plot point as the novel develops.



# Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 1-5

## Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 1-5 Summary

The Coast Guard cutter, Catawba, is sitting off the shore of Kodiak Island investigating a distress call from a ship called Amie Marie. A boarding party is sent to the Amie Marie where they find the entire crew has died from some mystery ailment. The Catawba's doctor is sent to the Amie Marie to try and diagnose the illness, only to find that the boarding party has also died. The doctor becomes ill himself, confirming the Catawba captain's worst fear, some sort of quickly spreading illness. At the same time in Washington, D.C., Secret Service agent Owen Lucas arrives at his office in the White House. Lucas is in charge of the detail that protects the President. Most Presidents are creatures of habit, but the current President likes to do things on the spur of the moment. Once again, the President has changed his plans, deciding to take a cruise in the Presidential yacht that weekend. Lucas is upset because the Secret Service does not have enough time to implement all the necessary security measures. However, Lucas is told by Chief of Staff Daniel Fawcett that the President has his mind made up and will not cancel the cruise.

Fawcett goes to the President's office and is surprised to find the President is already in a meeting with Admiral James Sandecker. Sandecker is advising the President that a nerve agent is suspected of causing several deaths in the ocean around Alaska. Sandecker tells the President that a shipment of a chemical called Nerve Agent S disappeared some time back and he thinks it is this missing nerve agent that is at work in the ocean. Sandecker warns the President that if the nerve agent continues to contaminate the sea, it will result in catastrophic loss of both human and marine life in the oceans worldwide. Sandecker informs the President that his agency, NUMA, is already working with the EPA to find the source of the nerve agent and clean up the spill. At the same time, EPA agent Julie Mendoza lands a helicopter on a NUMA barge on the James River. Mendoza informs Dirk Pitt and his co-worker Giordino that they are to come with her to Alaska. At first, Pitt and Al Giordino are less than receptive because they are working on a project to salvage a ram from a Civil War era shipwreck. However, they both eventually agree to accompany her since they have already recovered the ram.

Sandecker receives word that the situation off Alaska has gotten worse and goes immediately to inform the President. The President wants to quarantine the entire Alaskan coast, but Sandecker talks him into utilizing the Navy in order to keep people away from the contaminated area, which appears to only be open water. On the Alaskan coast, Pitt and Giordino fly in a helicopter with Julie Mendoza over Augustine Island. Mendoza explains that Augustine Island has one of the most active volcanoes in the world and that it is currently preparing to erupt. Pitt then tells Mendoza that he hopes it does erupt soon because a wreck salvage could take months. Pitt and Giordino are dropped off on the Coast Guard cutter, Catawba where they are greeted by men in suits who insist the two of them don suits as well for their safety.



## Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 1-5 Analysis

The Coast Guard arrives at a ship in distress only to find the entire crew dead. What is more, the illness that killed the crew is still active and kills the boarding party within minutes. This alerts the reader to the fact that the distressed ship has come into contact with something unnatural and deadly, suggesting a bio-weapon of some sort. This suspicion is confirmed when the reader is introduced to Admiral James Sandecker. Sandecker is head of the government agency NUMA. Sandecker tells the President that a nerve agent went missing some time before and that he suspects this is what is killing marine life and whole boat crews in the ocean off Alaska. Sandecker has already implemented a plan to take care of the disaster before it can get any worse. Tension fills the plot when Sandecker talks about the nerve agent, especially when he suggests that if the nerve agent continues to leak into the ocean it could mean catastrophic human and marine death on a world-wide scale.

The plan Sandecker has implemented introduces several more characters. Dirk Pitt is introduced as a suave, James Bond-type of character. Pitt specializes in locating shipwrecks and diving on them in order to salvage them or items they contain. Pitt is the ideal person to turn to when looking for a shipwreck that might hold within its cargo the nerve agent that is killing so many people. However, Pitt appears reluctant and almost resentful of the young woman, Julie Mendoza, who comes to pull him off an assignment to find the nerve agent. Mendoza is a beautiful woman and Pitt is known as a womanizer, so it is not surprising that he attempts to manhandle her and encourage her to go on a date with him in exchange for his help on her project. Mendoza shows her true character by ignoring Pitt's charms.





# Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 6-10

## Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 6-10 Summary

The President arrives at the Eagle, the Presidential yacht, moments after the final security checks have concluded. Joining him are Senator Marcus Larimer and Congressman Alan Moran, his two biggest opponents to his Russian aid bill. The President has invited them on this cruise with the hope that he will be able to convince them to back his bill rather than vote it down. At the last minute, Vice President Vince Margolin joins the cruise. The President is surprised since he did not invite the Vice President and has no idea why he claims to have gotten an invitation. The Secret Service is also upset by this change in plans because now the three men in succession to the Presidency are on board the yacht with the President. All Lucas and his team can do, however, is keep security as tight as possible.

Off the Alaskan coast, Pitt begins scanning maps and satellite photos to determine where a sunken ship might be. Immediately Pitt sees an odd shape in a satellite photo, convinced that it is the ship he is looking for. Pitt, Giordino, and a landing party from the Catawba take a launch to Augustine Island. There they climb up what looks like a cliff but is really a ship's bow. The ship, the Pilottown reportedly sank years ago, but was never found. Now it has been found. Pitt and the captain of the Catawba do a quick check of the ship and find a few odd things about it, including the fact that every identifiable object has been removed, leaving the ship bare as though someone was trying to hide something. When Mendoza and her crew of scientists arrive, Pitt takes a look into the cargo hold and is able to confirm that the Pilottown is the source of the nerve agent contamination.

In New York, a Russian psychologist is alone at his office late in the evening when he receives an odd phone call. The psychologist, Alexsei Lugovoy knows the phone call is a code letting him know that a plan that has been in the works for eight years is finally going to take place. Lugovoy leaves his office and goes to the World Trade Center where he meets with the owner of the Bougainville Maritime Lines, Inc, Min Koryo Bougainville. Bougainville informs Lugovoy that his services are needed and he will have ten days to complete the project. Lugovoy is not happy with the time constraints and further frightened by the person who will be the subject of his special project.

While Mendoza and her crew set about securing the nerve agent for travel, Pitt and the Catawba captain decide to explore the ship. Clearly to both Pitt and the captain, the Pilottown was supposed to have been scuttled and there are only two ways to do it, explosives to tear a hole in the bottom of the boat, or by opening hatches in the bottom of the boat to allow in water. Clearly the latter did not happen, so Pitt and the captain want to find out if there were explosives that did not detonate. While Pitt is exploring the engine room, a logical place to find explosives, he finds a single piece of identification on the bottom of a boiler. Pitt memorizes the number. Pitt then finds the explosive he was looking for and decides to head back up. Pitt meets up with the captain and they



begin to make their way through the ship. When they are nearly at the cargo hold, Pitt and the captain are thrown like rag dolls as an earthquake shakes the ship. Pitt helps the injured captain back to the cargo hold where Pitt learns that there were several injuries to the other members of the team. Mendoza broke her legs causing a small tear in her safety suit and died from contact with the nerve agent.

## **Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 6-10 Analysis**

The President has decided to go on a cruise aboard the Presidential yacht to attempt to talk several Congressmen into backing his controversial aid plan to help the starving in Russia. However, the cruise takes an interesting twist when the Vice President joins them, apparently believing he had an invitation, although one was not extended by the President or his staff. The reader can see through this and wonders one of two things. Either the Vice President wants to be involved in the President's attempt to sway the two Congressmen or someone else has orchestrated the Vice President's presence on the yacht. When Aleksei Lugovoy is introduced, a psychologist who has just been informed that a plan he has been awaiting to be implemented is about to begin, the reader wonders if perhaps the one thing has something to do with the other. At any rate, it seems dangerous to have three men in succession for the Presidency on the same yacht together with the President, clearly foreshadowing trouble.

Dirk Pitt is on his way to Alaska to find a shipwreck that might or might not be the source of the nerve agent that is poisoning the ocean. On the way, Pitt is advised of a volcano on Augustine Island that is about to erupt. This warning seems all the more important when Pitt quickly identifies a ship marooned on the same island. Sure enough, the volcano causes an earthquake that injures several people who have gone to the ship to recover the nerve agent, including Mendoza who dies from exposure to the nerve agent. Pitt becomes enraged by Mendoza's death, seeing it as unnecessary and tragic, motivating him to find out who is responsible and giving the reader a direction for the development of the plot.

At the same time, Pitt also believes there is something odd about Pilottown, the ship on which they find the nerve agent. All the items on the ship that might help identify it are missing. Pitt explores the ship and finds explosives, suggesting that whoever stole the nerve agent and put it on Pilottown had intended to sink it. Instead the explosives failed to ignite and the ship was left floating free on the ocean before become encased on Augustine Island during a past volcanic eruption. However, Pitt does find one identifying mark that the reader suspects will shed some light on the mysterious Pilottown.



# Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 11-12

## Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 11-12 Summary

Lucas works late, concerned for the safety of the men onboard the Eagle, while at Mount Vernon the Eagle is anchored at the dock for the night. The President and Moran speak for a short time, but it is clear the President is not going to be able to convince Moran to show the Russian people kindness by backing the President's aid plan. Moran goes to bed and the President spends a few minutes alone with the Vice President, who expresses concern that the President will never be able to get support for his Russian aid plan. As they talk, the steward brings them drinks. The President notices that it is not the usual steward and questions the stranger who assures him the regular steward simply went off shift for the night and would return in the morning.

A heavy fog descends on Mount Vernon, so heavy that the Secret Service agents on duty cannot see their hands in front of their faces and have no visual of the yacht. The Secret Service agents are stationed at various points all around the Potomac River and move to a new station every hour. At the same time, there is a Coast Guard cutter nearby. The captain of the cutter contacts the agent in charge, George Blackowl and informs him that there is some sort of interference with the radar. However, there have been no signs of other ships in the area except for a tug pushing two garbage barges that tied up down river when the fog hit.

Two Secret Service agents, one on the deck of the Eagle, Brock, and one a few yards away on the dock, Polaski, speak for a few minutes in the fog. Neither can see the other. The conversation is mundane, the only thing of note being that Brock cannot remember where his next post is. When Brock moves to his next post, the deck of the Eagle, he says a quick goodbye to Polaski. However, when another agent does a routine walk of the perimeter, he cannot find Brock. An alarm is issued and the Eagle searched. No one can be found onboard.

## Part One, The Pilottown, Chapters 11-12 Analysis

Lucas is concerned about the safety of the President and all the other men onboard the Eagle. This fear gives the reader a heads up that something might not be right on the Eagle besides the normal fear that placing that many important men in one place together is asking for trouble. Lucas's fear proves to be more than just the usual rigors of his job when things begin to go wrong at Mount Vernon where the Eagle is anchored for the night. First, a terrible fog rolls in, making it very difficult for everyone to see. Then the Coast Guard mentions that they are having trouble with their radar. It all seems very ominous, adding tension to an already-stressed plot.

The reader is very suspicious of the fog, the jammed radar, and the unidentified tug. It seems there might be something going on here beyond political maneuvering. When the

agent does a walk through and finds one of the Secret Service men missing, the reader's suspicions are confirmed. The Eagle is empty; the President is missing. The reader looks back and recalls the strange meeting between the Russian psychologist and the shipping tycoon and wonders if this has anything to do with the missing President. Perhaps it is some scheme to control the American government, opening the theme of international conspiracies. The reader can only sit back and wait for the plot to continue unfolding.

# Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 13-19

## Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 13-19 Summary

The head of the Secret Service is notified of the missing occupants of the Eagle and immediately calls a meeting with several members of the President's cabinet. On his way to the meeting, the head of the Secret Service is killed in a car accident. Lucas is appointed to take his place. At the meeting, it is decided that news of the disappearance will be kept secret until the President's whereabouts can be established. An actor is employed to imitate the President from a distance at his ranch in order to keep the press occupied. A similar decoy is employed in the Vice President's place and a cover story arranged for the whereabouts of the two Congressmen.

Pitt flies to South Carolina in order to speak with the manufacturer of the boiler he found on the Pilottown. The company man tells Pitt the boiler belongs to a ship called the San Marino, not the Pilottown. Pitt then flies to Washington where his plane is met by his on again, off again girlfriend, Congresswoman Loren Smith. Pitt and Smith immediately go to see a friend of Pitt's who is an expert on ships. This friend tells Pitt that the San Marino disappeared without a trace in the northern Pacific in 1966. This friend also tells Pitt that there are rumors that the San Marino did not sink as suspected, but may have been given a new name to conceal its identity. This makes Pitt wonder if perhaps the Pilottown is really the San Marino. Pitt decides to make a press release announcing the discovery of both the Pilottown and the San Marino with the hopes that it will cause someone to step forward and claim one or the other.

The President's cabinet, especially Fawcett and Secretary of State Douglas Oates continue to discuss the President's disappearance and considering who might be responsible. The Russians are on the top of the list, but neither Fawcett nor Oates believes the Russians could pull it off alone. At Mount Vernon, a team of FBI investigators are going over the Eagle with a fine toothed comb. They find nothing on the yacht itself, not even fingerprints, but they do find a fog machine in the woods. At headquarters, the FBI runs a check on all unusual activities with foreign governments and discovers that the Russians have lost one of their people, a psychologist named Lugovoy.

Min Koryo was once married to a Frenchman who owned a small shipping line. They had three sons. However, Min Koryo's husband and children were killed during World War II, and Min Koryo has always blamed the United States government. Min Koryo now works with her grandson, Lee Tong, who has helped her build her shipping company into a world wide success. Tong is smart at what he does, but not all his tactics are strictly legal. In fact, Min Koryo and her grandson have just kidnapped the President of the United States and three key members of the American government. Having the President is one thing, but the other three are backup in case the Russians do not fulfill their end of the bargain Min Koryo struck with them.



## Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 13-19 Analysis

A meeting of the President's cabinet is convened upon word that the President is missing, resulting in the decision not to allow anyone to know the President is missing. This seems like an impossible task to the reader, adding yet more tension to an already overtaxed plot. The President is a highly visible person and the reader is unclear if hiding his disappearance would be possible in reality, showing the reader here the thin line between reality and fiction. However, when Lucas suggests using a decoy, the trick seems to make the plot a little more believable. No one knows what happened on board the Eagle, but the FBI investigates and begins to put some answers together. A fog machine is found, explaining why the fog was so thick the night of the disappearance, suggesting that the kidnapers took advantage of the natural fog and simply made it more dense to hide their trickery. Also a report that Lugovoy is missing reminds the reader of his plot with Min Koryo and suggests that his project involves the missing President. Now the reader suspects that they know who the President's kidnapers are; this is confirmed when Min Koryo discusses the successful kidnapping with her grandson, Lee Tong.

At the same time Pitt has learned that the Pilottown is actually a ship called the San Marino. Pitt learns also that it is not uncommon for ships to be stolen and their names changed in order to hide the theft. Pitt decides to make a public announcement of the discovery of both the Pilottown and the San Marino with the hopes that those responsible for the disaster on the Pilottown will come forward, or at least show their hand. This public announcements suggests that someone will come forward to learn more about Pitt's discoveries, but not necessarily the rightful owners when one considers the cargo onboard the Pilottown.

The introduction of several key players takes place in this set of chapters. First are the members of the President's cabinet, especially Daniel Oates. Oates will prove to be an important figure in the rest of novel, not only because he is the Secretary of State, but because he is the next in line for the Presidency with the President missing, as well as the Vice President, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate. Oates is technically the acting President until the President or any of the other men with him on the Eagle are found. Another important character introduced in these chapters is Lee Tong. Tong is the grandson of Min Koryo. Tong is a brilliant business man who has helped his grandmother build a large shipping company. However, Tong is also a criminal who has been the mastermind behind many schemes Min Koryo has implemented to punish the government she blames for the deaths of her husband and three sons. Tong is clearly the man behind the kidnapping of the President and will surely prove to be a willing antagonist to Dirk Pitt's character.



## Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 20-24

### Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 20-24 Summary

Lugovoy was transported to the labs provided by the Bougainvilles with a blindfold on so he does not know where he is. However, a KGB agent somehow managed to be transported as well, mistaken as a part of Lugovoy's staff. The agent makes himself known to Lugovoy and asks what Lugovoy plans to do to the President. Lugovoy explains that he will place a computer chip in the President's brain in order to influence the President's thought processes. Lugovoy will also inject his brain stem with RNA taken from a subject who has been brainwashed to believe in specific policies that the Russians want the American President to implement in his country. It is all a form of brainwashing Lugovoy hopes to use to influence American politics. At the same time in Russia, a couple of French men record the Russian President discussing Lugovoy's project and their desired results from the project.

Sandecker visits Pitt at home to warn him that his continued investigation into the Pilottown could cause him trouble. In New York, Min Koryo sees Pitt's announcement about the San Marino and the Pilottown and blows it off as a desperate act of a man who does not know anything about what he is investigating. In California, a private investigator sees the same ad and decides to fly to Washington to meet with Pitt personally. Pitt goes into the office at NUMA headquarters and has the resident computer hacker run a check on the Sosan Trading Company, the last company associated with the San Marino and the Pilottown. Pitt learns little about the company except that it has an interesting banking history that ends six years previous to Pitt's investigation. Pitt instructs the hacker to keep looking.

Pitt returns home and finds a stranger in his kitchen. The stranger has searched the house and found all but one of Pitt's hidden guns. Pitt pulls the gun on the man but quickly puts it away when he realizes the man means him no harm. Pitt asks the man why he has come. The man, Sal Casio, is a private investigator from California who has been investigating the disappearance of the San Marino since 1966. Sal's daughter, Arta, was onboard the ship. Pitt agrees to an exchange of information, telling Sal what he knows in exchange for a list of banks Sal has where the money Arta stole showed up over the years.

### Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 20-24 Analysis

The secrecy surrounding the lab where Lugovoy is to work on his project suggests that the Bougainvilles do not trust him enough to allow him freedom of movement. The secrecy also adds to the intrigue around the entire situation, reminding the reader of the seriousness of the situation. The fact that a KGB agent made it into the secure facility, however, points out a weakness in the Bougainvilles' security. The KGB is an unknown

element, leaving the possibility of trouble for both Lugovoy and the Bougainvilles and injecting some hope into a hopeless situation for the President of the United States.

Pitt releases his press announcement about the discovery of both the San Marino and the Pilottown. While the owners Pitt had hoped to flush out, the Bougainvilles, are not tricked by this maneuver, the ad does flush out a private investigator who has been searching for the San Marino since its disappearance in 1966. Sal Casio knows his daughter was on board the ship but does not know what happened to her except for the fact that the money she stole from the bank where she worked made it off the boat. Sal's appearance at this point in the novel not only begins the illustration of the theme of justice, but it also connects the prelude with the overall plot of the novel. Sal's appearance also gives Pitt information he needs in order to find the owners of the San Marino and hopefully the people responsible for the stolen nerve agent on the Pilottown that killed Mendoza.





## Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 25-30

### Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 25-30 Summary

The FBI has discovered how the President and the occupants of the Eagle were kidnapped. After arriving at Mount Vernon the entire crew and the passengers were drugged, most likely at dinner. After everyone went to bed a thick fog drifted over the yacht. While Agent Brock was stationed on the deck of the Eagle, the FBI suspects he was replaced by one of the kidnapers and spoke to Agent Polaski to keep him distracted while the kidnapers replaced the Eagle with a sister yacht. The sound would have been masked by the conversation, the move done without the use of engines thanks to the swift current of the Potomac. In order to prove this theory, the FBI wants to find the Eagle, which they believe was most likely scuttled in the river. Oates agrees and suggests they call Admiral Sandecker. Sandecker agrees to help and immediately calls Pitt.

Lugovoy carefully implants the micro chip into the President's head without shaving it, wanting to leave as little evidence of the operation as possible so that the President will not know he has been compromised. Lugovoy then injects the President's brain stem with the RNA from a patient who has been brainwashed to fervently believe in the policies the Russians would like to see implemented in Washington. The entire time Lugovoy is working on the President, he explains the procedures to the KGB agent, Suvorov.

Sandecker joins Pitt on a small fishing boat as he begins his search for the Eagle. Pitt has already used the top speed of the Eagle and the amount of darkness the kidnapers would have had to work in and pinpointed a probably spot where the Eagle was most likely scuttled. As Pitt prepares to dive on the Eagle, Sandecker warns him not to go inside the wreck. Pitt suspects that there is more to this investigation than Sandecker has told him and decides to disregard his orders. Pitt and Giordino dive on the Eagle and enter it. Pitt notices immediately how clean the Eagle is, noting the lack of furniture and luggage that may have floated free of the wreck. When Pitt investigates the engine room he finds the hatch bolted shut. Pitt opens it and finds all the luggage as well as more than a dozen dead bodies. Many of the dead are Asian, but Pitt does identify a Secret Service Agent from his wallet. Sandecker takes the wallet and immediately informs the FBI.

### Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 25-30 Analysis

The FBI has discovered how the President and the occupants of his yacht were kidnapped. Not only were fog machines used to obscure the Secret Service's view of the yacht, but the entire yacht was stolen and replaced by another, similar boat, explaining the lack of fingerprints. This is important because it shows how much thought went into the kidnapping of the President and the intelligence of the man behind the

kidnapping, Lee Tong. However, when Pitt finds the Eagle with little difficulty, it also shows that Lee Tong underestimated the intelligence of his foes.

When Pitt boards the Eagle and finds the boat empty, again the reader is given insight into the character of Lee Tong because Tong took the time to empty the boat of items that might give away its location before he was ready for it to be found. However, once again Pitt has shown his own intelligence by finding the boat sooner than expected. Pitt also finds where Tong hid the missing items as well as dozens of dead bodies. These bodies include a Secret Service Agent, giving credence to the theory that Brock was replaced by a kidnapper. There are also many Asian bodies, suggesting that Tong killed his own men as well.

Lugovoy has begun the brainwashing treatment of the President of the United States. Lugovoy explains every step to the KGB agent, Suvorov. Lugovoy seems to be naive, trusting the KGB agent blindly even though this same agent was assigned to following him for their native Russia. Lugovoy's blind trust suggests that Suvorov might cause him trouble as their story continues to unfold, perhaps in a way that will help the American kidnap victims.



## Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 31-36

### Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 31-36 Summary

Pitt and Loren go out to dinner that night. Loren tells Pitt she is due to travel on a Russian cruise ship in order to evaluate their service to implement on a possible American cruise line. Loren also tells Pitt that she has heard a rumor about a CIA ship that disappeared and later showed up in Australia with a different name. After dinner, thinking about the Asians found on the Eagle, Pitt calls Sal and asks what he knows about the crew of the San Marino. Sal tells Pitt how ten crew members disappeared in San Francisco, so the San Marino replaced them with ten Asians, mostly Koreans. Pitt then calls an anthropologist and describes the Asians on the Eagle, curious if they are Japanese or Korean. The doctor tells him they are most likely Korean.

In New York, Lee Tong shows his grandmother a video of Pitt diving on the Eagle. Min Koryo is curious what Pitt's involvement is in the Eagle, but is not concerned with him at this point. Min Koryo's biggest concern is whether or not the Russians are going to pay them for kidnapping the President. At the same time, Suvorov continues to question Lugovoy about the President and the people who have orchestrated this project. Suvorov writes everything down in a diary because he does not understand it all. Suvorov also learns that the President, the Vice President, and the two Congressmen are sedated every eight hours to keep them unaware of what is going on around them. This gives Suvorov an idea that he hopes to implement soon.

Lucas attends the examination of one of the bodies found on the Eagle. Lucas learns that the regular crew members of the Eagle were poisoned, most likely at dinner. However, the Asians were all shot with poison darts, suggesting they were members of the kidnapper's team. The darts were similar to one used to kill a Soviet agent several years ago. At the same time, Oates is concerned because the press is getting curious about why the President has not made a public appearance in a week. Fawcett decides to arrange a photo op at the President's farm in New Mexico. In Russia, the Russian President learns that Suvorov has disappeared and is thought to be with Lugovoy. The President is hopeful the brainwashing techniques will go well, but is reluctant to pay Min Koryo for her services. Suvorov, meanwhile, replaces the sedative intended for the President, Vice President, and the two Congressmen with saline water.

### Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 31-36 Analysis

Pitt learns that ships get stolen and their names changed quite often. Pitt also discovers that the San Marino was most likely taken over by Korean crew men who replaced members of the regular crew at the last minute. Finally, Pitt learns the Asians killed by poison darts on the Eagle were also Korean. All of this suggests that the people behind the ship thefts and the kidnapping of the Eagle occupants are the same people. It also



begins to illuminate the theme of international conspiracies because of the nationality of the people involved.

Suvorov is beginning to make plans for an escape, though the reader is unclear what his plans are. However, the reader suspects that Suvorov's plans include the American government officials who are being held captive in the lab because of his decision to change the sedative to saline water, which will cause the captive to wake up. The reader also suspects that Suvorov intends to escape the lab soon. At the same time, the Russians are excited about the possibility of controlling the American President but are not excited about making payment to Min Koryo for her part in the scheme. This reluctance predicts trouble between the Russians and Min Koryo, a character who seems to be the type to not appreciate being double crossed. Already Min Koryo has become aware of Pitt's investigation into her actions and is not happy about it. Perhaps Pitt will also become a name on Min Koryo's to do list.



## Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 37-44

### Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 37-44 Summary

Pitt's friend calls him and tells him that he has found a witness who saw the San Marino transformed into the Belle Chasse. The friend has also found records showing that the Pilottown was bought legitimately, but was sighted for many customs violations. This friend suspects that the Belle Chasse was turned into the Pilottown because the Pilottown was once a legitimate ship, which gave the Belle Chasse solid documentation. All of this leads Pitt to believe someone is building a fleet of ships out of stolen ships. At the same time, Suvorov is watching Lugovoy, waiting for him to make his nightly trip to the elevators. When Lugovoy goes, Suvorov quickly goes into the room where the captives are kept and wakes them up. Suvorov tries to kill the President because he has already undergone the brainwashing technique, but is attacked by the Vice President. Suvorov knocks the Vice President out. Suvorov grabs the two Congressmen, leading them to the elevators and overtaking Lugovoy before he can board the open elevator.

When the elevator doors open, two men are waiting in the dark. Suvorov kills both men and then escorts the two Congressmen to a waiting car. Suvorov drives away, disoriented and unclear of where he is. Suvorov follows the road to a fork, choosing his direction blindly. Eventually Suvorov finds himself in Charleston where he pulls over to use a phone. In Washington, Pitt drives Loren to the airport. In New Mexico, a group of photographers wait for the President to make an appearance. One reporter from CNN, Curtis Mayo, is suspicious about why the President has been hiding out on his farm for so long. Mayo instructs his cameraman to focus in closely on the President. When Mayo watches the footage, he recognizes some jewelry on the President's hand and wrist that he would never wear, suggesting to Mayo that the man he has photographed is not the real President.

When the Russians learn Suvorov has escaped, they arrange for him to be picked up. Suvorov is flown over Charleston in a helicopter until he pinpoints the area where he was held captive; however, there is nothing there. Lee Tong has already moved the lab. At the same time, Pitt learns that the banks Sal gave him connect Min Koryo and her grandson Lee Tong to the San Marino. Pitt instructs the computer hacker to create havoc with Min Koryo's legitimate bank accounts, to let them know he is on to them and to cause them some distress. At the same time, Pitt hopes this will keep the Bougainvilles busy while he continues to investigate.

Mayo approaches Lucas and tells him that he knows the man in New Mexico is not the President. Lucas tells Fawcett who immediately knows how Mayo figured it out. The head of the FBI talks with the head of the CIA to compare notes. The head of the CIA plays a French recording of a discussion involving the President of Russia that mentions some project named Huckleberry Finn and a woman they only refer to with unflattering expletives. Neither man knows what these things mean. As Pitt is leaving the



headquarters of NUMA, he is stopped by Giordino. A few minutes later a bomb destroys his car.

## Part Two, The Eagle, Chapters 37-44 Analysis

Pitt is getting closer to finding the people behind the stolen nerve gas on the Pilottown, the case that has kept him motivated since the beginning of the novel. Pitt has learned that someone is using stolen ships to supply their shipping company. Pitt has also made a connection to Min Koryo Bougainville. This is an important step in the investigation, bringing Pitt close to stopping the Bougainvilles from committing any more crimes. Pitt also has his computer hacker cause trouble for the Bougainvilles, not only distracting them while he continues to investigate them, but also to cause them some trouble in order to punish them in a small way, touching on the theme of justice. However, it also seems Pitt is getting too close to the Bougainvilles because someone blows up his vintage car. Pitt manages to survive this attempt on his life, but the reader fears this will not be the only attempt that will be made.

Suvorov escapes from the lab with the two Congressmen. Suvorov has no idea where he is located, but he manages to get the Congressmen to Charlestown where he contacts the Russian government. When Suvorov returns to the place he escaped, he cannot find the lab. This implies that the lab was mobile. Due to the fact that there is a river nearby and the one major setting of this novel is the various ships Pitt is investigating, it might be a good assumption that the lab was on board some sort of ship. This suspicion seems to be underscored by the fact that Lee Tong is shown making the decision to move the lab and the fact that Suvorov remembers walking down some sort of ramp.

While Congresswoman Loren Smith is on her way to board a Russian cruise ship, the press discovers the decoy that has taken the President's place. The press' discovery leads the reader to think that the mystery of his disappearance will soon become public knowledge. Should this happen, it would most likely not only put the American government in a tailspin, but could cause difficulty for the Russians when the President reappears. The Russians might not be able to easily change American policy now that the American people know the President has been kidnapped. Therefore, an explanation seems to be in order and will most likely take place in the next few chapters.



## Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 45-52

### Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 45-52 Summary

On Loren's first night on the Leonid Andreyev she sees a helicopter drop off two members of Congress, Senator Larimer and Congressman Moran. At dinner, no one seems to know anything about the Congressmen, leaving Loren curious about the situation. Loren calls her assistant in Washington and asks her to establish the location of Moran. Loren's assistant calls back and tells Loren that Moran and Larimer are supposed to be fishing together but the assistant cannot find proof of the story. Loren begins to tell her to call Dirk Pitt, but the call is cutoff and Loren is escorted away by the first officer. In Charleston, the helicopter pilot who helped Suvorov is interrogated and then killed and his office burned. In Washington, Dirk Pitt informs Sal Casio of the things he has learned recently in the investigation and advises him to go to New York to plant bugs in the offices of Bougainville Maritime Lines, Inc. Pitt then gets a phone call from Loren's assistant telling him about Loren's calls and how the second one was oddly terminated.

Curtis Mayo of CNN releases a story claiming the man in New Mexico is not the President of the United States, causing the actor playing the President to worry about his future. Fawcett, too, is concerned about his future, seeing Oates take over the Presidency and letting him go. However, the President has mysteriously returned to the White House without anyone's knowledge, except Lugovoy's. In the Aegean Sea, the Venice is slowly making its way to New York with its load of gold bars from the Russian government intended for Min Koryo. However, as the ship crosses into shallow waters it is sunk by a Russian submarine.

Back in Washington, the President tells Fawcett that he was on a secret trip to Russia in order to speak to the Russian President. During the meeting, the two Presidents agreed to stop missile production and begin a dismantling program. They also agreed on an exclusive produce supply program as well as a buyout agreement. The President's advisers are unhappy with the plan because it means the American farmers will essentially not get paid for their produce. However the President is determined to implement his plans. This determination leads Oates to believe the President is being controlled by the Russians. Across town, Lugovoy is monitoring the President closely, even aware of what he is dreaming at night, which it turns out are dreams that stem from the memories of the man from whom Lugovoy took the RNA injected into the President's brain stem.



## Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 45-52 Analysis

Loren sees Moran and Larimer board the Leonid Andreyev, causing her to call Washington in order to determine why no one seems to be aware of their presence on the ship. Loren's calls are clearly monitored because during a second phone call, Loren is taken away by the first officer. Pitt is made aware of this event, foreshadowing that he will most likely board the Leonid Andreyev in the near future. Pitt has also arranged for Sal to put listening devices in the offices of the Bougainville Maritime Lines, Inc, giving hope that he will learn what he needs in order to have Min Koryo arrested, touching on the theme of justice.

The President of the United States has returned to Washington in the aftermath of the revelation of his disappearance. Again the line between fiction and reality is pushed to its limits as the President claims that his disappearance was planned to cover up a secret meeting with the Russian President. The President's assistants believe him until he announces the programs he plans to implement. The President wants to send American produce exclusively to Russia, but he also wants to pay for it, leaving American farmers without payment. Oates quickly suspects the President is being controlled by the Russians. To underscore this, Lugovoy is shown monitoring the President's brain functions, including reading his dreams. This seems a deep invasion of privacy, but no more so than the implantation of a microchip in his brain. Now the reader anticipates the President pushing his Russian-friendly policies and Oates attempting to stop him.





## Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 53-58

### Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 53-58 Summary

Pitt and Giordino board the Leonid Andreyev pretending to be a married couple. Pitt is hoping to find Loren and learn why she was asking about Moran. Pitt suspects that Loren's phone calls to Washington might have something to do with the Bougainvilles and the loss of the Eagle. As soon as they are alone, Giordino takes off his disguise and the two of them quickly begin searching the ship for Loren. Giordino quickly establishes that Loren is not in her cabin and all her things have been removed. At the same time, Pitt makes his way into the bowels of the ship, but finds nothing. Pitt and Giordino meet up and decide to wander the decks. In Washington, the President goes on television to announce his new Russian policies. When Congress begins to make noises about stopping those policies, the President has Congress disbanded. Oates and his fellow cabinet members meet and discuss the situation. The head of the CIA talks about the French recording of the Russian President and suggests that perhaps the President was brainwashed. Then the head of the CIA tells the group about a similar type of procedure being done on American soil, using that information to describe how brainwashing is possible.

Loren is being held in a cell in the bowels of the Leonid Andreyev. Loren is hot, so she removes her dress. Moments later, Suvorov comes into the cell to question her. When Loren exerts her independence, Suvorov attacks her. Pitt comes into the cell and kills Suvorov. Up on deck, a boat approaches the Leonid Andreyev, claiming to have sick people on board. Captain Pokofsky knows these people are actually Russians come to sneak Moran, Larimer, and Loren off the ship. Pitt sees them, too, and knows a massive search is about to begin for the missing captives. Pitt watches the hall outside his stateroom until the searchers come close. Pitt then has Moran, Larimer, Loren, and Giordino hide in the shower and Pitt convinces the searchers his wife is bathing. Pitt is able to convince the searchers for now, but Pitt is anxious to get everyone off the ship before they come back. However, before he can, the Leonid Andreyev suffers an explosion to her boilers after a planted bomb is detonated. Pitt leads Moran, Larimer, Loren and Giordino to the deck of the ship as chaos erupts around them. The ship is engulfed in flames and everyone is panicking. There is no hope in saving the ship, and the Captain orders everyone to abandon ship. Unfortunately there are not enough lifeboats for everyone on board.

On deck, Pitt instructs everyone to throw deck chairs overboard before diving into the water in order to have something to float on. Then Pitt and his companions begin helping people into the water. When everyone is gone, Pitt helps Moran, Larimer, Loren, and Giordino overboard. Before Pitt can escape, he finds a woman and her two children



still trapped. Pitt stops to help them before escaping into the sea. When Pitt finds Loren, she is holding Larimer who died from the stress of the tragedy. Moran is already gone, having been rescued by the Navy helicopters. A boat comes close to Pitt and his companions. Everyone is lifted aboard except Pitt. The man standing on deck calls Pitt by name and tells him he is not welcome aboard. Pitt sees the name Bougainville on the container ship nearby and realizes he is speaking to Lee Tong. Tong then hits Pitt with an oar, knocking him unconscious and leaves him to drown.

## **Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 53-58 Analysis**

Pitt suspects that whatever is happening on board the Leonid Andreyev has something to do with both Bougainville and the loss of the Eagle due to the fact that Loren sees Moran and Larimer on board. Pitt rushes to the Leonid Andreyev to save the day, quickly locating Loren just in time to save her from being attacked by Suvorov. Pitt quickly moves the three Congressional members to his stateroom and hides them from the crew of the ship while he tries to decide how to get them off the ship. Unfortunately, before he can rescue them, the ship is rocked by an explosion. Tong has struck again, blowing up the ship before the Congressional members can escape. However, Tong again underestimates Pitt and does not predict that he will get Loren, Moran, Larimer, and Giordino off the ship. Unfortunately Larimer dies, but Moran manages to get rescued out of the water ahead of everyone else. Moran's actions show his character to a certain degree here, suggesting that he is not a kind person because he allowed himself to be rescued before Loren and the other female passengers struggling in the water, as well as Larimer, who has health problems and ends up dying.

At the same time, the President of the United States is once again causing trouble in Washington. The President announces his plans for Russia and begins implementing them despite protest from Congress. The President decides to stop Congress from convening and ruining his plans. Again the thin line between reality and fiction is stretched here, giving the President powers he most likely could not utilize easily in reality. However, this situation does cause a great deal of tension in Washington, leaving Oates and his fellow cabinet members scrambling to find a way to rein in the President. It turns out that the United States has a program similar to the one Lugovoy utilized to control the President, giving the cabinet members a better understanding of what they are facing and perhaps hope that they can do something to stop the President.



## Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 59-67

### Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 59-67 Summary

The President is suffering terrible dreams and is continuing to shut out Congress while implementing wild and unrealistic policies. Oates visits with the men running the research on the American version of Lugovoy's project. When Oates learns the details of the project, he assigns his men the task of finding a way to intercept the President's brain functions and send Lugovoy fake information instead. Oates then suggests to the other cabinet members that they begin considering the possibility of impeaching the President. Moran sees the same thing and takes his case to the public. At the same time, Pitt wakes a few days after the sinking of the Leonid Andreyev in a hospital at Guantanamo Bay. Pitt was rescued by Giordino and then a Navy helicopter. Pitt immediately wants to know where Loren is, but no one knows. Pitt is convinced that Tong has taken her and wants to go to Miami to meet her ship, but is instead called to Washington. Giordino goes in his place, but Loren is not on the ship any longer.

Pitt is taken to a meeting of the President's cabinet where he tells all he knows about the Bougainvilles and their scheme to brainwash the President. As proof, Pitt presents the notebook Suvorov was keeping with details of Lugovoy's project. In New York, Tong tells his grandmother about kidnapping Loren and suggests they use both Loren and Vice President Margolin to bribe Moran into implementing the policies they want when he becomes President. In Washington, the President announces that he wants the United States to withdraw from NATO within twenty days. That night, Oates has the President drugged and moved to a secured warehouse made to look like his bedroom in order to allow Congress to meet without his knowledge.

Using the information from Suvorov's notebook, Pitt realizes that the lab Suvorov escaped from was in the bottom of a barge. Pitt begins tracking the barge, pinning it to the Mississippi Delta, as the Congress begins impeachment procedures. Oates watches the procedure and realizes that it is inevitable that the President will be impeached, leaving Moran the next in line unless the Vice President is found. Due to his poor character and a questionable past, Oates does not want Moran to be President, so it becomes more important than ever that they find Margolin. At the same time, the President's brain functions transmission has been located by the American scientists and they are able to stop the transmission from his mind to Lugovoy and replace it with a fact set of data that will give Lugovoy false information about American policies, setting the Russians back years.



## Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapters 59-67 Analysis

The President is clearly compromised and Oates puts into action a plan to thwart the Russians. Oates has learned that the Americans have the same brainwashing techniques as the Russians and he uses those scientists to find the frequency the Russians are using and steal it while feeding them false information. This plan works. However, they are unable to change the affects the brainwashing has had on the President, and therefore are put in a position of having to allow the impeachment of the President to take place. This is a difficult situation, but Oates knows the President cannot be left in office now that his mind has been compromised. Unfortunately, the next man in line is Moran, a man of questionable character. Not only this, but the reader knows that Moran has been bribed by the Bougainvilles; therefore, his ascension to the Presidency would not be ideal. Now it is very important for the Vice President to be found alive and well.

Pitt, at the same time, has discovered that Lee Tong has Loren. Pitt is determined to find her despite his injuries and Sandecker's desire to keep him in Washington. Pitt uses Suvorov's notebook to figure out that the moving lab is in a barge, giving him ideas as to where it might be located. Pitt eventually decides the barge must be in the Mississippi Delta because the names of the ships the Bougainvilles have used are all cities on the Mississippi River. The reader anticipates that Pitt will chase after the barge in an attempt to rescue Loren. Because Tong has told his grandmother that the Vice President and Loren are together, it is hopeful that Pitt will also be able to rescue the Vice President and save the country from the indignity of yet another compromised President.



# **Part Four, The Stone Wall Jackson, Chapters 68-74, and Accounting, The Liftonic QW-607, Chapters 75-76**

## **Part Four, The Stone Wall Jackson, Chapters 68-74, and Accounting, The Liftonic QW-607, Chapters 75-76 Summary**

Pitt and Giordino meet up with an FBI agent named Griffin in New Orleans. Together with Griffin's team, Pitt and Giordino begin searching the Mississippi River for the Bougainville's barge. Pitt, Giordino, and Griffin check many docks from a helicopter while Griffin's team follows in a car. After several false alarms, they come across a barge that fits their criteria. As Griffin and his team approach the barge, a group of men appear from hiding places on a nearby ship and open fire. Griffin and many members of his team are injured or killed, but Pitt and Giordino escape in the helicopter, although the helicopter is irreparably damaged. At the same time, Sandecker receives a call from Sal Casio informing him that the Bougainvilles have made a deal with Moran, making it essential that Vice President Margolin be found.

Tong is on board a tug boat that is pushing his barge out to sea. Tong intends to set off a bomb in the barge, sending it to the bottom of the sea with Loren Smith and Vice President Margolin on board. Tong then intends to escape on a ship disguised to look like an English research vessel. However, before the barge is far enough out to sea, a steamboat appears, as well as several Navy aircraft. Tong is not concerned. A Navy helicopter attempts to send soldiers to board the tugboat, but Tong's men open fire. The men onboard are mortally wounded and the helicopter crashes. Onboard the Stonewall Jackson, a steamboat, Pitt, Giordino, and a group of Civil War battle re-enactors are preparing for battle. As the Stonewall Jackson approaches the tugboat they open fire. To everyone's surprise, the re-enactors are able to overpower Tong's people and board the tugboat moments after the Stonewall Jackson rams her. At the same time, Tong boards the barge and prepares to set the explosives. Pitt follows and finds Loren. As Pitt is rescuing Loren and the Vice President, Tong appears. Pitt and Tong fight, ending with Tong's death. Pitt takes Loren to the deck of the barge, returning for Margolin.

The President is impeached and Moran is about to be sworn into office when Vice President Margolin arrives. In New York, Pitt and Sal Casio go to the offices of the Bougainville Maritime Lines, Inc. Pitt and Sal overtake Min Koryo's security before confronting her. Unknown to them, Min Koryo has a laser security system, and she uses it to kill Sal. However, Pitt survives. Pitt takes Min Koryo to the elevators, implying he is arresting her, only to throw her down the elevator shaft. Pitt then goes to spend a few quiet hours with Loren.



## **Part Four, The Stone Wall Jackson, Chapters 68-74, and Accounting, The Liftonic QW-607, Chapters 75-76 Analysis**

Pitt goes to the Mississippi Delta in hopes of finding Loren. Pitt does find the barge, but it cannot be easy. A fire fight breaks out and Pitt survives, forced to use a steamboat to stop Tong from killing the Vice President and Loren. It is now imperative that Pitt save the Vice President because it is known that Moran, the next in line for the President is compromised by the Bougainvilles, touching on the theme of international conspiracies as well as politics. Pitt, true to his character, puts his life on the line to save Loren and Margolin, doing just that. Not only this, but Pitt also kills Lee Tong, touching on the theme of justice.

Margolin takes the oath of office instead of Moran, bringing the story of the President's kidnapping full circle. Pitt and Sal Casio go to see Min Koryo with the hopes of forcing her to face the music for what she has done. In fact, Casio gets killed, but Pitt is able to kill Min Koryo, again exploring the theme of justice. Now Pitt has solved the mystery of the nerve agent on the Pilottown that he set out to solve at the beginning of the novel and can relax, which he does with Loren Smith.



# Characters

## Dirk Pitt

Dirk Pitt is the head of special projects for NUMA. It is part of Pitt's job to investigate shipwrecks. In this novel, Pitt begins the story while attempting to salvage artifacts from a Civil War era shipwreck. While diving on this wreck, Pitt is approached by the government to find a ship near Alaska that is suspected of releasing a nerve agent into the ocean around the Alaskan coast near Augustine Island. Pitt is able to locate the ship within a few hours of arriving in the area, thanks to a satellite picture of the area. Pitt identifies the ship as marooned on the island itself. When Pitt and his crew arrive on the ship, along with EPA agent Julie Mendoza and her crew, they find the nerve agent in the cargo hold of the ship. Later, while Pitt is searching the ship for identifying clues as well as proof that the ship had at one point been targeted for destruction, an earthquake hits that causes Mendoza to be exposed to the nerve agent and killed.

Pitt is outraged by Mendoza's death and vows to find out who stole the nerve agent and left it on the ship even though Pitt's role in the investigation is technically over. Pitt quickly learns that the Pilottown, the ship he found with the nerve agent in her cargo hold, is actually a ship named San Marino. Upon this discovery, Pitt is introduced to a private investigator who is researching the San Marino in hopes of finding out what happened to his daughter, a young lady who was a passenger on the San Marino at the time of its disappearance. Together, Pitt and the private investigator discover the identity of the people who own the Pilottown.

During his investigation into the Pilottown, Pitt is drawn into the investigation of the kidnapping of the President of the United States along with three major members of the American government. Pitt's on again, off again girlfriend, Congresswoman Loren Smith, is on board a cruise ship called the Leonid Andreyev when she witnesses two of the missing government officials escorted on board. Smith becomes concerned about what she has seen and attempts to gather more information in order to find out what is really going on. In the process of gathering this information, Smith is taken into custody on board the ship and hidden away in a cell. Pitt comes aboard the ship to save both Smith and her fellow congressmen, only to face near death when the ship suffers an explosion in the engine room. As Pitt attempts to help victims off the ship, Smith disappears.

Once again Pitt finds himself forced to come to Smith's rescue. Pitt traces Smith to a barge on the Mississippi River. Pitt manages to board the barge and rescue Smith, along with the Vice President of the United States. Pitt's rescue could not be timelier as the President has just been impeached by the Congress. After this rescue, Pitt takes justice into his own hands and murders the woman behind all of these tragic events. Finally Pitt and Congresswoman Smith can enjoy a few quiet hours together.



## Admiral James Sandecker

Admiral James Sandecker is the head of NUMA and a good friend of Dirk Pitt's. Dirk Pitt once saved Sandecker's life, which is the reason why Sandecker thought of Pitt when it was time to staff the newly-created NUMA. Sandecker has many powerful friends and when he learns of the nerve agent near Alaska, he is able to go straight to the President in order to put into action plans to stop the nerve agent and clean up the mess it has left behind. Shortly after the President is kidnapped, Sandecker is approached and asked to help find the Eagle, the President's yacht. Sandecker puts Pitt on the case even though Pitt would rather continue investigating the Pilottown and the source of the nerve agent. Pitt quickly finds the Eagle, going inside the yacht against Sandecker's express orders. Sandecker does not get upset about this insubordination, however, because he knows Pitt's behavior is based on a desire to solve the mystery, not an attempt to disrespect his friend.

Sandecker is later on hand when Pitt goes after Smith when she is held captive on a barge. Sandecker sits with the President's cabinet, listening to the events on the Mississippi River, concerned for his friend, Dirk Pitt. When Sandecker hears that Pitt is most likely dead after his helicopter crashes, he does not give up on his friend. Sandecker knows Pitt is okay. Sandecker's faith is proven correct, and he watches as Pitt saves the day, not only rescuing Loren Smith, but also the Vice President of the United States, who arrives just in time to take the oath of office in the aftermath of the President's impeachment.

## President of the United States

The President of the United States is a strong-willed man who is determined to push his policies through despite reluctance in the Congress. The President is also a spontaneous man who often makes plans on the spur of the moment, forcing the Secret Service to rush in order to keep up. At the beginning of the novel, the President wants to push through a policy to send aid to starving Russians; however, several people in Congress are unhappy with the plan and fighting the President. The President decides to invite two of his strongest opponents on his yacht in order to attempt to talk them into seeing things his way. While on the yacht, the President and several members of the American government are kidnapped.

The President is given a brain implant and has RNA implanted in his brain stem during his time in captivity in an attempt at brainwashing him. When the President returns to the White House, he convinces everyone that he was not kidnapped, but went on a planned meeting with the Russian President. During that meeting, the President came to many conclusions about American policies toward Russia. The President then begins to implement many of these plans. When Congress attempts to stop him, the President disbands Congress, overruling all their decisions and preventing them from meeting. However, those around the President quickly figure out what has happened and arrange for him to be impeached.





## Senator Marcus Larimer

Senator Marcus Larimer is one of the President's most outspoken opponents in Congress, especially when it comes to the President's Russian policies. The President invites Larimer on board the Eagle, his yacht, with the hopes of speaking to him about these policies and convincing Larimer to vote his way. Unfortunately, while Larimer is onboard the yacht, the entire yacht is stolen and the passengers kidnapped. Larimer is taken to a lab where a Russian scientist attempts to brainwash the President. The intention is to keep Larimer in case the President's brainwashing does not work. Larimer is in the line of succession for the Presidency; therefore, the Russians believe their plan will work even if it is Larimer they must brainwash.

A KGB agent assigned to watch the Russian scientist manages to get into the lab. The agent does not understand fully what is going on, but decides to sneak Larimer, Moran, and the Vice President out of the lab and into Russia. The KGB agent gets Larimer and Moran out of the lab and onto a Russian cruise ship, but his plans are foiled when the cruise ship is sabotaged. Unfortunately, Larimer has a bad heart and dies of a heart attack after helping Pitt rescue several passengers off the cruise ship.

## Congressman Alan Moran

Congressman Alan Moran is Speaker of the House and therefore in the line of succession to the Presidency. Moran is also one of the President's strongest opponents concerning aid for Russia. Moran is also invited onto the Eagle in order to hear the President's ideas firsthand in an attempt to change Moran's mind. Moran goes into the meeting with no intention of changing his mind. During the yacht cruise, Moran is kidnapped along with the President, Larimer, and the Vice President. In the lab where the President is brainwashed, Moran is rescued with Larimer. However, Moran and Larimer are in the care of a Russian who is intent on taking them to Russia where they will be interrogated to find out what they know about American policies and defense.

When Moran is placed on a Russian cruise ship in order to take him to Russia, he is first rescued from the jail cell by Pitt. However, before Pitt can get him off the boat, the cruise ship is sabotaged and begins to sink. Moran manages to get safely off the ship and is taken back to the states by the Navy. Later, Moran returns to Washington where he spearheads the fight to impeach the President. Moran makes a deal with Lee Tong and Min Koryo to kill the Vice President in order to become the President himself. Fortunately, Pitt rescues the Vice President before this can happen.

## Dr. Aleksei Lugovoy

Dr. Aleksei Lugovoy is the Russian psychologist who has perfected a method of brainwashing people. Lugovoy is part of a years long scheme to kidnap a key American official and brainwash him in order to aid the Russian government. Lugovoy places an implant in the President's head and injects his brain stem with RNA from a Russian test



subject in order to influence the President's thoughts and actions. The brainwashing appears to work, and the President shakes up the American government by drastically changing the American policies toward Russia and disbanding the Congress. However, the President is too enthusiastic about his new policies, causing the Americans to figure out what has happened and to sabotage Lugovoy's work.

## **Sal Casio**

Sal Casio is a private investigator from California who has been searching for a missing cargo ship, the San Marino, for more than twenty years. Sal's daughter stole some money from a bank where she worked and boarded the San Marino to escape justice. During her voyage, the San Marino disappeared. Casio becomes aware that Pitt has found the San Marino and he visits Pitt in Washington to find out what he knows. Pitt agrees to work with Casio in finding the people responsible for killing his daughter. Together Pitt and Casio learn about a scheme Lee Tong and his grandmother, Min Koryo, have been perpetrating for years, stealing ships and changing their names. This is what happened to the San Marino. In the end, Pitt and Casio make Koryo pay for her crimes.

## **Min Koryo Bougainville and Lee Tong**

Min Koryo Bougainville is an elderly Asian woman who owns the Bougainville Maritime Lines, Inc, a successful shipping company based out of New York. Min Koryo is a bitter woman who hates everything American because of the deaths of her husband and three children during World War II. Koryo has worked with her grandson, Lee Tong, for many years to scheme with foreign powers to harm America. One of these schemes was to steal a nerve agent to sell to a foreign power. When the sale failed to go through, Tong intended to scuttle the ship on which the nerve agent was housed, but the bombs failed to go off. Later the nerve agent leaks into the ocean, putting Pitt on their trail. Then Min Koryo and her grandson conspire to kidnap the President of the United States and brainwash him in order to benefit the Russian government. When the Russians fail to pay for this event, Koryo and Lee Tong strike a deal with the Speaker of the House, promising to kill the Vice President if he will push through policies friendly to their causes. In the end, Lee Tong is killed attempting to kill the Vice President, and Min Koryo is thrown down an elevator shaft for her crimes.

## **Congresswoman Loren Smith**

Congresswoman Loren Smith is Dirk Pitt's on-again, off-again girlfriend. Smith does all she can to help Pitt with his investigation into the Pilottown, telling him rumors she hears on Capitol Hill. Later, when Smith is on board a Russian cruise ship, she sees Moran and Larimer brought aboard the ship. Smith begins investigating to find out why these two would be on the ship in custody of Russians. During her investigation, Smith is taken into custody by the ship's captain. Pitt boards the ship to rescue Smith, but then



the ship is sabotaged and sinks. Pitt and Smith are separated during the rescue and Smith is taken captive by Lee Tong. Pitt finds Smith on the Mississippi River on a barge. Pitt swoops in and saves the day, finishing his business in time to spend a few quality hours with Smith.

## **Julie Mendoza**

Julie Mendoza is an agent with the EPA. Mendoza recruits Pitt to help her find the source of the nerve agent that is poisoning a large portion of the ocean around Alaska. Pitt finds the ship quickly. Once on board, Pitt finds the nerve agent in the cargo hold. While Mendoza and her co-workers investigate the nerve agent, Pitt wanders off to find proof that the Pilottown was intended to be scuttled. On his way back, an earthquake hits the Pilottown. Pitt learns that Mendoza broke her leg and the break caused a tear in her safety suit, allowing her to be exposed to the nerve agent. Mendoza died a painful death. Pitt is inspired by this death to find the people responsible for the stolen nerve agent.



## Objects/Places

### The San Marino

The San Marino is cargo ship on which Arta Casilighio, Sal Casio's daughter, takes passage after robbing the bank where she worked. Arta and the crew of the San Marino are thrown overboard when Lee Tong's people steal the ship and later transform it illegally into the Pilottown.

### The Pilottown

The Pilottown is a ship that Dirk Pitt finds marooned on Augustine Island in Alaska. The Pilottown was used by Min Koryo and Lee Tong to transport a stolen nerve agent and then abandoned when the perspective buyers backed out. Pitt is assigned the task of finding the ship because the chemical is leaking into the ocean causing many deaths among sailors and sea life.

### The Eagle

The Eagle is the official yacht of the President of the United States. The Eagle is stolen with the President, two congressmen, and Vice President onboard and then scuttled in the Potomac River. The President, the congressmen and the Vice President are all kidnapped while the crew is killed.

### The Leonid Andreyev

The Leonid Andreyev is a cruise ship on which the Russians smuggle Senator Larimer and Congressman Moran while Congresswoman Smith is aboard. As a result of witnessing the arrival of her fellow Congressmen, Smith attempts to contact Pitt, resulting in her confinement onboard the ship.

### The Stonewall Jackson

The Stonewall Jackson is a steamboat in service on the Mississippi River. Pitt commandeers the Stonewall Jackson in his pursuit of Lee Tong. The boat captain rams Lee Tong's tug boat, allowing Pitt and Giordino to board the tug and rescue Congresswoman Smith and the Vice President.



## **Barge**

Lee Tong uses a barge to house the lab in which Lugovoy attempts to brainwash the President of the United States.

## **Gold Bars**

The President of Russia pays Min Koryo and Lee Tong in gold bars for the kidnapping and brainwashing of the President of the United States. However, the President of Russia has the ship on which the gold bars are being transported sunk in an area where recovery is possible for his country.

## **1948 Talbot-Lago**

1948 Talbot-Lago is a car that Dirk Pitt owns. The car is blown up in the parking lot of NUMA headquarters in an attempt to kill Pitt when he gets too close to identifying Julie Mendoza's killers.

## **Bougainville Maritime Lines, Inc**

Bougainville Maritime Lines, Inc is Min Koryo and Lee Tong's legitimate shipping company, a cover for their illegal activities.

## **NUMA**

NUMA, or National Underwater and Marine Agency, is the agency for which Pitt and Sandecker work.

## **Mississippi River**

Pitt chases Lee Tong's barge down the Mississippi River outside New Orleans. Pitt found Tong by recognizing that all of Tong's ships are named for cities along the Mississippi River.

## **Russia**

Russia and the United States are in a Cold War at the time the novel is set. The Russian President is paying Lee Tong and his grandmother to kidnap and brainwash the President of the United States.



# Themes

## International Conspiracies

The novel begins with the discovery of a nerve agent accidentally released into the ocean, to the kidnapping of the President of the United States and the three men who would succeed him to the Presidency, and ends with the impeachment of the President. All these incidences seem unrelated, but Dirk Pitt quickly begins to see a connection among them all. The nerve agent is aboard a ship that was once stolen on the high seas and whose name was changed illegally. The nerve agent, it turns out, was to be sold to a foreign power after having been stolen. However, when the foreign power backed out of the sale, the ship was scuttled and left to drift on the open seas. Pitt finds the ship in Alaska after the chemical begins to leak into the sea and kill all who comes into contact with it. A final victim is taken by the chemical, leaving Pitt anxious to punish those who are to blame.

As Pitt is investigating the source of the nerve agent, he meets a man whose daughter disappeared off a cargo ship more than twenty years before. Pitt discovers that this man's daughter was on board a ship that would later be called Pilottown, the name of the ship he found in Alaska. While concentrating on this case, Pitt is called to find the Eagle, the President's yacht. Pitt does not want to be distracted, but does as requested. Unknown to Pitt, the President was kidnapped off his yacht, along with two Congressmen and the Vice President. Pitt is not initially involved in the case, but as his own investigation brings him to a cruise ship where his girlfriend has discovered the presence of the two missing Congressmen, Pitt begins to realize the two cases are related. At the same time, the President returns to the White House, a greatly changed man whom his own cabinet believes must be relieved of his duties.

These three events seem unrelated, but soon Pitt realizes that the same people are behind each occurrence. A woman named Min Koryo is bitter toward the United States because of the untimely deaths of her husband and three sons during World War II. Even though Min Koryo lives in New York and enjoys the freedom of the United States, she has vowed to punish the country that took her family from her. Min Koryo stole the nerve agent and tried to sell it to a foreign power for use against the United States. As a result of the failure of that sale going through, she ordered the ship with the chemicals be scuttled, an unsuccessful endeavor. Min Koryo also orchestrated the kidnapping and brainwashing of the President of the United States for Russia in the hopes that the President would change American policies in favor of the Russians. Finally, Min Koryo bribed an American politician to ensure the impeachment of the President of the United States when the Russians failed to make payment on their scheme.

The theme of international conspiracies is a major theme of this novel because it is conspiracies between Min Koryo and Russia that spur the main plot of the novel, as well as several of the subplots. If not for Min Koryo's actions, Pitt would never have met Julie Mendoza or Sal Casio and would have had no reason to investigate the chemical found



onboard the Pilottown. Not only this, but if the Russians had not failed to pay Min Koryo for kidnapping the President of the United States, Pitt would have no reason to rescue the Vice President during the climatic scenes at the end of the novel. Due to these reasons, international conspiracies is a major theme of this novel.

## Justice

The theme of justice comes into this novel in several different ways. The first is Pitt's outrage at the death of Julie Mendoza. Mendoza dies on board the Pilottown when an earthquake causes her to fall and break her legs, the fracture tearing her safety suit and exposing her to the nerve agent on board. Pitt has not known Mendoza for long, but found her interesting and is outraged that she would have to die such a painful death. Pitt becomes a bulldog as he investigates the ship and attempts to find out where the nerve agent came from. Unknown to him, the investigation will lead Pitt into an investigation of international intrigue and place his on-again, off-again lover in danger.

Sal Casio is also looking for justice. Sal's daughter once worked at a teller in a bank and used her position to steal money from the bank. While escaping with the money, Sal's daughter gets passage on a cargo ship. Unknown to her, the ship is about to be stolen by Lee Tong and his group of bandits. Sal, a private investigator, has investigated his daughter's disappearance for more than twenty years but has few leads until he learns that Pitt has learned that the San Marino was transformed into the Pilottown shortly before its attempted scuttle near Alaska. When Pitt finds the Pilottown and makes this connection, Sal rushes to Washington to find out what else Pitt might know. Together Sal and Pitt discover the truth behind the death of the San Marino's crew, including Sal's daughter, and get justice for her death.

## Politics

Politics in America often relies on power plays, lies, and secret maneuvering. In this novel, the President of the United States wants to implement a plan to offer aid to Russia in order to help feed her millions of starving citizens. Unfortunately, many in Congress do not believe this is a good idea and are fighting his plan. The President decides to invite his two most ardent opponents, Senator Larimer and Congressman Moran, on board his yacht to discuss the plan. As a surprise last-minute addition, the Vice President joins the excursion. During dinner, without their knowledge, the entire crew and passengers of the yacht are drugged. Later, under a dense fog, the yacht is stolen and replaced with a look-alike ship. The President and his three successors have been kidnapped.

The Russians believe if they can control American policy they can become more of a super power. The Russian government pays Lee Tong and his grandmother to kidnap and brainwash the President of the United States. The brainwashing works, but the President's closest advisors recognize the change in him and decide to initiate his impeachment. Unfortunately, the next available successor is a man as corrupt as the



Russians. The successor has made a deal with Lee Tong to secure his presidency at the cost of the death of the Vice President. Fortunately, Pitt is able to rescue the Vice President and return him to Washington in time to take the oath of office. It is because of all this political maneuvering that makes politics a theme of the novel.





# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of this novel is third-person omniscient. The author uses many different characters as his narrator, including the hero Dirk Pitt. Other characters used as narrators include the antagonist, Lee Tung, his grandmother, Min Koryo, as well as benevolent characters Loren Smith and Sid Casio. The point of view character, or narrator, shifts often throughout the novel, often causing each chapter to begin with a new narrator and including shifts in narration in the middle of a chapter.

The point of view of this novel works because it allows the reader an intimate point of view of the action through the eyes of not only the hero, Dirk Pitt, but also his friends and enemies. If the writer had contained himself to a single narrator, the plot would not unfold the way it does, moving with such a quick pace from event to event. The novel's story line unfolds in such a way that it is important for the reader to have this intimate view of the plot in order to understand why certain events happen and the motivations of the characters who are behind these events.

## Setting

The novel is set in many different places. The novel begins in the sixties on board the cargo ship San Marino. The plot then moves into the future in the ocean off Alaska. From there, the setting moves to Washington, D.C., Russia, and the seas off Cuba. The only constant setting of the novel is on board various ships, where much of the story takes place. The first ship is Pilottown, a marooned ship that contains lethal cargo that will result in the death of Julie Mendoza, a new acquaintance of Dirk Pitt. The next important ship on which the novel is set is the Presidential yacht Eagle. It is while on board this yacht that the President of the United States is kidnapped. Later, Congresswoman Loren Smith is taken captive on board the cruise ship, Leonid Andreyev. All of these ships pull the setting together, giving it a constant theme.

The setting of the novel works because the antagonists of the novel turn out to be shipping magnets, explaining why the ownership and existence of all these ships play an important role in the overall plot of the novel. Not only this, but Dirk Pitt, the hero of the novel, is a member of the government research agency, NUMA. NUMA is an organization that often investigates shipwrecks and attempts to recover and preserve shipwrecks; therefore, the fact that the setting involves many ships is appropriate and works within the plot.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple English. Dirk Pitt, as well as his friends and enemies, are well-educated people; therefore, their speech is grammatically correct and



occasionally filled with complicated language. However, the language is easy for the average reader to understand with much of the more complicated language explained within the dialogue or exposition. The novel also includes language that is pertinent to ocean exploration due to the fact that Dirk Pitt is a member of NUMA, an organization that specializes in ocean exploration.

The language of this novel works because it uses language that would be expected in the real-world applications of the lifestyles of the characters. If the writer were to chose to use less educated language or avoided the special language of ocean exploration, the novel would lack the authority that this language provides due to the careers and backgrounds of the important characters. Even with the use of some of these unfamiliar or difficult words, the author still manages to keep the novel reader friendly, allowing the language to work in a way that makes it easy for readers of all ages to enjoy.

## Structure

The novel is divided into four parts as well as a prologue and an epilogue, each named for a ship or elevator that is important to the story contained in each part. The novel also includes seventy-six chapters, each one relatively short, most no longer than ten pages. The novel includes a picture of Dirk Pitt's car, a 1948 Talbot-Lago, a diagram of the position of the Pilottown upon its discovery, a map of the Mississippi River, and a diagram of the Potomac River where the Eagle was found.

The novel contains one main story line as well as several subplots. The main story line follows the antics of Lee Tong and his grandmother in their attempts to undermine the government of the United States. The story begins with the discovery of the Pilottown, a ship that Tong used to transport a nerve agent, then follows Tong's kidnapping of the President of the United States. The subplots include Pitt's relationship with private investigator Sal Casio, his relationship with Lauren Smith, and the attempts of the Russians to influence American policies.

## Quotes

"No sound came. The increasing water density soon crushed her chest cavity. Her lifeless body drifted into the waiting arms of the abyss ten thousand feet below."

Prelude, *The San Marino*, pg. 17

"There are some people who say you can't sweat underwater, but you can. The divers could feel the sweat forcing its way through the pores of their skin against the protective constriction of their dry suits. They were beginning to experience the creeping grasp of weariness, yet they had only been on the bottom for eight minutes."

Part One, *Pilottown*, Chapter 3, pg. 36

"'I must know who my subject is,' he said finally, mustering his courage and returning her stare.

Her answer burst like a bomb in the cavernous room, reverberated in Lugovoy's brain and left him stunned. He felt as though he'd been thrown into a bottomless pit with no hope of escape." Part One, *Pilottown*, Chapter 9, pg. 73

"Pitt's only emotion was cold rage. It swelled up inside him as he knelt down beside her and struck the deck repeatedly with his fist." Part One, *Pilottown*, Chapter 10, pg. 82

"Everyone on the yacht had vanished as though they had never been born."

Part One, *Pilottown*, Chapter 12, pg. 95

"Unlike actors in motion pictures, who take forever to wake up and answer a ringing telephone in bed, Ben Greenwald, Director of the Secret Service, came instantly alert and snatched the receiver before the second ring." Part Two, *The Eagle*, Chapter 13, pg. 99

"Almost as the words came out, Sandecker knew he'd waved a flag in front of a bull elephant. Once Pitt dropped beneath the river's surface, the thin leash of command was broken."

Part Two, *The Eagle*, Chapter 28, pg. 172

"Mercer stared idly at the corpse moving out from the interior of the spatial analyzer probe. 'It appears, gentleman, that every time we open a door we walk into an empty room.'"

Part Two, *The Eagle*, Chapter 34, pg. 199

"'The ocean is a big dumping ground,' Suvorov said steadily. 'If the situation requires, my friends in the brig will simply be committed to the deep.'"

Part Three, *The Leonid Andreyev*, Chapter 45, pg. 248



"Pitt watched the mini-drama with interest, seeing through the sham. Two men and a woman struggled up the metal stairway, clutching their midriffs and pretending they were in the throes of abdominal agony. He rated them two stars for their performance."  
Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapter 56, pg. 299

"Captain Pokofsky sat in the cabin of the powerboat, his hands clasped over his ears to shut out the terrible cries of the people drowning in the water and the screams of those suffering the agony of their burns. He could not bring himself to look upon the indescribable horror or watch the Leonid Andreyev plunge out of sight to the seabed two thousand fathoms below. He was a living dead man."  
Part Three, The Leonid Andreyev, Chapter 58, pgs. 317-318

"Then he shoved the wheelchair into the vacant opening and stood listening as it clattered like a pebble down a well, echoing off the sides of the shaft until there was the faint sound of impact a hundred stories below."  
Accounting, The Liftonic QW-607, Chapter 76, pgs. 430-431

## Topics for Discussion

Discuss Dirk Pitt. Who is Dirk Pitt? Compare and contrast him to James Bond. How are they similar? How are they different? Is Dirk Pitt a more believable character? Why or why not?

Why does Dirk Pitt become enraged by Julie Mendoza's death? Why is Pitt so intent on finding Mendoza's killer? Was Mendoza a friend of Pitt's? How would you describe their relationship? What might have happened between them if Mendoza had lived? How would this relationship have affected Pitt's relationship with Loren Smith?

Who is Loren Smith? What is her role in Pitt's life? How does Smith's involvement in the kidnapping of the President of the United States pull Pitt into that investigation? Why does Pitt board the Leonid Andreyev? How do Pitt and Smith get separated? How does this affect Pitt? What does Pitt's reaction say about his relationship with Smith?

Why is the President of the United States on board the Eagle? Why does the Secret Service become nervous when the Vice President joins the party on the Eagle? How does it affect the government when the Eagle is hijacked? What would happen if the kidnapping became public knowledge?

Why is the President impeached? Who leads the charge against the President? Is there a legal precedent for this action? How will it affect America's status as a world power? How will it affect Russia? Who will benefit most by who might succeed the President? Why does it become vital that the Vice President be found?

Who is Sal Casio? What does he have to do with Pitt's investigation? How do Pitt and Casio help each other? Why do Casio and Pitt go after Min Koryo at the end of the novel? Is Pitt's action justified? What might have happened if they had had Min Koryo arrested instead? Would that have been justice?

What would happen if the President was kidnapped and brainwashed in reality? Is this possible? What would the effect be on the American government? What would be the difference between the effects in the time that this novel takes place and in modern times? Could an American President be impeached? Site several examples.