

# **Night Probe! Study Guide**

**Night Probe! by Clive Cussler**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">Night Probe! Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Prologue, Chapter 1-4.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Part I, Chapter 5-20.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Part II, Chapter 21-25.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Part III, Chapter 26-39.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Part IV, Chapter 40-63.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Part V, Chapter 64-86.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">21</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">30</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">34</a>



## Plot Summary

The Prologue begins with a train traveling through the New York countryside. Richard Essex is resting in the luxurious Pullman, writing a letter to his wife to pass the time. There are five soldiers dressed in civilian garb playing cards in the ornately-decorated Pullman car. "It was perhaps the highest level of luxury any of them had every enjoyed, Essex speculated. The palatial transportation must have cost the government nearly seventy-five dollars a day, and all for the movement of scrap of paper" (Chapter 1, pg. 4).

Thus begins the exciting story of the missing treaty. The treaty was negotiated in 1914, before the outbreak of World War I. England needed money for the war effort and negotiated a treaty giving Canada to the United States in exchange for money. Within a few days the parties decided to destroy all evidence of the treaty. A missing train prevented the U.S. copy from reaching official sources, and a ship sinking prevented the British copy from reaching London.

In addition to this, there is now an acute oil shortage since the Middle East supplies are depleted. There will soon be no oil, and the United States is on the verge of insolvency and economic devastation. While on an underwater research mission, Dirk Pitt finds that there is a vast unknown underwater oil reserve in Canadian waters off the shores of Quebec. Quebec is already supplying fourteen U.S. states with electricity, and there is a referendum soon to be voted on for an independent Quebec. There is a very radical group in the province that supports independence, and the worry is that they will take control of the government once the province is independent. This means that the United States is dependent on a soon-to-be nation that will probably be oriented towards Moscow.

A naval officer, Heidi Milligan, working on her doctoral dissertation, finds a letter that refers to the treaty and is curious about it. There are no official references to the treaty except for a letter and a picture, but this is enough for her and her friend, Dirk Pitt, to begin an investigation of the facts. The missing treaty can save the United States and create a strong United States of Canada, if the provinces don't willingly join. Dirk Pitt is given the assignment of finding the missing treaty. The British bring one of their best agents out of retirement to prevent the Americans from finding the treaty.

Murder, suspense, love, intrigue - this novel has it all, as does every Clive Cussler book. This reader will find this book very exciting to read and will not want to put the book down until reaching the end. It is recommended reading for anyone who enjoys a good suspense novel.



# Prologue, Chapter 1-4

## Prologue, Chapter 1-4 Summary

The Prologue begins with a train traveling through the New York countryside. Richard Essex is resting in the luxurious Pullman, writing a letter to his wife to pass the time. There are five soldiers dressed in civilian garb playing cards in the ornately-decorated Pullman car.

Harry Shields is in the middle of a nightmarish situation aboard a Canadian luxury liner. He is on his way to England. He sees the corpse of the girl and knows what is going to be his fate. A man appears and they talk about the collision, and Shields tells the man that there is a piece of paper in Shields' luggage that must be taken to the Foreign Office in London. The boat continues to sink, and Shields tastes the cold foul water as he drowns.

Sam Harding is a ticket agent for the New York & Quebec Northern Railroad in Wacketshire, New York. He notices that The Manhattan Limited is late. The Western Union nightman, Hiram Meechum says the train is probably late due to the weather. The train dispatcher calls on the phone to tell them to check the bridge and that a tugboat captain had complained that a girder fell and hit his boat. They want the bridge checked before the train crosses it, especially since there is a special government car traveling with the train.

Just then a stranger walks in and draws a gun, announcing a holdup. In the background they hear the approaching train's whistle. Harding and Meechum tell the robber they have to flag the train because the bridge might be out. Meechum tries to run out to signal the train and is shot. Harding finally opens the safe for the robber, as the train passes through the station. When the robber leaves, Harding runs down the track to the bridge and finds a gaping hole where the bridge was. The train fell one-hundred-fifty feet into the Hudson River.

## Prologue, Chapter 1-4 Analysis

The Prologue sets the scene for the action of the novel by giving information on the background action that took place before the novel opens. Harry Shields drowns on a luxury liner that is traveling on the St. Lawrence on its way to England. He talks about a piece of paper that must reach the Foreign Office in London. In New York, Richard Essex is traveling on The Manhattan Limited. At the Wacketshire train station, the robber has prevented Harding and Meechum from signaling the train to stop before crossing the bridge. By the time the robber leaves, Meechum has been shot and the train has passed through on a bridge that collapsed, plunging the train into the Hudson River.



# Part I, Chapter 5-20

## Part I, Chapter 5-20 Summary

The President is in his office at the White House and is waiting for the security briefing by Mercier. Mercier arrives and they talk about the Middle East oil situation and what they will do for oil. They talk about the buying of electricity from Canada. The President is not comfortable with being dependent on Quebec, especially since they will be voting on a referendum for independence. He is concerned about the Free Quebec Society, an underground terrorist group, gaining control of Quebec, in which case they would have another Cuba situation.

Foss Gly is involved in a plot to kill the Prime Minister, Charles Sarveux, as his plane takes off from the James Bay Airport. They plan to use ground-to-air missiles; five men are active in the plot. Gly and one of the men have a coded conversation on their radios. The men fire and one missile misses, but the other hits behind one of the turbine engines, but the plane keeps flying. The men quickly ski to their escape vehicle. Sarveux suffers injuries but is the only one to survive the incident.

Danielle Sarveux appears at the hospital fearing the worst, but finds her husband's condition is serious but not critical. She visits with Sarveux for a few minutes, and even though he is drugged and not making too much sense, he asks her to tell Villon to have the security increased at the power plant's control booth and mentions the name Max Roubaix.

Danielle returns to the residence and finds Henry Villon lying in her bed. They talk about the botched attempt to kill Charles. Danielle says that Quebec will never be an independent socialist nation as long as Charles is alive. Danielle tells Henry that Charles wants him to talk to Max Roubaix about increasing security at the James Bay project. He tells Danielle that if he remembers correctly, Max Roubaix is a mass murderer.

Heidi Milligan is at the library at Princeton to work on her dissertation on Woodrow Wilson and the navy. While going over old correspondence, she finds a letter from William Jennings Bryan to Herbert Henry Asquith that refers to a pact that they decide to negate and keep secret. The Senate historian finds an old photograph of Bryan with some notes penciled on the back that refer to a North American Treaty. The trail leads her to John Essex, at his oyster farm in Coles Point, Virginia. Essex is the grandson of Richard Essex, one of the men in the picture. John says Richard Essex died eight days after the treaty signing. Heidi also tells him that his grandfather's diary for the month of May is missing. John Essex feels that there was no treaty. When she leaves, he takes a thin, leatherbound book from a credenza and begins to read it and wonders what he should do.



Jack Murphy is introduced to Burton-Angus at the Glen Echo Racquet Club. Angus is a naval attaché at the British Embassy. As the two men talk Murphy mentions The North American Treaty and the photograph. Angus says he will check the embassy files. When he does, they find nothing, but they decide to check with the Foreign Service office in London. The request goes to Peter Beaseley, who finds the North American Treaty in the official secrets vault.

Heidi asks Pitt to look over the information on the treaty and see if he thinks it is important.

Brian Shaw is summoned to London and given the assignment of keeping an eye on the Americans. Simms refuses to tell him the details of the treaty. Shaw is met in Washington by Burton-Angus, who sends Shaw to Los Angeles to meet with Heidi to find out what she knows about the treaty.

In Ottawa, Villon and Gly talk. Villon complains about the mess the bungled assassination attempt has caused. The FQS, or Free Quebec Society, will be blamed if they ever find out what really happened to the plane, and Villon will lose his support from Moscow. He tells Gly to keep his people working in their cover employments and that they won't be traced because anything to do with security passes across his desk.

Deputy Prime Minister Malcolm Hunt visits Sarveux in the hospital. Sarveux tells him that his reports indicate that the plane tragedy was not a mishap. Fragments matched certain rockets and that two were reported missing from the inventory at Val Jalbert. They both suspect the FQS but know they can't prove it, although this attack was the work of professionals.

Villon goes to the power plant and orders a test of what happens if the power to the United States is cut for five seconds.

## **Part I, Chapter 5-20 Analysis**

The story opens with problems in Washington, D.C. There is a new President who meets with his national security adviser and discusses the various problems facing the nations. There are the problems of oil depletion in the Middle East, of Moscow-supported terrorist taking over in Quebec, which is supplying fourteen states with electric, and the problem of a new monetary system that has to be introduced. After the meeting with the President, Mercier meets with the Secretary of Energy over a missing 268 million dollar expenditure which is unaccounted for.

Canadian Prime Minister Charles Sarveux is the object of an assassination attempt. His plane is shot at by missiles, and he is the only one to survive, even though he is injured.

The Prime Minister's wife, Danielle, is leading a double life, just as her lover, Henry Villon, is. Danielle puts on a good act at the hospital as the concerned wife, but she is secretly upset that the assassination attempt was botched. She supports the movement for an independent socialist Quebec, which will never be possible as long as her



husband is alive. Her lover, Henry, is a Member of Parliament, the minister of internal affairs, and the secret head of the Free Quebec Society.

Heidi Milligan, a lieutenant commander in the navy, stumbles across a letter referring to an unknown treaty with England, made during the Wilson administration. She visits John Essex, who has secretly been sitting on information about the treaty for his entire life. When she leaves, he begins to read his grandfather's diary.

Jack Murphy tells Burton-Angus about the treaty and Burton-Angus notifies London. London activates a retired agent, Brian Shaw, to investigate. The British are relying on his experience and training from when he was an active agent.

Sarveux tells his Deputy Prime Minister that there is a high-ranked traitor among them, who is aligned with Moscow. He doesn't know who he is.



## Part II, Chapter 21-25

### Part II, Chapter 21-25 Summary

Secretary of Energy Klein calls Mercier to tell him that he has found that the Department of Energy did receive the funds he was questioning, but they were immediately sent to the National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA). Mercier tells him he will continue the investigation. Mercier catches Sandecker when he is jogging and tells he wants to talk about the doodlebug, not knowing that it is an underwater probe. In response to Mercier's request, Sandecker says he will have a complete report to Mercier within two weeks. They agree on one week.

Later that evening, Ramon calls Sandecker to tell him that the Doodlebug is being shadowed by an unknown ship. Meanwhile, Pitt is watching the submarine on the Doodlebug's equipment. The Doodlebug is the world's most advanced research vessel. Pitts draws the sub closer and their equipment identifies it as American. The sub turns away and Quayle says they may be preparing for an attack. Pitt decides to run the Doodlebug on manual and to go down lower, when their instruments indicate an imminent collision. The sub has launched a torpedo.

Pitt's secretary, Zerri Pochinsky brings Giordini a sandwich. He is still in the computer room. The NUMA staff has orders to disassemble and move the computer equipment. Just as they are beginning the equipment move, there is a blip on the screen. Slowly, the computers came back to live.

Giordini interrupts the meeting with the President to say that the Doodlebug is safe. The torpedo hit a rock formation and the concussion knocked out the computers, which Pitt and the crew had to repair. When they came back on, the sensors indicated they had found a vast oil field of approximately eight billion barrels of oil. The oil is in the province of Quebec, where they ended up from the evasive actions they had taken.

### Part II, Chapter 21-25 Analysis

Klein follows through on the request from Mercier to gather information about the 268-million dollar expenditure and tells him that the money was immediately transferred to the National Underwater Marine Agency (NUMA). Mercier learns that the Doodlebug is an underwater probe and Sandecker promises him a full report in a week.

Pitt is aboard the Doodlebug looking for an unexplained target on the bottom of the Labrador Sea along the coast of Newfoundland. An American sub that can't identify the Doodlebug fires a torpedo. At NUMA, they think the Doodlebug is lost, but after a while, it reappears again. The sensors also found the oil for which they were looking. The President and Mercier aren't happy that the oil reserve is in Quebec since they expect trouble in that area.





## Part III, Chapter 26-39

### Part III, Chapter 26-39 Summary

Pitt looks at the information Heidi gave him as he is flying back to Washington after the Doodlebug's tests were over. He headed to Coles Point, where he finds a dead and decomposing John Essex sitting in his office chair. The thin, leather-bound volume in his lap is the missing diary of Richard Essex. Dirk reads the book for about an hour and then leaves.

He meets Joe Epstein, a reporter for the Baltimore Sun at a Fredericksburg, Virginia shooting range. Dirk had asked Epstein to check some information about the Richard Essex and Harvey Shields. Shields, Epstein says, drowned on the Empress of Ireland, which collided with a Norwegian ship on the St. Lawrence River. Essex died in a train wreck when a bridge collapsed. Both men died on May 28, 1914 and their bodies were never found. In fact, the train was never found. Epstein has collected all the documentation for Pitt. Epstein asks if Dirk knows that John Essex is dead and Dirk says he knows.

In Los Angeles, there is a party at the home of Graham Humberly. Brian Shaw arrives and asks if Heidi Milligan is there. Humberly points her out to Shaw and Shaw asks if he can borrow a car. Humberly puts his Rolls Royce at Shaw's disposal. Shaw takes Heidi for a ride in the Rolls. He tells her he is a retired British naval admiral and he now writes historical books. They drive to Santa Barbara and spend the night. She talks about her dissertation and asks if he's ever heard of the North American Treaty. He says that he has and she can find information in London. She gives him Dirk Pitt's name and address since he has all her notes.

Dirk travels to the St. Lawrence and meets Jules Le Mat who takes him on board a boat. He asks Le Mat about the Empress of Ireland and they talk about the night the ship sank. The ship was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and there is a little cemetery in Quebec with some of the plots of those who drowned when the ship sank. Le Mat is known as somewhat of an expert on the ship. He has explored the remains of the sunken ship and points out to Dirk where the buoy marks the spot of the sunken ship.

Dirks also travels to the New York site of the bridge collapse. Dirk learns from some of the locals that Wacketshire doesn't exist anymore ever since they tore up the railroad. The old man tells him the story of the phantom train, the apparition about which Epstein had told him. At dusk he pulls off the road and parks, walking the rest of the way to the old track bed. He looks at the remains of the Deauville-Hudson Bridge which was never rebuilt. He hears the whistle and sees the light of an approaching train. He jumps off the track bed. This is the phantom train about which they talk.



The sound and light disappear suddenly. He walks along the track bed examining the ground; there is no evidence of a train. He finds a house on the side of the tracks with a locomotive, stoker car and caboose, which he examines. A man comes out of the house and introduces himself as Ansel Magee and invites Dirk to come inside. He introduces his wife Annie. Dirks hands are bleeding and Annie tends to them while Ansel pours them coffee. Ansel is an old train buff and Dirk says that he is also interested in old trains.

Ansel and Dirk talk about trains and Dirk tells him that he is interested in The Manhattan Limited. Ansel has investigated the accident and talked with Sam Harding. Even though the robber was identified, he was never caught. Ansel shows him the relics from the original train station and how they recreated the office. Ansel tells Dirk to come visit them again.

Danielle goes to visit her husband and encounters Henry Villon and Jules Guerrier, the Premier of Quebec Province in the corridor. They all go in to visit Charles. Sarveux tells Guerrier that he will not oppose the referendum for independence. The independent Quebec will have its own government and will have to have its own currency and negotiate trade agreements with the rest of Canada. The government of Canada will close all its offices and institutions on Quebec soil. They talk about the possibility of FQS being involved in the plane crash. Guerrier promises that Quebec's transition to independence will be peaceful.

Villon is furious with Sarveux and his decision because he will lose the support of Moscow, and Quebec under Guerrier will be a puppet of Canada. Danielle suggests that Villon break with the FQS and campaign against Guerrier. Villon says he has no organization in place and is not strong enough. Danielle says it would be different if Guerrier were to die.

Gly is disguising his appearance in his room at a cheap motel. He went out of the motel and entered the Mercedes-Benz he had stolen earlier that day, having switched the license plates. He drove to Guerrier's house, and in his disguise, was mistaken as Villon. He suffocates Guerrier with a pillow, moves the body to the bed and walks out of the room. Guerrier's bodyguard helps him with this coat and watches him drive off in the stolen Mercedes.

Danielle is with Villon at a remote cottage outside of Ottawa. She says that Villon should resign his cabinet post and announce his candidacy for President of Quebec now that Guerrier is dead. He pumps Danielle for information about Charles and finds that Charles doesn't talk much to her now. He tells Danielle that she is useless to him. Danielle leaves in anger, not knowing that Floss Gly was in the cottage.

Pitt meets with the President's Chief of Staff, Harrison Moon IV, who takes him to meet the President. Pitt begins to tell the President of the events in 1914 and the North American Treaty. England sold Canada to the United States for one hundred million dollars. He shows the President the proof—the letter that Heidi found, and the missing diary of Richard Essex. There were three copies of the treaty. The British copy was with



Harvey Shield when the Empress of Ireland sunk. The American copy was with Essex, who was on The Manhattan Limited when the bridge collapsed and the train plunged into the Hudson. The only copy remaining was the Canadian copy and they don't know where that is.

Pitt tells the President that Essex penned a copy of the treaty, which his grandson John had, and he gives it to the President. They discuss the repercussions if the news got out. The money was paid as a loan so there is no record of it. The President thinks it best to keep the treaty a secret and Pitt leaves. The President promptly calls the Secretary of State and then calls for a courier to Ottawa.

Mercier and Klein join the President in the hot tub to discuss business, mainly Canada. They know Henry Villon ordered the blackout. None of them is happy with the possibility of Villon becoming Premier of Quebec. The Canadians don't yet know about the stratigraphic trap with the oil reserves. The President, to their surprise, orders them to have the State Department and CIA formulate a top secret program to guarantee that Quebec acquires independence. He believes that the best interests of the U.S. will be fostered with a divided Canada.

Pitt is at an antique car auction in Virginia when he is approached by Harrison Moon IV. Pitt bought an antique Jensen, and as they are driving it back to Washington, Moon tells Pitt that the President wants him to head some fishing expeditions in the Hudson and St. Lawrence Rivers. The real purpose is to find the missing copies of the North American Treaty. Pitt says the paper couldn't be whole after seventy-five years underwater.

Pitt says that Sandecker needs to be told by the President and that he wants Heidi Milligan assigned to the project, whose cover is an archaeological project. There is ample funding for the project and Pitt isn't to contact Moon again unless there is a problem.

Sandecker and Pitt meet with Giordino and Heidi to discuss the project. Heidi thinks she should try the ship first because couriers used to wrap their documents in oilcloth to protect them. Giordino favors doing the train first because it is in shallower water than the ship is and it is fresh water. They decide to do both projects simultaneously and discuss the amount of time it would take to get started at each site.

General Morris Simms is fishing in England where he meets the Prime Minister and tells him that the Americans are looking for the North American Treaty. The Prime Minister interprets this as their intention to exercise the terms of the treaty. He thinks that Australia and New Zealand will follow Canada and leave the empire. They have to stop the Americans. The Prime Minister says he will talk to the Canadians. "It's time we told the Canadians what the Americans are about. Offer our cooperation within the framework of Commonwealth law. Request they revoke permission for NUMA to operate on the St. Lawrence. If the President persists in this folly, blow up the wreck and destroy the British treaty copy once and for all" (Chapter 39, pg. 169).



## Part III, Chapter 26-39 Analysis

Since Dirk has some time before reporting to NUMA, he drives out to Coles Point to see John Essex and finds the his dead body with the missing last diary of Richard Essex. He spends the next hour reading the diary and then leaves.

Sarveux has decided not to oppose the referendum for a free Quebec but he tells Guerrier that Quebec will be treated as a foreign country and will have to develop all its own institutions. Guerrier promises that the transition will be peaceful. Villon is angered by the discussion because a free Quebec under Guerrier will leave him without support from Moscow. He is not strong enough to mount a winning campaign against Guerrier. Danielle says it would be different if Guerrier died and that he must die to save Quebec. When he is killed by Gly, Villon finds out that Charles is becoming secretive with Danielle and tells her that she is of no use to him. He has been using her for information.

When Pitts tells the President about the treaty and gives him the letter and handwritten copy, the President calls a meeting with Klein and Mercier. He orders them to arrange a secret program that results in an independent Quebec, but he doesn't tell them why. The president sends Moon to tell Pitt that he has a secret assignment to find the North American Treaty in the wrecks of the ship and the train.

In England, Simms gives a report to the Prime Minister of what the Americans are doing. The Prime Minister feels that the Americans will execute the terms of the treaty, and that Australia and New Zealand will also leave the empire. He tells Simms that the Americans must be stopped.



## Part IV, Chapter 40-63

### Part IV, Chapter 40-63 Summary

Villon meets with Brian Shaw who tells him about the treaty that will result in all of Canada belonging to the United States. There are few traces of the treaty's existence because all references were destroyed. Villon says the Americans have the proper authorization for their expedition and can't be ordered out of Canadian water.

Giordino is with the expedition to find the train wreck. As they are setting up their equipment on the ship, they hear a train whistle. They check the map and find the nearest track is two to twelve miles away and the whistle is less than one mile. As they stared at the abutment, the approaching train whistle suddenly ends.

The Ocean Venturer is conducting the operation at the Empress wreck site. Pitt is on board. They plan to lower a small remote controlled sub to survey the underwater site. Heidi's research indicates what cabin Shields was in when the ship sunk.

The crew of the Ocean Venturer is preparing the remote search craft, or RSV, a thin titanium probe they nicknamed Baby. As they watch Baby find the rudder and other parts of the shipwreck, they spot a form that looks like a translucent human form. As they tried to pull Baby out, the form follows and then is joined by a second. They lose the probe to someone. They replay the tapes and see divers pulling off the shrouds and find that the ghosts were actually pieces of opaque plastic. A shaken Heidi tells them that she knows the man in the picture.

If Baby hadn't appeared, they would have finished setting the charges in the shipwreck. Shaw says they have to find another boat. Gly wants to detonate the charges and take out the Americans but Shaw overrules him. They didn't know what Gly had done and he could detonate the charges at any time.

The President learns of the incident from Harrison Moon who gives him the picture of Brian Shaw and his background information. They figure the American expedition will be ordered out of Canadian waters in a few days.

Gly and Shaw fight physically and Gly leaves Shaw lying on the deck. When Shaw revives, he is staring at a pair of cowboy boots. The man introduces himself as Dirk Pitt, who helps Shaw to his feet. Shaw tries to make small talk and Pitt tells him to forget it; they both know the details. Pitt says he came to talk to Shaw to tell him to stop interfering. He has a file on Shaw. As he leaves, Shaw tells him that the British can't let the Americans find the treaty.

Villon has words with Sarveux and resigns. Villon instructs his aide to tell Shaw that Quebec doesn't want the British in their territory. Another message is for the Canadian navy to escort the Americans away from the shipwreck site, which Villon okays. He then tells his aide to call Gly and tell him to give the American ship a rousing farewell.



The next morning the Canadian destroyer arrives along side the Ocean Venturer. The Americans have ten hours to leave. Dirk tells the crew to keep working and that they will stall as long as they can and notify the President, who decides to send them help, the U.S.S. Phoenix, a guided missile carrier.

On the Hudson, the crew is looking for the document on The Manhattan Limited. There is much junk on the river floor but no sign of the missing train. They decide to take some underwater surveillance photos.

Shaw did not leave Canada as Villon had ordered. He set up a camp where he could watch the operation and the comings and goings of the ships. He notices a small hydro-plane and recognizes Gly at the controls. He figures out what Gly is going to do just as there is a thundering roar. Gly detonated the explosives on the Empress wreck and looks at the badly damaged Ocean Venturer and wonders how many have been injured and killed. Gly then stages his own fake death.

The Ocean Venturer did not sink. Pitt looks around at the damage and wonders about the divers on the wreck. The Phoenix comes to assist them. The Sappho I is lying on the bottom, also badly damaged with water coming in and a badly injured crew member, who could not make a free ascent.

Heidi and the other injured people are transferred to the Phoenix. Pitt tells Gunn that the explosives were set in place before the team arrived. The crew managed to repair the Ocean Venturer. The men on the Sappho are not receiving enough oxygen. Gunn goes to the other ship to help in retrieving the Sappho. Underwater, the divers report that all the men who were below water when the explosives detonated were killed. A man called Collins also reports in from the shipwreck. He describes the scene where he is. He has found Harvey Shields.

Shaw meets with Sarveux, who says he has read Shaw's report and that he was disturbed by it. Shaw says that Foss Gly works for Villon and that Gly masterminded Sarveux's plane crash and the death of Guerrier. Sarveux tells Shaw that he has no interest in the North American Treaty business and that the Americans won't find the treaty.

Shaw leaves and Sarveux calls Commissioner Harold Finn of the Mounties and has him come over. Finn gives him a report on his investigation. The coroner feels that Guerrier's death was of natural causes. The bodyguard swears that Villon was the last man to visit Guerrier. They know that can't be true but his story checks out under hypnosis. Finn says that the investigation is formally closed but Sarveux asks that it be reopened.

In Quebec, the coroner is examining Guerrier's body. Everything indicates a death by natural causes until he examines the mouth of the corpse and notices some discoloration on his gloves. He reports to Finn, and Finn calls the Prime Minister and tells him that Guerrier was murdered. He also tells him that they have a match on a fingerprint from the doorbell and that it belongs to Foss Gly. They don't know if Gly is



dead so Sarveux tells him to continue the investigation secretly and to keep Villon under surveillance.

"Several seconds after Finn hung up, Sarveux was still gripping the receiver. Is it possible that Henri Villon and the slippery head of FQS are one and the same? He wondered. And Foss Gly. Why would he masquerade as Villon?" (Chapter 62, pg. 253).

## Part IV, Chapter 40-63 Analysis

The British send Brian Shaw to talk with Henry Villon. They want the expedition stopped but Villon says they can't do that. The Americans have the proper authorization for the expedition. Shaw says the next solution is to destroy the wreckage and Villon finally agrees to it and says he will send Foss Gly.

On the ship in the Hudson River, Giordino and Chase also hear the train whistle, like Pitt did when he was there. They, too, find the sound suddenly quit-. The group aboard the Ocean Venturer has a similar experience when they send a probe to study the Empress. They find translucent human like figures with their probe. They can't really be ghosts or other kinds of supernatural phenomena. As it turns out, they were divers with opaque plastic sheets over them and they captured Baby, who was still transmitting back to the Ocean Venturer. Heidi recognized one of the men on the other boat and this is how the Americans link him to British intelligence, as Moon informs the President.

At Rimouski, Gly and Shaw have a physical confrontation about the tugboat and Gly leaves Shaw crumpled up on the deck. Shaw finds a man who helps him up and tells him that his name is Dirk Pitt. He tells him they both know the facts and both have files on each other and the British should back down. Shaw tells him that the Americans can't be allowed to find the treaty.

Villon confronts Sarveux who tells him that Villon took the bait that Sarveux offered regarding the power plant. Sarveux knew there was a traitor but didn't know who at that time. Villon resigns and Sarveux accepts the resignation immediately. Villon leaves and goes to his office where he sets up a final event. He tells his aide to tell Shaw that Quebec doesn't want the British in their territory, and he authorizes a request to have the American ship escorted from Canadian waters. He also tells the aide to call Gly and tell him to give the Americans a rousing send-off.

Shaw remained in Canada despite Villon's orders and set up a campsite where he could view the salvage area. He recognizes Gly as the driver of a hydroplane and watches helplessly as Gly detonates the shipwreck. The Ocean Venturer is badly damaged. The crew quickly dispatches men to various areas to deal with the emergency and also divers to check the shipwreck area for survivors. None survived, but one of the team finds the remains of Harvey Shields. Pitt dives and finds a packet wrapped in oilcloth, which has the remains of the North American Treaty. It is transported to Virginia and the paper is found to have disintegrated to mush.



## Part V, Chapter 64-86

### Part V, Chapter 64-86 Summary

Heidi, with her leg in a cast, watches the ground as the plane takes off from the Quebec airport. She looks up and finds Brian Shaw talking to her. He tells her that he wants her and Pitt to know that he wasn't responsible for the explosives. It was Foss Gly. He also tells her that he has a message from his government for the Americans. He tells her to tell Alan Mercier that the British won't give up a part of their empire and will mount a military defense if they have to.

Pitt takes a salvaged piece of the bridge for chemical analysis and finds that the bridge was blown. He also discovers that there was two million in gold coins on the train that night and that Massey was trying to rob the train. It was never reported, but there was evidence of black powder found on the bridge the day after the collapse. The theory, according to a Professor Beatty, a specialist in unsolved crimes, is that Massey blew the bridge.

Villon is piloting an executive jet with Danielle aboard. Finn reports to Sarveux that Danielle boarded the plane with Villon and that the plane has been circling for two hours. Sarveux thanks him for the information and then receives the waiting visitor. It is Villon who says he wants to discuss their differences.

The Doodlebug searches along the bottom of the river floor and signals that they have found nothing. While examining the bridge site, Pitt and Giordino talk about the phantom train. Pitt finally concludes that The Manhattan Limited never crashed into the river.

They wait for the train and it appears. They are both illuminated by its light. They don't flee this time but remain at the spot and then look at the train as it passes. It is up in the air and is basically an amplifier and light suspended on wiring hung from telephone poles. They visit the Magee's and tell the Magee's that they have solved the mystery of the phantom train. Magee says he knew he would be found out someday. Pitt tells him how he solved the mystery and asks to borrow his handcar and phantom train gear. Magee says okay.

They try to recreate the events of the night the train crashed using the phantom train gear and handcar. They conclude that the train passing through the station could be seen, but the bridge collapse could not be. Neither Harding nor Meechum were in a position to actually see the train but only could hear the sounds. The gold coins weighed too much for a few men to handle. Pitt thinks the train was diverted, then hidden, and still remains hidden. He says he plans on examining every inch of track between the bridge and Albany, where the train was last seen.

After hanging up on Pitt, Sandecker calls Heidi's hotel and finds she is out for the evening. Heidi is with Brian Shaw who answered the phone when Sandecker called and





said he was the assistant manager. He then says she just walked in and gives Heidi the phone. After the conversation, Shaw has the desk call him. He tells Heidi he has to leave on business for the consulate but goes and obtains the train track maps before she can.

Pitt has a government pilot and a VTOL and plans to photograph the area around the tracks from the air but couldn't find anything from the air. Later, Giordino meets Heidi at the Albany airport. He tells her they are studying the photographs, and she says she may have found something. Heidi tells them that Shaw stole the maps before she could locate them so they assume he is in the area somewhere. Heidi tells them that she found records of a rail spur at Mondragon Hook Junction. She says she looked for underground places and where limestone was carried to and located the old quarry. They locate the area on the map and decide to scout the area.

Shaw is out at the quarry area that night. He hears a circling plane and could detect parachutes. He meets Burton-Angus and a man named Eric Caldweiler, who used to be a superintendent of a mine in Wales. Burton-Angus tells him that the men who parachuted are commanded by a Lieutenant Macklin. They discuss how to access the mine, knowing the Americans will be there in a few days. Caldweiler tries to figure out where the air shaft and escape way would have been, thinking they can enter that way.

Danielle meets Villon in Quebec City and says she thinks Charles suspects that she and Villon are romantically involved, and Villon says that he just about told Charles that. He says that there is no way that Charles can win. Suddenly the door is pulled open and a man, who looks like Villon's twin enters the back seat with a gun in his hand. It is Foss Gly and he says he plans to kill them. Gly has Villon drive and follow his instructions. Villon says that Shaw told him about the hydroplane crash into the Japanese boat and that his body was never found. He thought Gly was dead and Gly tells him how he staged his own death. He plans to take Villon's place as President of Quebec after killing him.

Villon says Gly could never get away with it and Gly says he is wrong. He tells him how often he has passed as Villon and even slept with his wife and mistress and discussed political differences with Sarveux. Gly then takes them to a construction company, which is closed for the night. He handcuffs both Villon and Danielle to the car. He buries the car in dirt with a front loader. As Gly buries the car, another man watches with tears running down his face. Danielle sees him and recognizes him just as the car is buried. It is Charles Sarveux. Later, Finn and Sarveux see Gly off at the airport on Villon's private plane. They give Gly a suitcase with thirty million Canadian dollars in it. Gly will send them the location of the bodies when he safely arrives at his destination.

After the plane leaves, Sarveux asks how it will happen. They have rigged the altimeter to show no higher than eleven thousand feet with the plane continuously climbing. Finn figures the plane will crash in the ocean. Sarveux says that Gly will never know how outsmarted he has been. The next morning the papers carry a report of a plane crash with Danielle and Henri aboard.



Pitt establishes a command post at the quarry, less than a mile from Shaw's. They also decide to look for an opening, and Pitt says they will probably find Brian Shaw there. Meanwhile, the British group has stumbled on the covered ventilator shaft and has been busily digging. There was only room for one man in the shaft, and they were down about forty feet.

Three squads of marines appear and report to Admiral Sandecker. He orders one squad to cordon off the area. The other two squads are sent to patrol. The Americans have found the escape shaft and are working their way in that way. While Shaw is in the quarry, a gunfight takes place between the British and an American marine. Shaw is wounded and Angus-Burton is killed before the British kills the U.S. marine guard.

They are concerned about Pitt who hasn't returned yet. Pitt is just about out of air but is still exploring. He runs out of air and ditches the air tanks. He tries to swim toward light.

The British are tending to their dead and wounded. Caldweiler is down in the ventilator shaft and Shaw tells him they are out of time and will have to try explosives. They begin to place the explosives, and when they detonate, they have a way into the mountain.

Sanchez and his men are still carrying on a gunfight with the British, who they think are terrorists. Then the firing stops and slowly a man comes out of the thicket dressed in full battle dress. It is Bentley and he says they are surrendering and he will take the Americans to his commander. The British marines meet the surprised American marines, while Shaw is down in the shaft.

Shaw is trying to hurry before the Americans enter the shaft. He finds a big room full of corpses. "The hair on the back of Shaw's head raised and he forgot about the stabbing ache in his wrist. Pitt had been right. The underground quarry had yielded the secret of the Manhattan Limited" (Chapter 82, pgs. 328-329). He walks around looking at the bodies, knowing that his flashlight battery has almost died. He finds an elegant car with an American eagle emblem. He sees a hand holding onto a small valise. He notices a movement and thinks it is his imagination. The figure lowers the newspaper and smiles at him. It is Dirk Pitt.

Shaw has to catch his breath. Pitt tells how he arrived in the room. He points out Richard Essex and Richard Massey. Massey had written a last letter to his wife, which tells the whole story. Massey and an accomplice flagged the train at Mondragon Hook and forced it to the quarry. After a gunfight with the U.S. guards, Massey staged the robbery at the train station, blew up the bridge and sealed off the entrance to the cave, figuring they would exit via the escape passage. What he didn't know was that blowing the entrance to the cave resulted in flooding, which prevented his escape.

Since Pitt has the treaty, Shaw draws a gun and demands the copy. Pitt refuses. This is the U.S. copy; the British one was on the Empress. They discuss the ramifications of the treaty and Shaw raises his gun to fire and is shot by Pitt, who found a gun among the corpses. Giordino and others enter.



The President is pacing outside the Canadian Senate. The last word from Sandecker is that Pitt may have drowned. The President is told that it is time for him to enter the Senate. He doesn't know that Pitt is on his way in the VTOL. They land in front of Parliament. As Pitt is running to the Senate chamber, he is stopped by a Mountie. A Secret Service agent comes over to see what is happening and Pitt tells him he must see the President or Moon.

They take him to a room where Moon, Mercier and others are watching the speech. He gives them the treaty. Mercier interrupts the President's speech and brings him to the anteroom where Pitt hands him the treaty. The President then finishes his speech asking for a United States of Canada.

After the speech the President and Sarveux sit and talk of their plans and how many years it took them. They talk about how they think the provinces will respond. If the provinces don't join, the U.S. will enforce the North American Treaty.

Heidi is getting ready to board a plane at Kennedy Airport when Pitt appears. They talk and he asks if Shaw loves her and she says no. He says goodbye to her and goes to see Shaw. He tells Shaw that she loves him and that he should talk to her and then walks away.

## **Part V, Chapter 64-86 Analysis**

The British send the Americans a message that they will mount a military action if the U.S. tries to enforce the terms of the treaty. They know they will lose but it will mean the end of NATO and the Atlantic Alliance.

Pitt is working at the Hudson River site and salvages a piece of the bridge structure. He takes it for chemical analysis and finds that the bridge was intentionally blown up. He also meets with a professor, Preston Beatty, who is a specialist in unsolved crimes. Beatty tells him that there was two million in gold coins on the train and that Massey was trying to rob the train. They also found evidence of black powder on the bridge the next morning. His theory is that Massey blew the bridge, but they will never know why unless they find The Manhattan Limited.

Villon is looking for information from Danielle about the U.S. President's speech the following week to Parliament. She says he will ask for a peaceful transition to independence for Quebec. Sarveux receives a report about Danielle in Villon's plane, which has been circling for more than two hours. When he hangs up, he receives Villon as a visitor. Villon says he wants to work out their differences.

Pitt and Giordino discuss their experiences with the phantom train. They wait for it that night and solve the mystery. They both knew there had to be a logical explanation. They confront Magee and he admits how he did it. They borrow his old handcar and his phantom train gear and recreate the events of the night of the bridge collapse. They conclude that the train never reached Wackatshire.



Heidi is with Brad Shaw in New York. He listens in on a call from Sandecker and tells Heidi he has to leave. He beats her to the maps of the track area that Pitt had requested by misrepresenting himself as an FBI agent and having the museum opened after hours so he can find the maps. Pitt explores the track area in a VTOL but can't find anything. He has to rely on Heidi, who locates an old quarry that had a rail spur in 1914. They decide to look at the area.

British marines parachute into the area near the quarry, where Shaw and Angus-Burton are waiting for them. They are there when Pitt's car arrives. Since it is dark, Pitt just looks around and leaves.

Villon and Danielle are in Quebec sitting in a car overlooking the river when Foss Gly jumps in the back seat with a gun. He plans to kill them, he says. He is disguised to look like Villon. Gly has Villon drive while he gives him directions. Gly shoots Villon and handcuffs both Villon and Danielle to the car, then buries it with dirt. Charles Sarveux is watching, crying, from a distance. He apparently made a deal with Gly. Gly is paid off by Finn and Sarveux and leaves in Villon's plane, which has been rigged for a crash. The next day the papers carry the story of Villon and Danielle being lost in an air crash. Sarveux comments that Gly will never know how he was outsmarted.

Both the Americans and the British have marines at the quarry site. They are digging in different areas with the British finding the ventilation shaft and the Americans finding the escape shaft. A U.S. marine stumbles on the British, and there is a gunfight with casualties on both sides.

Shaw finds the room in the quarry with the train in it and finds Pitt there waiting for him. Pitt shows him the bodies of Essex and Massey and tells him about the robbery that went wrong. Shaw demands the treaty and draws a gun. Pitt says that this copy is the United States' copy. The British copy went down with the Empress. Shaw aims his gun but Pitt fires first, using a gun he found in the cave.

Massey thought he had a perfect plan for the robbery. He sealed the entrance to the quarry thinking he and the gold would exit via the escape hatch. But when he sealed the entrance to the cave, the explosion caused flooding in the area of the escape route and he was sealed in.

The President makes his plea for a United States of Canada. It seems that this had been a goal of both the President and Sarveux since they were both young. They both agree that if the provinces don't willing join, they will enforce the treaty.



# Characters

## Dirk Pitt

Dirk Pitt is an old friend of Heidi Milligan. Pitt works for the National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA). They meet in Washington, and before she leaves, she gives him an envelop with a photograph and information on the North American Treaty and asks him to look it over and let her know if he thinks it is important. While she is out to sea, he is out on a test mission in the Doodlebug when it is fired upon by an American submarine. Dirk and the crew make repairs to the computers and survive, having found a vast offshore oil reserve in the waters of Quebec.

Dirk reads the file that Heidi gave him and starts to ask questions. He has a reporter find what information he can on Shields and Essex. He finds John Essex dead and the missing diary. He travels to the sites of the demise of the Empress of Ireland and The Manhattan Limited. Pitt presents the information to the President and is assigned to find a copy of the treaty in the train or shipwreck. The site of the shipwreck is in Canadian waters. The U.S. obtains the proper authorization for a research expedition not knowing the Canadian minister of internal affairs, Villon, is the leader of the radical terrorist movement in Quebec. Eventually, the American expedition is ordered to leave Canadian waters, and a radical, following the orders of Villon, blows up the shipwreck, killing several people.

Dirk eventually finds the copy of the treaty in the train, which leads to a confrontation with the British agent, Brian Shaw and some troops. Pitt comes through and delivers the treaty to the President in time for his important speech to the Canadian Parliament.

## Brian Shaw

Brian Shaw is a former British secret agent. He is retired, supposedly dead, with the new identity, Brian Shaw, since there were many people who would have liked to kill him. He meets Mrs. Huston at a funeral where she slips an envelop into his pocket. From there, he goes to London for the meeting to which the envelop summons him. He is given the assignment of watching the Americans in regard to the North American Treaty. He travels to Washington where he is met by Burton-Angus, who sends him to Los Angeles to meet Heidi Milligan. He becomes her lover and very easily obtains the information he needs regarding the North American Treaty.

It is Shaw that the British send to tell Villon of the existence of the North American Treaty and how the British want the situation handled. When Villon tells Shaw to leave Canada, Shaw doesn't. Shaw watches helplessly as Gly detonates the underwater explosives, destroying the Empress shipwreck. He meets up again with Heidi Milligan and finds the maps for the rail track before she does and appears at the quarry site with British marines to look for the missing treaty.



## Heidi Milligan

Heidi Milligan is a commander in the navy and is working on her PhD dissertation at Princeton. She was a graduate of Annapolis and was once married to a marine for six years, and now divorced, is interested in her career. Her research uncovers a letter that refers to a treaty that William Jennings Bryant and Herbert Henry Asquith decided to negate. Heidi is curious and begins to follow the trail of clues about the treaty. She leaves for her navy assignment on the West Coast and meets Brian Shaw at a party. She leaves with him for a night in Santa Barbara and tells him that Dirk Pitt has her notes on the North American Treaty. She gives him Pitt's address and other information that helps him in his search.

## Henri Villon

Henri Villon is an old friend of the Sarveux's and is also the lover of Danielle. Villon is a member of the Liberal party, a member of Parliament, and minister of internal affairs. He is also the secret head of the Free Quebec Society. He uses Danielle to obtain information from Charles, and when Charles becomes more secretive, he tells Danielle that she is useless to him. It is Villon who receives the information about the North American Treaty from Brian Shaw and authorizes Shaw's mission to blow up the shipwreck. He sends Gly along, presenting him as a Royal Mountie.

Villon is behind the explosion of the shipwrecked Empress, the murder of Guerrier and the assassination attempt on Sarveux. He is also the one who ordered the electrical power shut off to the United States for five seconds. When he is confronted by Sarveux, he resigns. He plans to run for President of Quebec. Villon, along with Danielle, is killed by Gly, who made a deal with Sarveux.

## Foss Gly

Foss Gly is a terrorist who is planning to kill Charles Serveaux. He was born in Flagstaff, Arizona and had a childhood of beatings from his grandfather, a sheriff, who he finally killed. He fled the state and lived a life of crime; rolling drunks in Denver, running an auto theft ring in Los Angeles, and hijacking gasoline trucks in Texas. He looked upon himself as a coordinator and specialist, not as a mere assassin. Gly successfully kills Guerrier, by disguising himself as Villon. Villon then sends him to assist Brian Shaw in blowing up the shipwrecked Empress.

Villon is so successful in his disguise as Villon that he is able to meet with Sarveux to discuss political plans for Quebec and even sleeps with Villon's wife and mistress. He has a plan to kill Villon and take his place and become President of Quebec. He is found out by Sarveux, who has him kill Villon and Danielle. He is then killed in a plane crash.



## Alan Mercier

Alan Mercier is the national security adviser to the new President. He had been in academia and served as the director of the World Crisis Projection Commission. He uses his laptop to check his schedule for the day at the White House. Mercier is a confidant to the President. He follows the orders of the President regarding the Canadian situation, even though he doesn't understand the reason for them. Mercier is in Canada for the President's speech and interrupts him during the speech.

## Charles Sarveux

Charles Sarveux is the Prime Minister of Canada. He tours the James Bay power plant project and is worried about terrorists attacking the plant. After leaving the plant, his plane is attacked by terrorists and he is the only survivor. Sarveux knows there is a traitor in his government that is also the head of the terrorist FQS, but he doesn't know who the person is. He also knows that his wife is having an affair with Villon. In the end, he has Gly kill them both and then has Gly killed.

## The President

The President is new in the office. He was originally a lawyer and in the Senate and now is faced with many problems—oil shortages, dependence on Quebec for much electric power, the possibility of Quebec establishing a Moscow-oriented government, and the necessity to introduce a new monetary system. He authorizes the expeditions to find the North American Treaty. He has a plan for a United States of Canada, that he and Sarveux have been working for secretly since the beginning of their political careers. He presents the plan to the Canadian Parliament.

## Ewen Burton-Angus

Burton-Angus is a lieutenant in the British navy and works as a naval attaché at the British Embassy in Washington. He learns of the North American Treaty from Jack Murphy and says he will have it checked in England. His inquiry causes the British to become aware of the treaty and to bring a former intelligence agent out of retirement to watch the Americans and to keep them from finding the missing treaty. He meets the agent, Brian Shaw, at the airport when he arrives in the United States and sends him to Los Angeles to talk to Heidi to obtain information about the treaty. Burton-Angus is on site at the quarry and is killed in the gunfire exchanged between the American and British marines.



## Sam Harding

Sam Harding is an employee of the New York & Quebec Northern Railroad in Wacketshire, New York. He receives the information about the bridge being damaged and is supposed to flag the train, The Manhattan Limited, but the train station is robbed, and the train passes through while he and Hiram Meechum are being held at gunpoint. After the robber leaves, he runs to the bridge and finds the train has plunged into the Hudson River.

## Danielle Sarveux

Danielle Sarveux is the wife of Charles Sarveux. As the First Lady of Canada, she is well liked by the Canadians. She is involved in the assassination attempt against her husband because she supports a free and socialist Quebec, and she doesn't believe it could ever happen as long as her husband is alive. After Guerrier's death, she learns that Villon was using her for information about Charles's political plans. She is killed along with Villon by Gly.

## Richard Essex

Richard Essex is a government employee aboard The Manhattan Limited. He thinks of how much the luxurious train car cost the government, all to transport a piece of paper. Due to a robbery at gunpoint at the train station, the train passes through and supposedly falls into the Hudson River, killing all aboard.

## Admiral James Sandecker

Sandecker is the chief director of NUMA, the National Underwater and marine Agency. He is Dirk Pitt's boss. At sixty-one years of age, he is an Admiral in the U.S. Navy and a health and fitness aficionado. He is onsite at the quarry when the treaty is found.

## Al Giordino

Giordino is an old friend of Dirk Pitt's and has worked with him on many other projects. Giordino is in charge of the salvage attempt on the Hudson River where they are trying to find the missing train.

## Harry Shields

Harry Shields is aboard a luxury liner that sinks in the St. Lawrence River. He had been on his way to London with a piece of paper that had to reach the Foreign Office in London.





## **Jack Murphy**

Jack Murphy is the Senate Historian who uncovers the picture of William Jennings Bryant, Richard Essex, and Harvey Shields with the note on the back about the North American Treaty.

## **John Essex**

John Essex is the grandson of Richard Essex, the diplomat in the photograph. He runs an oyster farm in Coles Point, Virginia. He dies and is found a month later with the missing diary of Richard Essex in his lap.

## **Ronald Klein**

Ronald Klein is the Secretary of Energy. He tracks down the missing money about which Mercier inquired and tells him it was transferred immediately to NUMA.

## **Sam Quayle**

Sam Quayle is on board the Doodlebug with Dirk Pitt when the craft is fired upon by an American submarine.

## **Rudi Gunn**

Rudi Gunn is the NUMA director of logistics. He is at the planning meeting for the ship and train project.

## **Hiram Meechum**

Hiram Meechum works for Western Union at the Wacketshire train station. During the robbery, he tries to run out to flag the train and is shot by the robber.

## **Glen Chase**

Chase is the captain of the expedition ship that is sent to find The Manhattan Limited.



# Objects/Places

## New York

New York is where the book opens with The Manhattan Limited traveling toward Wacketshire.

## Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. is the capitol of the United States.

## James Bay

James Bay is in Canada and the site of the Quebec Hydro Power plant.

## Ottawa

Ottawa is a city in Ontario and is the capitol of Canada.

## Princeton, New Jersey

Princeton is the site of Princeton University where Heidi Milligan finds a letter that makes reference to the negation of a secret treaty.

## Coles Point, Virginia

Coles Point, Virginia is located on the Potomac River and is the site of John Essex's oyster farm.

## London

London, England is where the British Foreign Office is located.

## Labrador Sea

The Labrador Sea is off the coast of Newfoundland and the site of the Doodlebug expedition.



## Quebec City

Quebec City is a city in Quebec located on the St. Lawrence River.

## Rimouski

Rimouski is a small village in Quebec near the Empress wreckage site.

# Themes

## Secrecy

Secrecy is one of the major themes of the book. It begins with Mercier trying to track down an unaccounted-for appropriation to the Department of Energy. The funds, it is found, were transferred to NUMA for the development of the Doodlebug, the most advanced research ship in the world. There is so much secrecy surrounding this underground research ship that even the President doesn't know about it.

There is also a lot of secrecy surrounding the treaty. The original treaty that gave Canada to the United States was not well publicized. It only became known because Heidi stumbled across a letter that referred to it. The parties involved in the negotiation of the treaty decided to destroy all reference to its existence. When the British find out about the treaty and that the Americans know about it, both sides do everything in secret without using official channels.

Secrecy is also involved with Henri Villon being the head of the Free Quebec Society, a radical terrorist group that supports independence for Quebec. Henri secretly has the backing of Moscow for the establishment of a socialist government in Quebec. Danielle also supports the movement.

There is also the secrecy in the plan of the President and Charles Sarveux who have been committed to a united Canada and United States since their early days in politics. No one knew of their plans, not even Danielle. Both foresaw that neither country could survive without the other and both quietly and secretly worked for their goal without telling any of their aides or advisers.

## Romantic Involvement

A second underlying theme of the novel is the different romantic involvements of some of the characters and the effect on the story. Danielle Sarveux, the wife of the Canadian Prime Minister, is secretly involved with Henri Villon, the minister of internal affairs and the secret head of the Free Quebec Society. Villon has been using Danielle to obtain information about the Prime Minister's actions on various matters. She is angry when she finds this out. She meets with him again when she discovers her husband's plans to run for President of Quebec. At this meeting, they are kidnapped by Gly and killed, with Sarveux's knowledge.

The relationship between Heidi Milligan and Brian Shaw is the other romantic involvement in the story. The British arrange a meeting between Heidi and Shaw in order to find out what information she has about the treaty. Since she is having an affair with Shaw, she talks freely and gives him Pitt's name and address. This puts the British on the trail of the salvage expeditions. When Heidi and Shaw have another tryst in New York, Shaw learns of the search being shifted to land and obtains the old railroad maps

before Heidi can. Pitt, who was also once romantically involved with Heidi, knows about the relationship, and that it has jeopardized their mission. But in the end, he tells Shaw that Heidi loves him and that Shaw shouldn't let a good woman get away.

## **Intrigue and Suspense**

Intrigue and suspense are also themes of the novel, and they begin right at the beginning of the novel and continue until the end. The reader is always sitting on the edge of the proverbial seat as the action of the novel unfolds. First, there are the events surrounding the treaty. What was the reason for the parties to destroy evidence relating to the treaty? Why did John Essex never reveal the contents of his grandfather's diary?

There is also a great deal of suspense and intrigue involved in the salvage attempts with the British and Villon trying to prevent the Americans from finding the treaty. They clash at the quarry with marines from both sides being involved in a gun battle on American soil. There are assassination attempts related to the Quebec independence issue and the intrigue surrounding the President's plan for dealing with the situation. Suspense and intrigue are a part of every Clive Cussler novel.

# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written from the third person point of view with the author being the narrator. Even though there is much dialogue in the novel, it is a third-person narrator telling the story. This narrator describes the various settings and the thoughts and feelings of the various characters. The dialogue of the characters contributes to the descriptions of the action that takes place.

The use of the third person allows the reader to have better information about the story. If the action was in the first person, the knowledge of the readers would be restricted to the knowledge of the character that is telling the story. The reader wouldn't know what was happening in situations where the first person narrator wasn't involved. This is avoided by use of the third person.

The use of the third person point of view is very effective in this type of novel. The author can increase the suspense and intrigue involved by having the reader present at events that the first-person story teller isn't present at, such as the meetings between Villon and Danielle, and Gly's involvement with various characters.

## Setting

There are various settings for the action of the novel. The Washington D.C., area is the setting for much of the novel's action since it is the seat of the American government. It is where many of the main characters of the novel live. Coles Point is not far from Washington and is where Pitt finds the missing diary of Richard Essex that has a handwritten copy of the North American Treaty. It is where many of the major decisions affecting the action of the novel are made.

Some of the action takes place in London, where the inquiry by Angus-Burton leads to the British finding evidence of the treaty. British intelligence brings Brian Shaw out of retirement and assigns him to watching the Americans and preventing them from obtaining the treaty. He travels to the United States and Canada.

There are three search expedition sites in the story. There is the search for the treaty in the shipwrecked Empress that is located in the Canadian waters off Quebec. There is also the bridge collapse site in upstate New York and the quarry search site near Albany.

A part of the action of the novel takes place in Canada. Ottawa is the Canadian capital where the Prime Minister and Danielle live. James Bay in Quebec is where the power plant is located.

There are also scenes in California and New York City with Brian and Heidi.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is clear and easy to understand. When technical terms are used, the terms are usually explained so the reader is not left wondering about the meaning of the word. There is no jargon or brogue of any kind that slows the reader down. Even though a sizable part of the story takes place in French-speaking Canada, there is no French in the book so the reader is not spending time trying to interpret French or any other foreign language.

The novel is written in a way that basically facilitates fast reading. When the story is filled with suspense and intrigue, the reader does not want to be slowed down by anything in the writing style or by the use of language or complex meanings.

## Structure

The structure of the novel is simple. There is a Prologue that describes the events surrounding the sinking of the Empress and the collapse of the bridge. The train, with the American copy of the treaty on board, supposedly crashes into the Hudson when the bridge collapsed. The Prologue also describes the robbery at the Wacketshire train station that prevents the staff from flagging the train. The Prologue describes the events that occurred seventy-five years before the opening of the story, since these events are referred to throughout the book.

The novel is structured in five parts with a total of eighty-six chapters. Most of the chapters are short, consisting of several pages. There is no Table of Contents but one isn't really needed in this kind of novel. There are maps at the beginning of several of the parts that show the area where the action of that part is taking place. The inclusion of the maps makes it easier for the reader to place the location of the action. The structure chosen by Cussler works well for the novel.



## Quotes

"Her face took on a cold determined look. 'Only when Charles lies in the grave will Quebec become an independent socialist nation.'" (Chapter 7, pg. 37)

"'He'll need to fool a lot of people,' Simms muttered as the lift door clanked open. 'He has no idea of the massive stakes riding on his shoulders. It may well be we have thrown the poor bastard to the sharks.'" (Chapter 15, pg. 68)

"Pitt sat down behind the desk and began reading. After about an hour he stopped and looked at the remains of John Essex, his expression of revulsion replaced with one that was filled with pity.

'You poor old fool,' he said with sadness in his eyes.'" (Chapter 26, pg. 113)

"Pitt could not bring himself to believe the reality of what he apparently saw; it was impossible for a train to be speeding over the nonexistent rails of the forsaken track bed. He stood unfeeling of the cold, searching for an explanation, his mind refusing to accept his senses, but the scream of the whistle grew louder and the light brighter." (Chapter 30, pg. 129)

"'Forgive me for not wishing you luck, Mr. Pitt, but you cannot be allowed to find the treaty. Your side has everything to gain. Mine has everything to lose. You must understand that.'" (Chapter 51, pg. 215)

"The manifestation struck with such abruptness, such incredibility, that Pitt was for the moment incapable of speech, capable only of the heart-stopping realization that they had at last discovered the burial vault of Harvey Shields." (Chapter 59, pg. 243)

"Sarveux felt terribly tired. His stand on noninterference with Quebec independence had met with a storm of opposition from his own party and the English-speaking loyalists in the west. The Parliament members from the Maritime Provinces had been especially indignant over his break with national unity. Their anger was to be expected. The new Quebec nation isolated them from the rest of Canada." (Chapter 62, pg. 252)

"Not the least. On the face of it, Her Majesty's government is not supposed to be aware of what yours is about and it's too early in the game for a direct confrontation. Because the situation is too delicate for two friendly nations to go through ordinary diplomatic channels, all communications must be handled in a roundabout fashion. It's not an uncommon practice; in fact, the Russians are particularly fond of it." (Chapter 64, pg. 260)

"The President is speaking before the House of Commons and the Senate of the Canadian Parliament. His speech centers around a plea for merging our two countries into one. Alan Mercier let me in on it this morning. Since Quebec went independent, the





Maritime Provinces have been considering statehood. The President is hoping to talk the Western Provinces into joining too. That's where a signed copy of the North American Treaty comes in. Not to coerce or threaten, but to eliminate the red-tape jungle of the transition and stonewall any objections and interference from the United Kingdom. His pitch for a unified North America is only fifty-eight hours away. You get the action?" (Chapter 73, pg. 286)

"'I love you, Danielle,' he said quietly. 'My dearest wish is to grow old with you by my side. I want you to know that.'" (Chapter 76, pg. 302)

"'Isn't it obvious? After you're dead, I'm going to take your place. I, and not you, will be the new President of Quebec.'" (Chapter 77, pg. 305)

"'A good reason why I keep records for insurance,' Gly said contemptuously. 'A chronological journal of my actions on behalf of the Free Quebec Society, tape recordings of my conversations with Villon, videotapes of your wife in wild postures with your minister of internal affairs. The stuff major scandals are made of. I'd say that's a fair exchange for my life.'" (Chapter 78, pg. 310)

"'Here's to two old and close friends who have covered a long haul.'  
'That we have,' said the President, with a weary sign. 'If anyone ever found out how you and I secretly worked together all these years to formulate a single-nation concept, we'd both be shot for treason.'" (Chapter 84, pg. 339)

"



## Topics for Discussion

Why is the James Bay power plant a subject of concern to both the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada?

How is Danielle involved in the plot to kill Charles? How did Villon use her?

What is the significance of the letter that Heidi Milligan found that refers to a treaty? How is the Treaty found?

Why is Brian Shaw called out of retirement?

What is the Doodlebug?

What are the events that occur at the Canadian salvage site?

What is the mystery of the phantom train? How is it solved?

Discuss the implications of the long-range plans of the President and Charles Sarveux.