

Iceberg Study Guide

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Plot Summary

A ship has been entombed in ice, but what originally appears to be a natural result of a fire in the frigid north Atlantic soon is identified as murder and cover-up. Major Dirk Pitt is assigned by Admiral Sandecker to investigate and search for a missing undersea probe invented by the now deceased Kristjan Fyrie. Pitt and scientist Bill Hunnewell locate the ship in the iceberg and investigate but discover more questions than answers.

As Pitt and Hunnewell attempt to fly to Iceland to continue the investigation, their helicopter engages in an air battle with a mysterious black jet. Pitt causes the black jet to crash, but the helicopter crashes as well and Hunnewell is killed. Pitt continues to encounter attempts on his life, and when Sandecker and his assistant Tidi Royal join him in Reykjavik, they, too, are in danger. Pitt meets Kirsti Fyrie, Kristjan's twin sister, and her fiancé, Oskar Rondheim. Pitt meets Jerome P. Lillie, who is an NIA agent for the USA. Lillie reveals to Pitt that the NIA and the NUMA have discovered that Hermit Ltd has ties to Rondheim and Fyrie, and they believe they are all joining forces for some reason. Pitt soon realizes Rondheim is the man behind all these attempts to kill him, and that Rondheim controls the probe and Kirsti. Pitt assumes the role of a homosexual artist to fool Oskar into thinking Pitt is harmless. Pitt and Sandecker find the black jet on the bottom of the north Atlantic and are again targets for death, but escape.

Pitt and Tidi are invited to the Fyrie mansion, where Oskar and James Kelly reveal their plans to take over the world, starting with Central and South America, and using the undersea probe to locate immense riches to fund their scheme. Pitt, Tidi and thirty others are kidnapped, drugged, and left in a ravine in Iceland to die, thus providing a distraction for the media while Hermit Ltd. enacts its plan. Even though Pitt has been beaten by Rondheim until almost dead, he is able to go for help and brings it back in the form of an old Tri-Motor airplane. Once everyone is safe, Pitt allows himself to be treated for his injuries. Soon, however, he is enlisted by the director of NIA to continue and complete the investigation of Hermit Ltd. Pitt is taken to Disneyland in California, where he, Kippman and Lazard finally defeat Rondheim and arrest Kelly.

At the end, Pitt tells Kirsti that it is all over; her controller Rondheim and Kelly are under arrest, and Pitt is aware that Kirsti is actually Kristjan with a sex change operation. Pitt has arranged for Kirsti to be set free, on the condition she will work with NUMA on refining the undersea probe to be used for good, not evil. To punish Kirsti for changing her personality from the kind, giving Kristjan to a selfish beautiful woman, Pitt rejects her offer of sex, and walks away.



Prologue, Chapter One

Prologue, Chapter One Summary

A Coast Guard plane on standard iceberg patrol detects something very unusual in one of the icebergs below. As they crew flies down for a closer look, they discover a burned out ship entombed in an iceberg. They drop a red dye flare on the iceberg to mark its position and radio in the find to their headquarters. As they fly away, two unidentified men in white snowsuits watch the plane depart, then radio an unknown source.

Lt. Commander Lee Koski, Commander of Coast Guard Cutter Catawaba is watching an extremely skilled helicopter pilot land on his deck in a severe storm. He tells his Executive Officer, Lt. Amos Dover, to bring the pilot and passenger to the Officer's Messroom, where he will receive them. Lt. Cmdr. Koski is puzzled about what urgency would bring someone in this weather to his ship. Dover brings Dr. Bill Hunnewell to the Messroom, and immediately Dr. Hunnewell gives Lt. Cmdr. Koski a piece of paper with new coordinates on it. Lt. Cmdr. Koski resists the request, questioning the Doctor's credentials. Major Dirk Pitt enters the room and explains to the Lt. Cmdr. that the authority comes from the highest possible sources. Dirk explains that the new coordinates are the location of an extremely important iceberg. He tells him it is a Russian spy vessel embedded in the iceberg, and the secrets contained in the vessel are of vital importance to the United States. The commander decides to follow the request for change of coordinates, and Pitt and Hunnewell are shown their quarters. Pitt lies down, but before drifting off to sleep, remembers how he volunteered for this mission. Later, when he and Dr. Hunnewell are together again away from the ship crew, Dr. Hunnewell chastises Pitt for telling the Lt. Cmdr a lie about the reason for tracking down the iceberg.

Prologue, Chapter One Analysis

The mystery begins with the incredible sighting of a ship encased in ice in the North Atlantic. Pitt and Hunnewell are assigned to investigate and enlist a Coast Guard super cutter, but he and Hunnewell don't tell the cutter's commander the whole truth of their mission. Pitt's character is revealed as that of an officer who is greatly respected and admired but operates outside the normal rules and regulations. He is a maverick who gets things done.



Chapter Two, Chapter Three and Chapter Four

Chapter Two, Chapter Three and Chapter Four Summary

The next morning, Dover shows Pitt and Hunnewell to the bridge of the supercutter. Pitt shows a remarkable wealth of knowledge about the ship's capabilities, some of which are top secret. This causes Lt. Cmdr Koski to become very suspicious about the two men and their intentions. A message from Admiral Sandecker, Pitt's boss, comes just in time to allay the commander's fears. Soon the ship is near the iceberg, and Pitt and Hunnewell depart on their helicopter to land on the iceberg. The two men had estimated the location of the iceberg, and found one similar in size where they had suspected it would be; however, there was no red dye on that iceberg, so they traveled further until they found one with the red dye. Just before they land on the marked iceberg, Pitt spies a Russian submarine nearby.

Pitt lands the helicopter on the iceberg that is supposed to contain the ship and keeps an eye on the submarine while Hunnewell probes for the ship. The submarine surfaces and sends 5-6 men in a dinghy towards Pitt and Hunnewell. Pitt begins to suspect they have been set up and there is no ship here. There is a red stain that is supposed to mark it, but no ship. He and Hunnewell depart in the helicopter just before the Russian soldiers reach them. They head back to the iceberg they had originally thought was the one with the ship embedded inside. Upon landing on the original iceberg, Pitt knows it is the right one. He can smell burnt oil. As they are walking on the iceberg, Hunnewell slips and almost falls to his death, but Pitt pulls saves his life. They find an ice tunnel that leads them down inside the iceberg to the ship. It is apparent that someone has created this tunnel and has eliminated the original red dye markings, though Hunnewell and Pitt do not understand why. When they reach the ship, it is obvious a severe fire swept the ship and killed all aboard instantly. As they search the ship and find bodies, Hunnewell comes upon one that he can identify positively as Kristjan Fyrie. Pitt knows Fyrie is the man Admiral Sandecker had sent him to find. As Pitt and Hunnewell discuss the state of the ship, Lt, Cmdr Koski and his men arrive unexpectedly.

Lt. Cmdr Koski is angry with Pitt and demands to know what is going on. Koski realizes the ship they are on is not a trawler. Pitt explains that it is The Lax, which was Fyrie's ship, and was headed to New York to negotiate for a business contract with the USA, with geological maps of the ocean floor as their cargo. What exactly Fyrie had found was unknown, but it was significant. Pitt says the crew was murdered, probably by a flamethrower.



Chapter Two, Chapter Three and Chapter Four Analysis

Pitt's superior physical strength and abilities are demonstrated as he saves Hunnewell's life on the iceberg. The mystery deepens when the men realize they have been steered towards the wrong iceberg. They find the correct one, and now their investigation involves the ruthless murder of the ship's crew. Danger increases as the Pitt realizes he can't even trust his own military with the truth and must continue spinning lies to keep them off balance. The confirmation of Kristjan's death means that now some unknown person has the valuable underseas probe.



Chapter Five, Chapter Six

Chapter Five, Chapter Six Summary

Pitt and Hunnewell are flying the helicopter towards the capital of Iceland, Reykjavik and discussing the twists of the truth Pitt told Koski. Hunnewell says that Pitt did not tell Koski about the true discovery Fyrie had made, of a field of Zirconium. Fyrie's company had invented a sea probe that could find anything on the bottom of the sea, and it was this probe that Fyrie was going to turn over to the USA, in the interests of peace. Hunnewell admired Fyrie immensely and tells Pitt the man's life story, from poverty to riches, and giving all his money to the poor. As they are talking, Pitt sees a black jet with no markings drawing closer. Just as Hunnewell is saying that Kristjan's only surviving relative is his twin sister Kirsti, the jet turns and fires at the helicopter, causing it to crash. However, Pitt is able to cause the jet to crash in the water. Pitt and Hunnewell wash up on the beach of Iceland, but Hunnewell dies in Pitt's arms before he can get help. Hunnewell's last words are "God save thee..."

Children find Pitt and Hunnewell and go for help. Pitt meets a doctor who is kind and helpful and dresses Pitt's wounds. Pitt is deeply depressed about Hunnewell's death. Soon, two men claiming to be Icelandic policemen arrive and begin questioning Pitt. The doctor tells Pitt these men are impostors. Pitt and the doctor trick the men into the next room and Pitt disables them and takes their weapons. One of the townspeople offers to take Pitt to Reykjavik, and he accepts.

Chapter Five, Chapter Six Analysis

The character of the deceased Kristjan is explored here, and the value of the underseas probe becomes apparent as Pitt and Hunnewell are attacked. Hunnewell's death greatly affects Pitt, who feels he has lost a friend due to his own failures. The danger increases as Pitt is rescued only to face more threats from an impostor policemen. Here the warm characters of the native Icelanders is shown in their passions for their townspeople and for strangers.



Chapter Seven

Chapter Seven Summary

When Pitt awakes the next morning he is in a hospital bed and Tidi Royal, Admiral Sandecker's personal assistant is at his bedside. Pitt knows the Admiral is nearby. Tidi and Pitt admit they have been attracted to each other, but any romance is impossible because Sandecker is Pitt's boss. Two hours later, cleaned up and dressed in fresh clothes, Pitt meets with Sandecker and briefs the Admiral on what has happened. Sandecker orders Pitt home, but Pitt refuses to go, saying he owes Hunnewell to pursue this mystery to the end. Sandecker finally relents, and tells Pitt more about the nuclear sea probe and how valuable it is. The probe was on the Lax, and was not there when the ship was found, so the mystery is to find out who stole it and what they plan to do with it. The Admiral and Pitt are unsure what to do next; Pitt is invited to join Sandecker and Tidi that evening while they have dinner with Kristjan's sister Kirsti.

Chapter Seven Analysis

The relationship between Pitt and Sandecker is expanded in this chapter. Pitt is a consummate ladies man with few boundaries or shame, but he holds his friendships dearer than his desire for the beautiful Tidi. Pitt's loyalty to Sandecker runs deep, and it is obvious the old man considers Pitt to be like a son to him. As they hash out the circumstances and evidence, it is clear there is a strong bond that runs deeper than Admiral and Major between the men. They trust each other's opinions, and respect the intelligence displayed there.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Before Kirsti arrives at the restaurant, Sandecker reviews what they know about Kristjan's twin sister: no one really knew she existed until recently, and it was said she had been in New Guinea serving as a missionary until Kristjan died. Then she took over the reins of the company as if she had always done so. When Kirsti arrives at the restaurant, Pitt is struck by her beauty. Pitt and Kirsti exchange some serious flirting, then Kirsti sees her fiancé, Oskar Rondheim and asks him to join them. Pitt has an immediate dislike for Rondheim and how he is treating Kirsti. Rondheim does not like Pitt either. Pitt decides to change his demeanor with Oskar; Pitt pretends, to the astonishment of Sandecker and Tidi, that he is a homosexual. Rondheim is disgusted and underestimates Pitt, which is part of Dirk's plan. Oskar is the owner of Rondheim Industries, whose corporate symbol is the albatross. Pitt claims to be a watercolor artist and asks the use of one of Rondheim's vessels to paint the shoreline of Reyk from the water. Rondheim agrees, telling Pitt what dock to use. After Rondheim and Kirsti depart the restaurant, Sandecker demands to know what Pitt is planning, then realizes Dirk wants to find the wrecked black jet so they will know who murdered Hunnewell and tried to murder Pitt.

Chapter 8 Analysis

The investigation as it stands thus far is laid out in this chapter. The fabulous, gorgeous Kirsti provides a strong temptation for Dirk to be distracted from his goals, and he does begin flirting with her. However, when Oskar arrives on the scene, Pitt recognizes high danger and an enemy in the making. He reverts to role playing as a homosexual to throw Oskar off guard; from that moment on, Pitt's dedication to his job and his sense of survival never allows him to consider Kirsti as a potential lover. Pitt uses Oskar's confusion about Pitt's masculinity to maneuver a boat from Kirsti and Oskar so he can begin looking for the jet.



Chapter 9, Chapter 10, Chapter 11

Chapter 9, Chapter 10, Chapter 11 Summary

Pitt is dressed as a gay artist, and he, Admiral Sandecker, and Tidi Royal are going to the docks to use one of Rondheim's boats. They are directed to a modern craft but choose an old fishing boat, The Grimsi, instead. Once inside the boat, Pitt and Sandecker discover that the seemingly derelict vessel has a powerful engine and electronics aboard. They take the boat out and soon find what they believe to be the wreck of the black jet.

With Tidi in Pitt's gay clothes, sketching on the deck, Pitt is able to don his wetsuit and begin his exploring dives. It is Sandecker's belief that anyone gazing at the Grimsi from the shore will think Tidi is Pitt, and that Sandecker and Pitt are below decks. Pitt goes underwater, but it is some time before he is able to locate the jet. He finds the jet, but must surface for awhile because of the cold water. Sandecker tells him he thinks they have been spotted, because he saw a flash of binoculars on the shore. Pitt returns to the water as soon as he has warmed up, just before a fog bank rolls in. He makes grim discoveries in the jet, with the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot, yet there are no markings on the jet or in the men's clothes and equipment. He finds two boxes and sends them topside with a float. He is almost ready to give up on finding any identifying marks, then a small fish leads his gaze to the hydraulic shock absorber of the nose wheel, which also had been filed of markings, but there are initials "SC" carved into the workings. When he comes out of the water, the fog has thickly settled on the Grimsi. Pitt shares his findings with Sandecker and Tidi. They have opened the boxes he sent up. There are two miniature models of buildings. Pitt recognizes one of the buildings as a replica of the Dominican Republic capitol building. They decide the other must be a legislative building in another South or Central American country. The details on the replicas are of excellent workmanship. Pitt tells Sandecker he believes Rondheim is behind all this. As they are talking, Pitt suddenly hears the sound of another craft approaching in the dense fog.

Pitt and Sandecker decide it is a hydrofoil, and that the occupants are coming to kill Pitt, Sandecker and Royal. Sandecker starts the engines, and Pitt crouches down on the deck with the only weapon he has, an ax. The hydrofoil comes alongside and just as one of the armed henchmen tries to jump onboard, Pitt throws the ax into the man's chest. Sandecker is able to propel The Grimsi forward, but the helmsman on the hydrofoil is fast behind them in the fog. Pitt tells Sandecker to cut the engines and quickly makes several homemade bombs to throw at the hydrofoil. Just as the hydrofoil comes abreast of Pitt's boat, Pitt tosses some very carefully placed bombs into the other craft. The Grimsi is much more maneuverable than the hydrofoil, and Sandecker's excellent driving allows Pitt to unload all his bombs onto the hydrofoil and sink it. As they head back to port, Sandecker and Pitt try to piece together what is happening and who is trying to kill them. The evidence continues to point to Rondheim.



Chapter 9, Chapter 10, Chapter 11 Analysis

Pitt and Sandecker employ disguise and subterfuge to achieve their goals to find the jet. Sandecker's prowess on the sea is shown, and Pitt's scuba-diving expertise is highlighted. Their quick-thinking and determination save their lives and that of Tidi. Tidi reacts hysterically to the fact the men in the hydrofoil are killed, but this gives Sandecker and Pitt a chance to explain their motives and their philosophy that it is better for them to survive than be killed by Oskar's henchmen.



Chapter 12, Chapter 13

Chapter 12, Chapter 13 Summary

Sandecker, Pitt and Royal return the ship to the dock, then head back to their hotel. Pitt takes a cab to the airport and becomes suspicious of his cab driver. The cabbie takes him to the general transient aviation hanger, where Pitt locates the mechanic who scratched his initials into the hydraulic pump Pitt found near the black jet. After some convincing, the mechanic, Sam Cashman, tells Pitt about a couple men who acted very strangely and contracted with him to do some work at 1:30 am on an aircraft and would not sign off on the job. Cashman found a way to cover himself by making out a report, and on the report, he was able to record the call numbers for the jet. While in the hangar, Pitt recognizes an old airplane, in excellent shape, an old Ford Tri-Motor known affectionately as the Tin Goose. It looked awkward but could fly anywhere. Back in the cab, Pitt is considering the new information he has received and realizes the cab driver is not taking the correct route back to the hotel. After an altercation, the two men realize they are on the same side. The cab driver turns out to be J. P. Lillie, whose family is famous for their beer. Lillie is working for the US government, and the two men share information. As Pitt is telling his story to Lillie, he begins to harbor a suspicion about Kirsti Fyrie.

Lillie tells Pitt about a chain of strange circumstances occurring in South America, which have resulted in forming a giant mining syndicate. The men who are involved are twelve of the wealthiest men on earth, all with ties to mineral exploitation. The only connection Rondheim has with these other men is through Kirsti Fyrie and her company. Lillie tells Pitt he is going to do more investigating, and Pitt offers to join him. Lillie tells Pitt he has been invited to join Rondheim and Kirsti that evening for a poetry reading.

Chapter 12, Chapter 13 Analysis

A new twist in the plot comes, as Jerome P. Lillie is introduced. His role as a National Security agent who is working with Pitt now allows Pitt to access information from another, wider-reaching source. Typical of Pitt, threats and physical action must occur before the two men can respect each other, but once Lillie earns Pitt's trust, Pitt tells him everything.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Pitt arrives at the party, which is held at Rondheim's huge mansion. Pitt is dressed in red velvet and continues his masquerade as a homosexual. Rondheim asks how the boat trip went that afternoon, and Pitt explains that a horrible explosion was heard in the fog. Tidi shows up about the time Pitt and Rondheim are discussing the explosion, and she neatly backs up Pitt's comments. As Tidi and Pitt work the room, Pitt realizes he is not welcome there. Tidi recognizes several of the world's wealthiest men in the crowd. Kirsti finds Pitt and Tidi and escorts them to the study, where the poetry reading is to take place. As the reading begins, Pitt falls asleep. He dreams of Hunnewell again and tries to save him in the dream where he was unable to in real life. When Pitt awakens, the poetry reading is over, but he continues to remember Hunnewell's last words, which are said in the dream as well....God Save Thee. Rondheim is showing off his amazing ability to finish any poem the audience starts, and turns to Pitt for a request. Pitt leads off with God Save Thee, and Rondheim repeats the Rime of the Ancient Mariner. Pitt smiles, but Rondheim is made uncomfortable by that smile.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Tension increases as Pitt and Tidi go to the Fyrie mansion, where they soon realize they, and others, have been brought there for a sinister reason. Pitt has his gay man disguise on, and Oskar is portrayed as a sensitive man who writes and memorizes poems; yet the men recognize each other on a visceral level as true enemies. Pitt waits for action.



Chapter 15, Chapter 16

Chapter 15, Chapter 16 Summary

Pitt and thirty-two other men retire to the immense trophy room to smoke cigars. As he is looking for a way to leave, someone puts a gun in his back. It is Kirsti. Von Hummell and Jack Boyle, two of the world's richest men, come closer and ask if Tidi Royal has been secured. Ten of the men in the room are with the men who have guns; Pitt and the remainder of the men are the ones who have the guns pointed at them. James Kelly begins to talk about Hermit Limited, a corporation whose sole goal is to take over every government in South America and Central America. James Kelly believes it is his legacy to the world to bring peace and wealth to everyone in these nations, and he does not think the populations of these countries are capable of doing so themselves. As James Kelly talks, Pitt realizes that one of the older men in the room, who is in the group with Pitt, is Sam Kelly, James' older brother. James Kelly reveals that the grandiose scheme for Hermit Limited to take over these countries and run them like a business was devised by a computer, and all selections of personnel, plans for takeovers and assassinations are also provided by the computer. James goes into great detail about how the USA has failed to care for its citizens through giving them too much freedom. Pitt maintains his gay character façade but questions James Kelly about his motives and methods. James remains steadfast that this is the only way to leave a legacy, and that his partners, Marks, Von Hummell, Jack Boyle, are planning to sweep the poor and hungry of Central and South America into paradise. The first order of business will be to initiate some carefully-placed assassinations. Pitt realizes the miniature buildings he found on the jet were to be used to plan the assassinations. Pitt asks about the role Rondheim and Kirsti play in this scheme, and is told it is Rondheim's worldwide fishing connections and his ruthlessness that is valuable, and Kirsti holds the rights to her brother's undersea probe. These two people enable James to expand the empire of Hermit Limited. Pitt spoils James Kelly's speech by saying that Rondheim killed Hunnewell, who was a key member of Hermit Limited.

Pitt is the one in charge of the conversation in the mansion now. He tells James Kelly and Rondheim that Pitt and Sandecker knew from the beginning that Hunnewell was part of Hermit Limited, and the goal had been to draw all these men out into the open, to foil the plans of the company and the computer. When quizzed about how he knew, Pitt recalls the last words of Hunnewell, which were part of the Rime of the Ancient Mariner, which alluded to the albatross, which is Rondheim's personal symbol. After accusing Rondheim of killing Hunnewell, the only man who can operate the sea probe, James Kelly admits he was the one who ordered the kill. Hunnewell was no longer needed because computers can now run the probe.

Sam Kelly now questions James Kelly about what he plans to do with the men and women in the room who are not members of Hermit Limited. James reveals that all of them will die at once, providing a distraction in the media from the assassinations he is planning, and the rapid takeover of the countries. Kirsti comes around the room with



injections for each of them, but does not give one to Pitt. Pitt is taken into a separate room where Rondheim's anger is taken out by beating Pitt mercilessly. Pitt does not resist, knowing that his gay persona is the only thing that will save him in the end. Just as Rondheim is about to deliver the killing strike, Kirsti enters the room and convinces Rondheim to let Pitt go. Before Pitt blacks out he hears Rondheim tell the guards to throw him in with the others, and he hears a strange exchange between Rondheim and Kirsti.

Chapter 15, Chapter 16 Analysis

All is revealed as James Kelly tells his now captive audience why they must all die. Kelly speaks of goodness, of re-writing history, of compassion for the masses; yet his actions are tinged with violence. James Kelly has worthy goals and ideals, but he has surrounded himself with ruthless killers in order to accomplish these ideals. Pitt struggles mightily to survive, engaging in verbal judo with Kelly in order to delay the inevitable. However, soon he becomes the brunt of Oskar's madness and is beaten almost to death. Here, Pitt's incredible physical strength and will is displayed.



Chapter 17, Chapter 18

Chapter 17, Chapter 18 Summary

Pitt awakens to the sound of Tidi's voice calling to others that Pitt is alive and awake. The first person he sees is Jerome Lillie, the NIA agent. Pitt is in considerable pain from his beating by Rondheim. As Pitt looks around he sees that he and the others are sitting in a ravine outside, and the remains of an airplane are all about them. Everyone is suffering from broken limbs, cuts, and contusions, made to look like they were in an airplane crash. However, he learns they were all placed there after being drugged and after their injuries were inflicted. The crash site was carefully selected so that a rescue plane would never find them. Both of Lillie's shoulders are broken, as well as his pelvis. Pitt brings Tidi, whose injuries are also severe, to lie beside Lillie so the two can care for each other. Pitt checks on the others, especially Sam Kelly and a Russian soldier, and as he talks to the survivors, he realizes he is the only person who is able to walk, and is therefore the only one who can save them all. Pitt begins the long painful climb out of the ravine.

Once out of the ravine, Pitt tries to keep his mind working over the pain. He is unsure which way to turn, which way will foil any attempts by Hermit Limited to stop his rescue efforts. He finds a small pond and uses a pin from his costume to create a homemade compass. He begins walking, for over six hours, until his body finally rebels and he collapses. He hears a noise, but cannot identify it. As he drifts in and out of consciousness, he realizes he has been discovered by an elderly Icelander who was driving a jeep along a road near where Pitt collapsed. The Icelander takes Pitt to his home, where Pitt asks for a telephone but gets a radio transmitter instead. After several connections, Pitt is speaking to Sandecker. Pitt quickly briefs Sandecker on the situation and the Admiral quickly dispatches a rescue team for the people in the ravine. The Icelander's name is Andursson, and he tries to treat Pitt's wounds. Pitt refuses to leave the radio, so Andursson brings him a fifth of whiskey to dull the pain. As Pitt is speaking to Sandecker, he realizes the Hermit Limited computers have taken a rescue into account as well, because they are having problems coordinating. There are not enough helicopters, and not enough light planes to land nearby. Also, there is a huge storm coming in from the north, one the survivors in the ravine cannot live through. Pitt gets an idea.

Chapter 17, Chapter 18 Analysis

The theme of one man making a difference is displayed here, as there is no one but Pitt who can save them all. Beaten, injured, bleeding and dressed inappropriately for a long hike, Pitt takes on the challenge and climbs out of the ravine. Pitt's navigation skills, unsinkable willpower and survival instincts serve him well, as yet another kind and compassionate Icelander comes to his rescue.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

The old plane Pitt saw in the hangar is now put into service and lands near Andursson's home. Captain Ben Hull is the pilot, and as Pitt boards the plane, Hull tells him they brought along his requested supplies: cigars and vodka. Pitt is pleased to see the mechanic Sam Cashman is on the plane as well. The plane lands near the ravine and Hull's men work rapidly to load the survivors onto the large aircraft. Pitt is saddened to learn that Sam Kelly did not live to be rescued.

Chapter 19 Analysis

An obscure reference to an old plane in Chapter Twelve is now engaged to enable Pitt to provide a rescue plan for the ravine survivors that even the country's top search and rescue officials had not envisioned. The contrast of an ancient plane beating the plans of a madman's computers is enjoyed by Pitt immensely. Pitt's anger against Rondheim increases considerably as he sees his friends and people he admires broken and dead as a result of the ruthless Rondheim's actions.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Sandecker is back in his office, and in his office is a man who insists Pitt must be part of the plan to bring Hermit Limited down. Pitt is the only man who can identify Kelly's hired assassins. Sandecker protests that Pitt has been beaten, suffering from exposure, and cannot possibly be placed in a position of danger again. Pitt arrives and admits he has already been contacted by the man in Sandecker's office and is willing to participate. The man introduces himself as Dean Kippman, chief of the National Intelligence Agency. Kippman reveals that his agency is the one who entombed the Lax into the ice in order to lure Hunnewell out. Pitt is angry that the NIA men were on the iceberg when Hunnewell fell and almost died but did nothing to help. Kippman says sometimes it is necessary in this business to be ruthless. Kippman reveals what NIA knows about Hermit Limited, and says they believe Kelly is going to assassinate the leaders of French Guinea and the Dominican Republic at the same time, then spread their control from there to other countries. What Kelly does not know is that Rondheim intends to betray everyone and take over Hermit Limited for his own purposes. Pitt, Sandecker and Kippman visit Tidi and Lillie in the hospital where they are both recovering well. He tells them he is leaving to continue the search for Hermit Limited's henchmen. Kippman tells Pitt is time to leave.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Pitt is allowed to recuperate some but is quickly called back into action, this time by the National Intelligence Agency. The NIA's role in the entire mystery is now explained, and they have honed in on Hermit Limited's headquarters. All that remains is to prevent the assassinations Kelly told Pitt and the others about and to arrest all conspirators. Sandecker's concern for Pitt is displayed here, and his acknowledgment that Pitt is imminently qualified for the job.



Chapter 21, Epilogue

Chapter 21, Epilogue Summary

As Pitt sleeps and rests on the flight to encounter Hermit Limited, he realizes he will end up killing Rondheim. As they land in California, Kippman says all the big operators and the killers are in California together at Hermit Limited's headquarters near Laguna Beach. The two world leaders, Pablo Castile and Juan de Croix, who are targeted by Hermit Limited for assassination, are ending a conference by doing some sightseeing at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Kippman and Pitt head to the Disneyland security office, where Pitt is introduced to the head of security, Dan Lazard. The team has arranged for Pitt to be disguised by dressing in the costume and head of the Big Bad Wolf. Kippman says there are over forty agents in the park, ready to spring as soon as the henchmen are identified. Kippman briefs Pitt on Rondheim's true identity, Carzo Butera. When Pitt asks about Kirsti's file, he is not surprised to learn that NIA has very little on her before she appeared in Kristjan's office after his death; however, Kippman hands Pitt a file that is full of information. Pitt refuses to believe what he is reading, but tells Kippman he was suspicious about Kirsti from the beginning. Kippman questions Pitt's motives for joining this attack on Hermit, but Pitt says he has revenge in mind for Rondheim and Kelly, and it is his job as Special Projects Director for NUMA to recover plans for the undersea probe. Pitt tells Kippman he wants Rondheim for himself, and after it is all over, they won't prosecute Kirsti. Kippman protests, but begins to concede. Before the men can discuss further the information about Kirsti, Pitt says the Pirates of the Caribbean Ride is the most likely place the attack will take place. Kippman, Pitt and the NIA agents all rush to the ride.

Pitt, dressed as the Big Bad Wolf, joins the agents in fighting with Hermit Limited's henchmen, who have replaced the robots in the Pirate scenes as real people and who are attempting to kill the two world leaders. Finally it is down to Pitt and Rondheim, and Pitt is recovered from injuries enough to defeat Rondheim, breaking several limbs, but leaving him alive to suffer. Lazard reports that Kelly and his team have been arrested, and he is admiring Pitt's ability to fight with his injuries.

Pitt heads to the building where he has been informed Kirsti is waiting for Rondheim and the others to return. He meets the agents who are arresting James Kelly and informs James that his brother Sam is dead, and Sam forgave him before he died. Pitt enters Kirsti's room and waits until she emerges from the shower. He is sitting in the shadows of the darkening room, and at first she does not recognize Pitt. Pitt tells Kirsti that he knows she is not Kristjan's sister, but Kristjan himself, after undergoing a sex change operation. Her secret operation had been revealed to Rondheim, and he had turned her into his slave through blackmail. Pitt tells her that everyone in Hermit Limited is under arrest, and Rondheim will be in custody as soon as he departs the hospital.

Pitt tells Kirsti he has arranged for her to avoid arrest, under the condition she assists NUMA in developing the sea probe. He tells her he is disgusted by her decision to turn



against Hunnewell and all the good work she had done as Kristjan just to care for herself. Kirsti is ashamed but grateful to Pitt for his help. She offers a board directorship to Pitt for his services, but he refuses. Finally, she offers her body, her beautiful re-engineered body to Pitt. He refuses, and walks away, leaving her crying.

Chapter 21, Epilogue Analysis

Once again, Pitt rises to the challenges of defeating evil. Exhausted, bruised and suffering emotionally from the deaths he has seen and caused, Pitt enters into Disneyland's back stages to assist in the assault against Rondheim's henchmen. He and Oskar battle one on one, and this time Pitt is not holding back. Pitt's superior strength, force of will, and determination to exact revenge upon Oskar, allow him to prevail. Oskar is beaten, Pitt breaks several of Oskar's limbs, but does not kill him. This display of brutality shows Pitt will use violence when necessary, but acknowledges there is a limit.

Other limits for Pitt are displayed when he is faced with the offer of sex from one of the most beautiful women he has ever encountered; however, he sees Kirsti's character as seriously flawed, and he has no respect for her. He knows that rejecting Kirsti, after she has spent millions on her newly-transformed body from man to gorgeous woman, is the worst possible revenge he can exact.



Characters

Dirk Pitt

Major Dirk Pitt is a United States Air Force Officer and serves as the Special Projects Director for the U. S. National Underwater & Marine Agency. He is tall, well built, and has piercing green eyes. Pitt's chiseled features and his good looks cover up the fact he is a trained fighter, skilled in underwater diving and flying many types of aircraft and watercraft, and well educated. He is attractive to women and envied by men. Pitt's role as the Special Projects Director allows him considerable leeway in his activities, and his cockiness and independence makes him the perfect person to act as America's James Bond figure. Underneath the sarcasm and quick violent behavior, Pitt is a man of fierce loyalty to his country and his agency, and a man who respects and loves women.

Dirk continually displays internal compassion for those he must kill in the line of duty. His intelligence causes him to ponder over his actions, examining them to find if he could have done things differently, saved lives instead of taking them. The loss of Hunnewell affects him deeply, even causing him to tell Sandecker he wishes it was he who died instead of Hunnewell.

Dirk's character seems larger than life, stronger than reality could explain; yet the character is given humility, feels pain, and experiences remorse over his actions, therefore making him believable.

His role in this novel is as the hero, rescuer, and defender of America.

Admiral James Sandecker

Admiral James Sandecker is the Chief Director of the United States National Underwater and Marine Agency, an agency dedicated to scientific underwater research. He is an older man, gruff looking and cigar-smoking. He has red hair, and a firm controlling hand on his agency. Dirk Pitt is one of his favorite employees, and although he often sends Pitt into danger, he is very protective of him.

Admiral Sandecker is not a tall man, being only five foot six, but he commands respect from all his employees and staff. He has little patience with Pitt's sarcasm, and often reprimands him for his behavior. He reads all reports, remembers everything, and plans far ahead. Sandecker is calm in the face of trouble and does not panic when all seems lost. Although he is the commander of a sometimes secret agency of the United States government, privy to national security secrets, and in charge of the irrepressible Dirk Pitt, Sandecker retains his compassion, sense of humor, and strong loyalties.

The Admiral is an experienced seaman, and a strong leader. He has lifelong friends and is dedicated to his job.



Tidi Royal

Tidi is Admiral Sandecker's personal secretary. She is 5'7", well proportioned, brown eyes and brown hair, very qualified in her job, and very attractive. Her role in the novel is to provide a feminine view of all that happens, and to be the softness that is a foil to the roughness of Pitt, and the compassion that displays the military ruthlessness of Sandecker and others. This novel was written in 1975, when women in adventure novels were strictly stereotyped, so her character serves mainly as a foil for the men, nursing them back to health when they are injured and complimenting them on their strength.

Kristjan/Kirsti Fyrie

Kristjan Fyrie was the founder of Fyrie Limited, the world's largest mining company. He had a shrewd and creative mind and invented the method of dredging diamonds offshore. Kristjan brought the black population of Mozambique into the business, investing their money wisely and then turning the profits back over to them. At the beginning of the book, Kristjan is declared dead by Hunnewell and is mourned by the old scientist. Kirsti is a beautiful, tanned, sexy woman. Kirsti is supposedly Kristjan's twin sister, who was unheard of until her brother is missing, and she takes over the reins of Fyrie Limited. She quickly becomes engaged to Oskar Rondheim, who seems to brutally control her. The role of Kristi and Kristjan in the novel is to present a good person turned bad, and in this case, literally changing sexes as well as behavior. Kristjan was a good man who treated people well and devoted his life to research that would help others. Kirsti is the person who emerged after the sex change operation and concentrated only on her own survival and protection, relishing in the ability to be her true female self at last. Some vestiges of the good Kristjan remained and allowed Kirsti to interfere when Pitt was about to be killed.

Oskar Rondheim/Carzo Butero

Oskar is the owner of Rondheim Industries, a worldwide fishing company, whose symbol is an albatross on a field of red. He is a powerfully-built, tall man who has blue-gray eyes. Oskar is a cruel and ruthless man who loves power above all else. His true name is Carzo Butero, and he is a product of the rough streets of Brooklyn. Oskar is a powerful man physically and as a leader and commands a fearful respect from everyone.

His role in this novel is that of the consummate Bad Man, who stops at nothing, not murder or blackmail, to achieve his goals.



Jerome P. Lillie

Lillie is an NIA agent assigned to work with and around Pitt on the investigation. He is medium height, in his late twenties, and is heir to the Lillie Beer fortune. He has a photographic memory, and after an initial confrontation with Pitt, the two men become close allies. When Lillie is among the injured in the ravine, Pitt carries Tidi over to meet and care for him until rescue arrives. Lillie's role in the novel is to provide additional information that Pitt needs in order to put the entire scheme of Hermit Ltd and Rondheim Industries together.

Bill Hunnewell

Dr. William Hunnewell is the Director of the California Institute of Oceanography. He is an older man, who looks like a scientist and is one. He is not very tall, chubby, and has a round face, brown eyes, and a ready smile. He wears rimless glasses, is not at all athletic, and his hair is balding at the top, long and white along the sides. His role in the novel is the lovable and dedicated scientist who makes the wrong choices in his support of Hermit Ltd., thinking he is doing the right thing. Ironically, his usefulness to the ruthless company is short-lived, and he is killed by his employer's black jet.

F. James Kelly

James Kelly is an idealist who depends on computers and organization instead of human emotions and compassion to build his empire. His goal of taking over the world to help save it is based on greed and power, however couched in philanthropy and goodness it appears at first. James Kelly is one of the richest men in the world, and as he ages, he wants to leave a legacy for the world. He has formed Hermit Limited to assist him in this effort, and the acquisition of the undersea probe has now allowed him to progress with his plans.

Because of his ideals, James Kelly cannot simply execute his plan; he must explain his actions to the men whose opinions he values most, just before he arranges for them all to die. His behavior is in direct conflict with his stated goals, and he begins to see it just before Hermit Limited's downfall.

James Kelly's role in this novel is to serve as the entitled, idealistic wealthy old man who has lost touch with the rest of the world's day to day reality and is attempting to play God.

Sam Kelly

Sam Kelly is James' older brother. He is also very wealthy but has not submitted to the God complex. As James Kelly is outlining his reasons for his behavior, Sam continually plays the devil's advocate and shows James the error in his thinking. Whatever James



is lacking in compassion and truth, Sam has these qualities in abundance. Sam is deeply ashamed of James, but as Sam is dying, he tells Pitt to tell James he forgives him. Sam Kelly's role in this novel is to show that not all super wealthy men turn to evil.

Dean Kippman

Kippman is the Chief Director of the National Intelligence Agency. He is overweight, bald, and has gray eyes. He is very determined, and faces down the formidable Admiral Sandecker, overriding Sandecker's objections for the services of Dirk Pitt.

Dan Lazard

Lazard is the security director at Disneyland and plays a vital role by giving NIA and Pitt access to the back of the house of Disneyland and assists them in catching Rondheim and his henchman before they are able to assassinate the two world leaders in the Pirates of the Caribbean Ride.

Lt. Commander Lee Koski

Lt. Commander Koski is the commander of The Catawaba, the US Coast Guard super cutter where Pitt begins his adventure. Koski is short but sturdy, has blue eyes and wheat-colored hair. He is an experienced sailor and strong commander, and very protective of his crew and his ship. He strictly adheres to rules. He appears only in the first several chapters of the book and serves as the symbol of military authority, an authority that Pitt respects but seldom obeys without question.

Lt. Amos Dover

Lt. Dover serves as the Executive Officer to Lt. Koski on The Catawaba. He is a tall man, very muscular, but maneuvers deftly through the tight compartments of his ship. He is Pitt's bunkmate for the brief time Pitt is onboard the ship. His role in the novel is to serve as a loyal sidekick to Commander Koski and to deliver several lines of admiration regarding Pitt's ability to pilot the yellow helicopter.



Objects/Places

Icebergs

Although the iceberg found by the Coast Guard plane in the beginning of the book appears to be a natural occurrence, it is rigged to manipulate actions by Hunnewell. This is the second iceberg Pitt and Hunnewell land on; the first is another iceberg which has been marked with red dye to lure Pitt and Hunnewell away from the iceberg that has the ship inside of it. Icebergs in this novel symbolize the cold reality of espionage.

Yellow Helicopter

The helicopter is a two-seater civilian version of the Ulysses Q-55, capable of speeds up to 250 mph. It is painted bright yellow. It is extremely maneuverable and belies its bright color by being coldly efficient. The helicopter is symbolic of Pitt himself. He is handsome, but quick and strong as well.

The Catawaba

The Catawaba is a modern, fully equipped super cutter of the United States Coast Guard. It has considerable technology for search and rescue, navigation, and research. The ship has seventeen officers and one hundred sixty enlisted men assigned on board. In the novel, the Catawaba represents the United States military, extremely capable and efficient, and something to be admired. The Catawaba represents everything Pitt is proud of and respects.

Undersea Probe

The undersea probe is an amazing invention by Kristjan Fyrie that would enable countries to reap minerals from the bottom of the sea floor. It has tremendous possibilities, but if it falls into evil hands, the probe could be the instrument to fund world domination. Kristjan realized this possibility and was on his way to deliver the probe to the United States when he was supposedly murdered.

Black Jet

The black jet is owned by Hermit Limited. There are five of these planes altogether, and eventually, this is how NIA locates the Hermit Limited headquarters in Laguna Beach, California. The jet is painted black to indicate stealth, mystery and evil. It has been wiped clean of all markings or identifying methods, but Dirk Pitt is able to find a small mark and a specialized screwdriver in the undersea crash site. With these small clues he is able to expand his investigation to expose Hermit Ltd.



The Grimsi

The Grimsi is one of Rondheim's sailing vessels that is moored next to the cabin cruiser offered to Pitt, Sandecker and Royal. Pitt refuses the cabin cruiser and commandeers the Grimsi, an old fishing boat. The Grimsi is like Pitt: it appears to be harmless, nothing to look at or fear, yet its clean and powerful engines can outrun and maneuver any watercraft sent after them.

The Tin Goose

The Tin Goose is the affectionate name given to a Ford Tri-Motor aircraft that is several decades old, but still the preferred method of flight for many experienced aviators. Faced with cold calculating computers in a frightening attempt to take over the world, Pitt relies on an ancient airplane to come to the rescue.

Reykjavik

Reykjavik is the capitol of Iceland, and serves as the backdrop in the novel for most of the action. It is where Pitt and Hunnewell were headed when they crashed, and the headquarters for Fyrie's company. Its cold climate is offset by the continuing goodness and warmth of the people Pitt encounters on its land.

The Lax

The Lax is Kristjan's sailing vessel. It is originally assumed that this is the vessel in the iceberg.

Pitt's Costumes

Pitt's normal wardrobe is casual and masculine, but when he attempts to disguise his abilities and virility, he chooses the flagrant and frilly wardrobe of a stereotypical homosexual of the 70's. He is successful in putting Oskar and others off guard with his affected behavior, even causing disgust and dismissal. When it is time to confront Rondheim and his henchmen in Disneyland, Pitt once again is disguised, this time as the Big Bad Wolf. These disguises of the true character of Pitt add the element of surprise to the novel, and allows Pitt to hide the fact he is a force of reckoning until the evil men are at last shown the man who will cause their demise.



Themes

One Man Can Make A Difference

Dirk Pitt is a cross between Paul Newman's rebellious, independent man and James Bond's cool and deadly demeanor. The "one man against all odds" is a theme visited often throughout this novel, as Pitt chooses danger over safety in pursuit of ideals. Pitt forgoes his own physical safety repeatedly to stay in the investigation, dedicated to finishing what he starts. Without Pitt's aggressive behavior, risk-taking and personal sacrifice, the investigation would never succeed, and countless innocent people would die.

Repeatedly in the novel, circumstances lead to a point where it is up to Pitt alone to exact justice. Though he is a powerful force, he is still human, and he is intelligent enough to question his role in the world. He comes to the same conclusion each time, knowing if he does not act, no one else will. Pitt is exceptionally well suited for this role, as he demonstrates again and again with his piloting skills, underwater prowess, and his ability to quickly devise methods of destruction to fight his enemies.

The theme of one man controlling the destiny of others is also characterized by James Kelly, the billionaire who wants to be remembered in history by his good deeds but chooses the wrong vehicle for this goal. Kelly freely admits the lives and fortunes of millions rest upon his actions, but he loses his compassion for those masses when he begins to seek world domination to achieve his ideals. As opposed to Pitt, Kelly's one man theme is that of evil.

During the novel, it is easy to think Pitt's enemy is Oskar Rondheim, but the true evil he is facing is James Kelly. Rondheim is just Kelly's tool in his quest for power and glory. Good triumphs once again, as the one man who represents good fights the one man who represents evil, and good in the form of Pitt emerges triumphantly.

Loyalty

Although Pitt is cool and calm, there is much emotion beneath the surface of this reserved exterior. He has a fierce loyalty to people he admires, like Hunnewell and Sandecker. Pitt places their lives and objectives above those of his own welfare continually. Pitt takes his role as a military officer very seriously, even as he appears to flaunt authority. His role in life is to make the world a better place, and he chooses his friends and alliances carefully to accomplish this task. This behavior, this loyalty, is rewarded throughout the novel by his success through great pain to save the world.

Pitt would readily sacrifice his own life for that of one he admired, such as Hunnewell. He is a modest man who downplays his own role in the world. His loyalty to Sandecker, to the military and to the United States are displayed again and again as he places himself in mortal danger for these causes.



Kirsti's loyalty changed when she had the sex change; when she was Kristjan, she was dedicated to helping others, making the world a better place. Once she became Kirsti, she turned into a vain, selfish woman immersed in her own looks and needs. She is loyal to no one; whereas, Kristjan was loyal to his companies and his country.

Oskar Rondheim is a ruthless and sadistic killer; his only loyalty is to himself and his greed.

James Kelly's loyalty is revealed not to be for the people of the world, as he wants everyone to believe, but to his own glory when he is dead. He wants to leave a legacy, re-write history, and be remembered for a man who re-organized the world in more logical terms. His loyalty to this dream makes him blind to the dangers he brings upon himself by including Rondheim and his henchmen into the fold of Hermit Limited.

Power Corrupts

James Kelly's ideals and goals are all about power. They are masked in good works and good intentions, but the basic message is that of a wealthy man who feels entitled to make decisions about the welfare of millions of unsuspecting people in his quest for power. Oskar Rondheim, born to the streets of Brooklyn, has risen to incredible wealth through the fishing industry and continually employs ruthless tactics to achieve his goals. His ongoing quest for power includes killing the men of Hermit Ltd, who have offered him an opportunity to be a part of a greater good venture. He rationalizes dangerously that the ends justify the means, and it is this compromise of his lofty principles that destroy the dream.

Rondheim cannot change his basic character, and his inclusion in Hermit Ltd would have ended the company even if Pitt had not brought them down.

On the flip side, Pitt is a man of great physical and mental power, yet he dismisses these qualities as unimportant. As he does not recognize his power, he cannot give in to the sway of corruption.

Style

Point of View

The book is written in the third person point of view of the major character, Dirk Pitt. Information is provided from many other sources through conversations with Sandecker, Lillie, etc., in order to give Pitt direction and purpose throughout the novel, and to keep him on track in the investigation. The world and action is seen through the eyes of a man who holds his true feelings deep inside, and uses sarcasm and jokes to convey his thoughts to others. The thoughts of others are shown only through their actions and dialogue surrounding Pitt, as the reader stays with Pitt throughout the book.

Pitt does not change in character throughout the book. The purpose of seeing the plot through his eyes is to allow the mystery to unfold in the manner of a police procedural, with Pitt uncovering clues and tracing evidence while fending off danger and rescuing everyone.

Setting

The novel is primarily set in Iceland and the northern Atlantic ocean. Several sailing vessels are settings for the adventure: The Coast Guard Catawaba, Fyrie's The Lax, and The Grimsi. After chasing clues throughout the cold and bitter realm of Iceland and the North Atlantic, Pitt ends up in sunny southern California at Disneyland, to finally end the world domination plans of Hermit Limited.

In keeping with Pitt's continual physical struggles and risk-taking, several scenes take place in a hospital.

The cold North Atlantic and the windswept terrain of Iceland highlight the inherent danger of Pitt's life. He continually battles the elements of the sea and the land, and emerges successfully.

The setting of Hermit Limited's downfall is an American theme park, which highlights the fantasy world that James Kelly was trying to create in his world domination scheme.

Language and Meaning

The language of the book is primarily military and espionage terms. Pitt laces his remarks with sarcasm to highlight his rebellious and independent nature. The authority figures in the book, Sandecker, Koski, Kippman and Kelly, continue to berate Pitt for his independence, yet send him into the fray with their blessings, overlooking his often insubordinate behavior.



Tidi's language is that of a woman in the 70's, submissive and relatively empty. Her only real accomplishment in the book is when her studies of millionaires as potential husbands give Pitt an idea of who is involved in the Hermit Limited scheme.

Kirsti's language is that of a woman who uses her new found sex to manipulate men and enhance her own self-esteem. She is clearly under control of Oskar, and the once compassionate Kristjan, who commanded research teams and companies, is now reduced to a subjugated toy.

Oskar speaks bluntly, even as he is reading poetry.

Structure

Iceberg is 340 pages long, divided into 21 chapters, a prologue and an epilogue. Each chapter is 15-20 pages long, and substantial progress in the plot is achieved in each chapter.

The plot is straight forward, with Pitt and Sandecker gathering clues and evidence while battling the foes. The denouement comes when James Kelly and Oskar Rondheim gather the entire group together in the Fyre mansion. The story builds through a continual plunging of Pitt into danger and him escaping by a thin margin due to his strength; thus preparing the reader for the moment when Pitt saves not only himself but many others.

The novel does slow down in Chapters 15 and 16, where James Kelly goes into great length about his goals; however, this lecture is important to the plot, setting the stage for the end of the novel. There are many chapters of high action, intrigue and mystery, and other than the denouement chapters, the story is well paced and logical.

At the end, all loose ends are wrapped up, engineered by Pitt.



Quotes

Prologue, Page 6, Neth

"But it's down there - a ship, a goddamned ghost ship embedded in the ice."

Chapter 3, Page 59, Hunnewell

"Genius, adventurer, scientist, legend, the tenth richest man in the world before he was twenty-five. A kind and gentle person totally untouched by his fame and wealth. Yes, I think you could say a friendship with Kristjan Fyrie could result in a sentimental attachment."

Chapter 7, Page 106, Dirk Pitt

"Hunnewell was your friend for many years, Admiral, mine for only a few days, and I lost him. He was my responsibility and I failed. His contributions to society outstrip anything I'm capable of. Better I'd have died on that beach instead of him."

Chapter 11, Page 172, Dirk Pitt

"Pitt felt a grim satisfaction. The moment had arrived and he hadn't hesitated. He'd had no time to think about the pain and death he was inflicting. He wondered to himself if this subconscious toleration of killing a total stranger was the factor that made wars acceptable to the human race."

Chapter 12, Page 185, Sam Cashman

"The expression on Cashman's face displayed genuine awe. 'Christ Almighty, what ah wouldn't give to serve under an officer like you.' He extended his hand. 'Ask away, Major.'"

Chapter 14, Page 220, F.

"'James Kelly, Hermit Limited,' Kelly went on, 'is international in scope, but you won't find it on any stock exchange because it is vastly different in administration from any business you're familiar with. I don't have time to go into all the details of its operation, so just let me say that Hermit's main goal is to achieve control and take possession of South and of Central America.'"

Chapter 14, Page 224, F. James Kelly

"But there lies the difference. You think only in political terms. In the history of man, no nation or civilization has ever fallen except by internal revolution or by foreign invasion. I intend to write a new chapter by accomplishing the impossible by adhering to strict business principles."

Chapter 16, Page 243, Kirsti Fyrie

"You are cruel and ruthless, Oskar. Not altogether unbecoming qualities in a man. But they should be tempered with courage. Beating a defenseless and half-dead man is little different from torturing a helpless child. There is no courage in that. You disappoint me."



Chapter 17, Page 254, Sam Kelly

"'He must be stopped, Major Pitt.' The voice was low, almost an insistent whisper. 'James must not be allowed to go through with this terrible thing. His purpose glories in goodness, but the people he has surrounded himself with, glory only in greed and power.'"

Epilogue, Page 340, Pitt

"He turned and opened the door. The first few steps toward the elevator were the hardest. Then it got easier. By the time he reached the main floor, walked to the curb and hailed a cab, the old confident, relaxed composure was back."



Topics for Discussion

Discuss power. Does it always corrupt? How did Kelly rationalize his use of violence to achieve his goals?

Is Dirk Pitt a realistic hero? Does he display compassion alongside his brutality? If so, provide examples.

How are women portrayed in this novel? What are their significant contributions, and what does this say about the era during which this book was written and published (1975).

What caused Kristjan to change his personality and motives after the sex change?

What are Pitt's views about women?

Describe the relationship between Pitt and his boss, Admiral Sandecker. Give examples of how this relationship is more of a partnership than a boss/employee status.

Show how the Rime of the Ancient Mariner poem is woven throughout the book and allows Pitt to discover who the true killers are.

Why does Pitt choose the role of a homosexual man to disguise his true capabilities? How has the attitude towards homosexuals changed since the book was written in 1975, and would this plot method be appropriate today?

This book is the second in a long line of Dirk Pitt adventure novels. What is the appeal of Dirk Pitt, and how does the author make him intriguing?

Does immense wealth give someone the right to behave differently from someone on an average economic level? Why or why not?

How are the Icelandic people portrayed in the novel? Describe the contrast between the people and the land they occupy.

How are the uses of disguises an element of the plot?