

Raise the Titanic! Study Guide

Raise the Titanic! by Clive Cussler

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Plot Summary

The mystery of the Titanic has always fascinated people and Dirk Pitt is no different. After a massive search operation, the sunken ship is found. Clive Cussler, like millions of other people, wanted to see the sunken ship raised and brought into harbor. Pitt, like the others, is excited about the Titanic. The costs of raising the Titanic would be astronomical. So just finding the ship was cause for excitement for many.

Cussler spins a suspenseful novel about the sunken luxury liner. This is his fourth underwater adventure and it is a good one. The hero, Dirk Pitt, works for the National Underwater and Marine Agency and is a James Bond type character. The book involves international intrigue and cold war style espionage as the Americans and Russians vie for a rare element, byzanium, that they believe is hidden in the cargo hold of the Titanic.

There is suspense from the beginning of the book to the end. The book opens with a passenger on the Titanic who is sick in his stateroom. He finds that the ship is sinking. Instead of trying to save himself, he orders at gunpoint a crewman, John Bigalow, to take him to the vault. When they arrive there, the passenger tells Bigalow to go topside and save himself and then walks into the vault, closing the door behind him. Bigalow survives the disaster.

A rare element, byzanium was removed from Russia by a team of miners known as the Coloradans. It is the only element that can be used in a vital defense system. The Americans send a man in to survey the area, he finds an old abandoned and concealed mine site with traces of the element, but it has been mined and is missing. He also finds some other things, like a body, an old Colorado newspapers, and old mining equipment that was manufactured in Colorado. This begins the race to find the missing mineral. There is some indication that the missing byzanium was in the cargo hold of the Titanic which results in a secretly funded operation to salvage the ship as the Russians sit and watch. The suspense thickens as the salvage operations take place, leading to the exciting conclusion of the novel.

Cussler specializes in writing underwater adventures centering around sunken ships. He writes in clear everyday English, explaining any technical terms that are used. The reader feels the suspense at the beginning of the book and it continues to build throughout the book. It is a hard book to put down once the reader begins. The book has all of the intrigue of any cold war spy type novel.

The book is well worth reading.



Prelude

Prelude Summary

The mystery of the Titanic has always fascinated people and Dirk Pitt is no different. After a massive search operation, the sunken ship is found. Clive Cussler, like millions of other people, wanted to see the sunken ship raised and brought into harbor. Pitt, like the others, is excited about the Titanic. The costs of raising the Titanic would be astronomical. So just finding the ship was cause for excitement for many.

The man laying on the bunk in Deck A, Stateroom 33 knew that he was losing his mind. He was tossing and turning in the throngs of another nightmare from the stress of the last five months. When he was awake, he couldn't concentrate since his mind kept wandering. It was now late on Sunday and the ship wouldn't arrive in New York until Wednesday. He had more than enough time to shave and bathe. He tried to tell himself that he was safe because the key was in his pocket. He dozed off again but was awakened by what he realizes is the quiet. The engines have been turned off and there are no vibrations.

He left the room and walked to the grand staircase. He finds a steward and asks about the engines. The steward tells him not to worry. Even though it is a new ship on her maiden voyage, the ship is unsinkable. The passenger disagrees and says he is going outside to take a look. He meets the purser outside and the purser tells him that they have struck something. Just then there was a roar of the machinery as the excess steam was expelled from the reciprocating engines. Then the passenger sees crew members appear and begin to uncover and ready the life boats.

He stood there dazed, watching for an hour. He is finally told to put on a life jacket. He knows the ship is sinking and the crew member confirms the fact. They have another hour possibly. He tells the passenger that the ship hit an iceberg and that it slashed the hull. The passenger says he has to go to the cargo hold and is told that it is impossible. The passenger has a gun aimed at the crew member as he is insisting on being taken to the cargo hold. He tells the passenger he will try.

The two men are moving against the flow of the crowd as they make their way to the cargo hold. The passenger tells the crew member, named Bigalow, to keep going until they reach the number one cargo hold on G Deck, where the ship's vault is. They find that E deck is already flooding and Bigalow says they might try one of the escape ladders. In spite of the water, they make their way to the vault. He uses his key to open the vault and then tells Bigalow to go topside.

The amazed Bigalow asks the passenger if he is staying below. "'Yes, I'm staying. I've murdered eight good and true men. I can't live with that.' It was said flatly. The tone final. 'It's over and done with. Everything'" (Prelude, pg. 7). The passenger entered the vault and closed the door behind him.



Bigalow managed to survive by reaching the top before the ship sunk. He clung to the ship's pennant as it sunk, and it broke off. He was pulled into a lifeboat and rescued four hours later. For the next seventy-six years, Bigalow will wonder about the man in the vault and the men that he killed.

Prelude Analysis

The atmosphere of suspense is established in the opening Prelude. A passenger is lying in his room on a ship. He claims he is losing his mind and that he knows that he is losing his mind. He is nervous when he discovers that the ship's engines have stopped running and goes outside where he is told that the ship is sinking. He forces a crewmember named Bigalow at gunpoint to take him to the ship's vault where he walks in and shuts the door behind him. He tells Bigalow that he has killed eight men and can no longer live with the guilt and mutters something about Southby. Bigalow is rescued from the sinking ship and spend the next seventy-six years wondering about the passenger and the eight men he killed. This is the opening that sets the scene for the action of the novel.

Cussler does a good job in establishing the basis for the suspense and intrigue of the novel. The reader comes away from the opening with a lot of questions with more questions forming as the government men track down the clues provided by Volpin.



Part I The Sicilian Project, Chapter 1-5, pgs. 13-35

Part I The Sicilian Project, Chapter 1-5, pgs. 13-35 Summary

The time is now July 1987 and the scene is now the Oval Office. The President wasn't happy. He no longer enjoyed being President and wondered why he fought so hard to win the position. Even though he had broken all of the rules, he still managed to win two terms. He had his own plans for what he would do when he was out of office. He planned to sail the South Pacific in a forty foot ketch. He was divorced and could chase all the native girls that came his way.

He was interrupted by two visitors, Gene Seagram and Mel Donner. They were the chief evaluators for the Meta Section. This was a super secret group of scientist working on projects that would reach far into the future. The project was the President's brainchild and implemented during the first year of his first term. The two men show him some aerial photographs that they claim are in the Soviet Union and say it is the only place where byzanium is located. The Meta Section people have tried to produce it artificially but the particles decayed within two minutes. Seagram tells the President that they need eight ounces of the element for the test project they are trying to do and they would require an additional two hundred ounces for a full scale operation. The project they are talking about is called Project Sicilian.

Donner tells the President what they need for Project Sicilian. One of the things he lists is the assistance of NUMA, the National Underwater and Marine Agency. Donner explains that they will need NUMA to help them sneak into Novaya Zemlya. The NUMA expedition will give them a good cover for the operation. They can do all but the last stage of the project without the byzanium. The project will take sixteen months.

The President wants to know how he is going to explain a number of buildings built along the country's perimeter. Seagram says the building will be the size of small power plants and shouldn't attract attention. Donner and Seagram want permission to go ahead with the project. The President, who has eighteen months and ten days in office, tells them that that is how long they have. The meeting ends and the men leave. As Donner and Seagram are driving through Virginia they are talking about how lucky they are that the President doesn't know they already sent a man into Russia and need NUMA to get him out.

Sid Koplín is lying in the snow injured. He has been shot by a Soviet patrol guard. He could not make it back to the sloop and sail it fifty miles back to the rendezvous with the American ship. Part of his deal with Meta Section is that he must not be taken alive and that his body must not be found. He is found by the Soviet patrol with a dog. The soldier dragged the injured Koplín back to the security post. As he is being dragged, Koplín



hears a soft plopping sound. He watches as the dog drops, and then the soldier is felled by another soft plop. A man approaches and addressed him as Dr. Koplín. The man introduces himself as Dirk Pitt.

Seagram is waiting for his wife, Dana, at a Capital restaurant. She is tied up by an unexpectedly called staff meeting. Admiral Sandecker has the funding for a new wing at the Maritime Museum and is planning on obtaining various artifacts for it. Dana wants Gene to quit his job so they can both return to teaching. She thinks that that is the only thing that can save their marriage. Gene says he can't quit for another year because the project he is working on is too important. The project was his idea and he can't quit. He also tells her that he won't be home for dinner.

In Moscow, Captain Andre Prelov, an intelligence officer, is in his office. Prelov likes plush apartment and flashy Italian sports car. He defends his lifestyle to an aide by saying that it is the way to know the enemy. They are discussing an incident that occurred on the seacoast where a Russian soldier and his dog are missing. There is nothing of military interest in the area and Prelov feels that they are wasting their time. He requests a list of NUMA's ship placement for the past two days and learns that the First Attempt has been in the area of Novaya Zemlya. Prelov finds it strange that the ship was supposed to be near North Carolina at the time and figures that the soldier and dog have been murdered and an American agent has rendezvoused with the First Attempt. When they view the satellite photographs of the area, they find a helicopter in a picture with the ship. Prelov decides not to notify their agents in America until they know what kind of operation the Americans have going.

Back in Washington, Gene is telling Dana that he thinks a baby could save their marriage. Dana doesn't want to give up her career. They are getting ready to go to a party at the White House. Before leaving Gene calls Donner and finds that the First Attempt bypassed Oslo and is in radio silence. He tells Donner to call him if there are any developments.

Part I The Sicilian Project, Chapter 1-5, pgs. 13-35

Analysis

The plot of the novel begins to unfold in these opening chapters. The reader learns that The President has authorized a secret scientific project known as the Meta Section and its chief evaluators, Seagram and Donner can reach the President on a 24/7 basis. The President gives them the go ahead for Project Sicilian and they have the eighteen months and ten days left in his term to complete the project. Seagram and Donner don't tell the President that they have a man they sent inside Russia and they need the help of NUMA to get him out.

Near Novaya Zemlya agent Sid Koplín is shot by a Soviet soldier on patrol. As the soldier is dragging him back to his security post, he and the dog are shot by Dirk Pitt. Pitt rescues Sid Koplín, the agent sent in by Meta Section, and takes him to the ship, First Attempt. The incident is discussed in Moscow by Soviet intelligence officer Captain

Andre Prelov and his aide, Lieutenant Marganin. They study the satellite pictures and find a helicopter approaching the First Attempt.

The reader also learns that the Seagrams do not have a happy marriage. Gene's wife Dana is also a PhD and wants them to leave Washington to save their marriage. Gene says the secret project he is working on was his idea and he can't quit for the next year. Dana feels that their marriage won't survive. Gene feels that a baby would save their marriage by Dana doesn't want to give up her career.



Part I The Sicilian Project, Chapter 6-8, pgs. 36 - 48

Part I The Sicilian Project, Chapter 6-8, pgs. 36 - 48 Summary

At the White House, Dana and Gene are going through the receiving line and notice that Ashley Fleming is standing next to the President. She is a Washington divorcee. Dana is upset because she is wearing the same dress. They meet the President and he introduces Ashley Fleming. They meet Admiral Sandecker after leaving the receiving line and Gene thanks him for the little favor. Dana goes off to find a drink for her boss, leaving the men to talk. Gene learns that the First Attempt reached a Navy base in the Firth of Clyde earlier that afternoon. Gene wants to know why he wasn't notified.

Sandecker says the ship followed his orders about no communication until the agent is back on U.S. soil. He, Sandecker, found out from a friend. Seagram says the ship was supposed to dock at Oslo so something went wrong somewhere. Sandecker tells him that NUMA is a research agency and he isn't happy about his ship being spent on a spy mission. He figures the agent felt catching a commercial flight out of Oslo was too dangerous and the ship went to Scotland so he could take a military flight. Just then, Donner rushes in and tells him that Koplín just arrived on a naval transport and was taken to Walter Reed. Donner and Seagram leave or Walter Reed with Sandecker promising to see Dana home.

At Walter Reed, Donner and Seagram find that Koplín is in serious condition. Koplín tells them that he found traces of byzanium. He is ninety nine percent sure he has found byzanium. He feels that maybe a teaspoon of the byzanium can be acquired from Bednaya Mountain. Sid begins to drift into sleep from all the drugs but says that the byzanium was there but is already mined. He falls asleep saying it isn't the Russian who knew about it.

In Moscow, Marganin goes to Prelov's apartment on his day off and tells Prelov that they received a communication from one of the KGB agents in Washington. The agent sent them that the Americans have a secret project called Project Sicilian and that they are very interested in rock collecting. Marganin says he thought it might have something to do with the incident at Novaya Zemlya. Marganin researched the word Sicilian looking for hidden meaning in the project name. Prelov adds another meaning by telling him of a famous chess play called the Sicilian Defense.

Marganin lets himself out of Prelov's apartment. He finds an American Ford with embassy plates parked next to Prelov's Lancia and removes the windshield wipers. He also memorizes the license plat number.



Part I The Sicilian Project, Chapter 6-8, pgs. 36 - 48 Analysis

Seagram is upset because he can't find out information about the First Attempt. When he meets his wife's boss, Admiral Sandecker at the White House reception, he finds out that the ship arrived in Scotland earlier that day. The ship followed his orders of no communications until the agent was safely on U.S. soil. Donner arrives and tells him that Koplín arrived on a naval transport and was taken to Walter Reed. They rush there and find out that the byzantium that was once at Bednaya Mountain is now gone. There might be a spoonful there now. He falls asleep saying it isn't the Russians who took it.

In Moscow Margainin bothers his boss, Prelov at home with a report from a KGB agent in Washington. They know there is an operation called Project Sicilian and that the Americans are hunting rocks. On his way out, Margainin finds a Ford with embassy plates next to Prelov's Lancia. He knows that Prelov had a woman at the apartment.

Both East and West are now involved in the incident that occurred in Novaya Zemlya. The Americans are trying to bring their missing agent home and the Russians are trying to find out what the Americans are doing.



Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 9-14, pgs. 51-86

Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 9-14, pgs. 51-86 Summary

Donner and Seagram bring recording equipment with on their next visit to Koplín. They ask him to begin with when he left Norway. He begins with how he made his way to within two hundred miles of Novaya Zemlya. The trawler that towed his sloop, cut it free and how he traveled the rest of the way on his own. When he found a place to land on the Russian coast, he used the boat as his base station for the next twelve days. He would make day trips from the boat using cross-country skis. On the final day of the mission he was spotted by a Russian patrol and shot.

Koplín explained that he concentrated on a few areas that looked promising from the satellite photos. The Novaya Zemlya is basically void of minerals and the only traces of byzanium were found in a waste dump in a concealed mine. Koplín says the people who excavated the mines were the Coloradans. They were Irish, Germans and Swedes and not Russians. These were the people who eventually emigrated to the United States and worked in the mines in the Colorado Rockies.

Koplín went on to describe the inside of the mine and living quarters to Donner and Seagram. He looked at the manufacturers of the equipment that he found in the mine and most bore the names of manufacturers from Colorado. There was also a copy of the Rocky Mountain News with a date of November 17, 1911 with a section of page three missing. This might lead to information if they check the publisher's old files. There was also a frozen body of Jake Hobart who died on February 10, 1912. Donner will go to Denver to check out the information.

Koplín says he figures that the miners dug half a ton of byzanium and that the mineral has to be in the world somewhere. Before the two men leave the hospital room, Koplín asks for the address of Dirk Pitt so he can send him a case of wine in thanks for saving his life. He killed the Soviet patrol guard and dog, Koplín tells them. This is the first that Donner and Seagram have heard of the events there. The two men decide they have to get a make on Dirk Pitt. Seagram says he'll talk to Admiral Sandecker.

It is after midnight when Seagram wakes Sandecker. Seagram wants to know about a man named Dirk Pitt and he thinks that Sandecker might know him. Sandecker says if he finds out anything, he will have the man call him. Seagram tells him the story that Koplín told them about Pitt killing the Russian.

Donner lands in Denver and goes directly to the Rocky Mountain News office. He asks for the November 17, 1911 copy of the newspaper and is told he will have to wait a few minutes: they have photocopies. While she is making the copies of page three, he looks



through a business directory for the companies that Koplín mentioned. He found a listing for Jensen and Thor and tore the page out. The girl returned with the copy of page three and he learned that the missing article had to do with a mine disaster.

Donner's next visit was to Jensen and Thor where he meets with Carl Jensen, Jr. He asks to see the sales records for November 1911 since the present company evolved from the Thor Forge and Ironworks, Jensen's great-grandfather's company. They have records on microfilm. Jensen asks why he wants sales records from seventy-six years ago. Donner replies: "Let's just say we're trying to solve an ancient crime whose perpetrator purchased your great-grandfather's services" (Part 2, Chapter 11, pg. 67). They found a sale during that period to the U.S. government.

Meta Section headquarters is in Washington, near the Navy Yards. The sign on their building gives the name as Smith Van & Storage Company. Seagram is there checking the purchases for the Sicilian Project installations. Most are near the Canadian border and the Atlantic seaboard. There are eight designated for the Pacific Coast and four for Mexico and the Gulf area. All of the installations would look like small relay power stations and shouldn't arouse suspicion.

Seagram receives a phone call with information on Jake Hobart. The man had served in the army with the First Colorado Volunteer Regiment in the Philippines and was a miner. He separated from the Army in October 1901 and has a widow who is still drawing a pension. There is no mention of re-enlistment but the records indicate that he died while serving his country on November 17, 1911. Seagram says that he thought the man died as a civilian on February 10, 1912 and is told that he is wrong. There is a letter in the file from the Secretary of War ordering a pension for Hobart's widow. The man gives Seagram the Laguna Hills, California address of the widow. The man says it is possible that there might have been two men with the same name. He has his secretary place a call to Donner and makes plane reservations to Los Angeles.

In Denver, Donner is in his downtown hotel going over the newspaper article. He reads the story about the mining disaster at the Central City mine where nine men were killed. Jason Hobart is listed as one of the nine men. Later that day he has dinner with Harry Young. Donner says he is investigating the seventy-six year old mining accident at Central City because of a pension claim. Young is the nephew of Joshua Hayes Brewster, the man who led the mining at the Little Angel mine where the disaster occurred. His uncle thought there was a high-grade silver lode in the Little Angel and reopened the mine.

Young goes on to say that his uncle was a meticulous record keeper, but anything pertaining to the Little Angel mine was blank. He believes his uncle led a suicide mission. All of the nine men were bachelors. Donner replies that Hobart left a widow but Young says there was no mention of that in any of his research. There were also no bodies ever found and no one ever saw the men enter the mine. Young tells Donner that he believes it was a cover-up that involved the French Societe des Mines de Lorraine. He thinks that the men went to another country and that his mother claimed she saw her

brother, Joshua Hayes Brewster, in London. Donner is making a link between the Little Angel mine and the body of Jake Hobart that Koplín found in Russia.

Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 9-14, pgs. 51-86

Analysis

Donner and Seagram return to Walter Reed to debrief Koplín. He tells them the story of his visit to Novaya Zemlya, how he got there and what he did once he arrived. He found a hidden mine where he feels the byzantium was mined by Coloradans. Koplín checked the names of the manufacturers on the equipment and found it all came from Colorado. There was also an old 1911 Colorado newspaper and the body of a man named Jake Hobart. Donner will travel to Denver to find out more information about the equipment, companies, missing section of the newspaper, etc. They are looking for leads. The mineral was mined and moved and it still must exist somewhere in the world. They also learn for the first time that a man saying he was Dirk Pitt killed the Soviet guard and dog. They now have to worry about possible international repercussions.

Donner flies to Denver to check out the information they received from Koplín. He finds the newspaper article about a mining disaster and finds the company that descended from the Thor Forge and Ironworks. Microfilm records indicate a sale made to the U.S. government in 1911. The plot thickens when Seagram checks out Jake Hobart and finds he died in the service of the government with the date listed as November 17, 1911, the date of the newspaper article.

Donner meets with the nephew of the leader of the Little Angel mine to learn what he can of the situation. The nephew, Harry Young tells him about some strange coincidences. Even though his uncle was a meticulous record keeper, there are nothing but blank pages on the Little Angel. He believes that there was a cover-up and that the nine men were taken out of the country. Donner begins to make the link to the body found in Russia.

There are more questions in everybody's mind as the agents track down the clues provided by Volpin and begin to interview people. The intrigue increases as the information becomes available about the clues.



Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 15-20, pgs. 87-112

Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 15-20, pgs. 87-112 Summary

Seagram arrives in Los Angeles and rents a car and drives to the home of Adeline Hobart. Adeline has been remarried for over sixty years but the War Department ignored her letters and kept sending the pension checks. She tells him that she received a \$10,000 indemnity from the government when Jake died. She tells him her story of how she first met Jake when she was sixteen years old. She describes his bright red hair to Seagram. She says she saw him for the last time a year later.

Seagram notices that she is very nervous. He says she heard from him after the mining disaster and she tells him that she was sworn to secrecy. He finally calls the President and lets Adeline talk to him. He asks for her help. Adeline tells Seagram that Jake and the miners were never in the Little Angel mine the day of the disaster. The day before the mining disaster Jake took Adeline to Denver to shop. "In the morning, he told her not to believe what I heard or read in the newspapers about his death in a mining accident, and that he would be gone for several months on a job somewhere in Russia. When he returned, he said, we would be rich beyond our wildest dreams" (Part 2, Chapter 15, pg. 93). He told her that the French were handling all of the details and that they would move to Paris when he returned. He left her an envelop with \$5,000. A month later she received a postcard from Paris, which she showed him. It was dated December 1, 1911. She received another postcard a week later from Le Havre that said he was leaving for the Arctic and she wouldn't hear from him for a while. Another postcard from Scotland told her of Jake's death in a storm. It was signed V.H. for Vernon Hall, a friend of Jake's. The entity that swore her to secrecy was a Colonel Patman or Patmore, she couldn't remember the exact name.

Seagram is staying at the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach. He is sitting on the terrace watching a storm come in. He notices a man standing next to him. The man introduces himself as Dirk Pitt. He works for NUMA and Admiral Sandecker. Seagram tells Pitt that he wants to know Novaya Zemlya. Pitts tells him that there is nothing much to tell. When the agent didn't appear, he went by helicopter and spotted the sloop. He landed the copter and heard the dog barking and followed the barking sounds and yes, he shot both the dog and the guard. He also destroyed the sloop. Pitt says he salvaged the pieces of the messy operation. He tells Seagram that he is an asshole and walks away.

Professor Peter Barshov is talking with Captain Prelov about the hidden cave they found. There is no record of it yet it had been excavated and Prelov is trying to find out by whom. The Okhrana files of the Czar's secret police might have some record of it. The equipment they found was all manufactured in the United States but they don't



know who used the equipment. Barshov tells the Captain that the body they found had an epitaph written in American English. Barshov, from the Leongorod Institute, says Prelov will have a full written report by morning. Before he leaves, Prelov asks if any minerals were found and Barshov tells him which ones. He says that very little is known about byzanium but the only ones who ever had any interest in the mineral were the French.

A few blocks away Lieutenant Marganin is sitting on a park bench awaiting a rendezvous. A man appears, sits down and begins eating lunch. He tells Marganin that Prelov is having an affair with a woman who drives an American embassy car. Marganin tells the man that he needs to know the identity of the woman and he needs information on the Sicilian Project that involves the National Underwater and Marine Agency. They set up another meeting for that evening in the men's room of the Borodino Restaurant.

In Washington, Dana is at the White House to see a sailing ship model that was found in a crate. The President wanted to know if Dana could find any information on the ship. Dana, who thought the President wanted a secret rendezvous with her, said she would have to make some sketches. After the aide leaves, the President arrives. He tells Dana what the ship is and that he just wanted to talk with her and used the model ship as a cover. The President is worried about her husband, Gene, who he feels is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. He tells her that Gene is working on a vital secret project and that he needs her to stay with him for the next sixteen months. She tells him she will do that.

Dana is waiting for Gene when his plane arrives. He is a little suspicious since she never meets his planes. While they are driving, he asks her if she knows Dirk Pitt. She says yes. When he tells her that Pitt mismanaged an operation and that he is out to burn Pitt's ass, she cautions him. Pitt is the son of a powerful senator. She suggests they have dinner and see a movie. He tells her to take him to his office.

Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 15-20, pgs. 87-112

Analysis

Seagram learns some of the details surrounding the mystery from Adeline, Jake's widow. Jake told her that the mining disaster was going to happen and that he and the others would not be there. They were going to work on a mining project in Russia and that all of the details were being handled by the French. She produces some postcards that Jake sent her from France, and then the one that tells about his death, signed by V.H. Seagram thinks to himself that this ninety-three year old woman is holding the keys to the missing billion dollars worth of ore. The government had to be involved because of the money that they were still sending her and because she was sworn to secrecy by a Colonel. Seagram is suspicious because he knows that the amount of money Jobart's widow received is very large for the time and the fact that she is still receiving widow benefits even when after informing the government that she re-married raises the suspicion in him. Why wouldn't the government take no for an answer?



In Russia, Prelov has an investigation going. He has learned about the concealed mine and what minerals were there and also that there was equipment that came from America. The French were the only ones that were ever interested in byzanium. In the meantime, his aide Marganin is trying to find out who Prelov is having an affair with and is trying to get whatever information he can on the Sicilian Project. This is the beginning of the set-up of Prelov by his aide.

Dana is asked by the President to stay with Gene since he is afraid that Seagram is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. She meets him at the airport and wants to go out for the evening. He tells her to take him to his office. She knows that it is over between them.



Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 21-22, pgs. 113-125

Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 21-22, pgs. 113-125 Summary

Seagram is in his office with an attaché case delivered by Defense Department staff. He can look through the classified material but it must be returned to the Captain and Colonel who brought it to him. The documents in the attaché case are about byzanium and the involvement of Joshua Hayes Brewster in Russia. Seagram spends four hours pouring over the documents and orders an aid to copy them. He went into his private bathroom and vomited.

Donner and Seagram arrive at Camp David early enough for breakfast. The President says he hopes they have good news because the Sicilian Project is the only way to stop the arms race. They hand the President the copy of Brewster's journal that Seagram had copied. It tells how Brewster was working for the Societe des Mines de Lorraine on a project in Russia for the Czar. When they were leaving their ship was grounded at Novaya Zemlya for a month before they were rescued. This gave Brewster time to prospect the area. He found some strange rocks at Bednaya Mountain and took samples back to New York and turned all but one over to his French employer. He was later told they were worthless. He had his sample analyzed at the Bureau of Mines and found it was byzanium, a rare element having many of the properties of radium.

Donner tells the President that at 1910 prices, one ounce of byzanium was worth over one million four hundred thousand dollars. Brewster gave the information to the War Department. By this time the French knew that Brewster hadn't given them the exact location of the deposits and the only way they could do anything was with him as the chief engineer. Brewster felt that he and his men would be murdered as soon as he opened the mine and the Societe des Mines de Lorraine knew the location. The French were behind the Little Angel mine hoax which would be the cover for the later murder of the men.

The mining equipment was ordered and paid for by the French who made it appear that they were the U.S. government. They told the French the ore would be ready in June. They had it ready two months earlier and escaped with it, even though Jake Hobart died in a storm. The byzanium was shipped on a ship provided by the U.S. War Department and commanded by a Lieutenant Pratt. There was an estimated half ton of ore which would be about five hundred ounces when processed.

The ship was attacked near Norway. They sunk the unmarked attack boat and made it to Aberdeen. The French continued to attack the Coloradans and all but Vernon Hall and Joshua Hayes Brewster were killed. Brewster sailed on the Titanic and they believed the ore went with him. The only way to obtain the ore is to raise the Titanic.



Part II The Coloradans, Chapter 21-22, pgs. 113-125 Analysis

More pieces of the tale are woven together. Brewster made a deal with the War Department to steal the byzanium from Bednaya Mountain before the Societe des Mines de Lorraine could find it. A War Department ship came to pick up the men and the ore but it was attacked by an unmarked ship off the coast of Norway. The ship made it to Aberdeen, and more of the crew were killed supposedly by the French. They find that Brewster sailed on the Titanic and apparently had the ore with him. The only way to find it was to raise the Titanic.

The French saw the value of the byzanium. Its properties were close to uranium and they could make a small fortune from the ore. The Americans also knew of its value which set the stage for the events that occurred and the trail of death that followed through England after the men were out of Novaya Zemlya.



Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 23-28, pgs. 129-170

Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 23-28, pgs. 129-170 Summary

Al Giordino was working with the Sappho I which was one of the most recent of the research submersible that NUMA was working on. The purpose of the vessel was to explore the ocean's bottom and she could hold seven men and two tons of equipment. The ship could submerge to depths of 24,000 feet. Giordino was on a test mission with his colleagues Omar Woodson and Rudi Gunn and four other men, Ben Drummer, Rick Spencer, Sam Merker and Henry Munk. Their mission has ended and they will surface in another ten hours.

They are five hundred miles off course due to the orders of Admiral Sandecker. All of the men are experts in their areas, but, as Giordano commented, none of them was a PhD. Their mission was to map previously uncharted territory and obtain data on the Lorelei Currents. All of the men are volunteers especially recruited for the assignment.

As the vessel is moving along the ocean floor Munk detects movement on the magnetometer indicating that the vessel passed over a metallic object. They stop and back up to check it out. They find the object and try to capture it on film. The object is a funnel that they decide to grab with the vessel's mechanical arm. They succeed on the second try and find that the object is a cornet. They wonder how it got there and if its owner was down on the ocean floor also.

In Washington, Dirk Pitt is landing a Ford trimotor plane at Washington National. He taxis the plane to the NUMA hangar and finds Gene Seagram there. Gene climbs into the plane to talk with Dirk. He tells him about a planned mission to raise the Titanic. Pitt says that it is impossible and if it were it would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. There would also be many legal problems involved. Seagram replies that they have more than two hundred scientists and engineers working on the technicalities and the project will have secret government funding.

"You can't know, Pitt, how important this undertaking is. The Titanic represents much more than treasure or historic value. There is something deep within its cargo holds that is vital to the security of our nation" (Chapter 25, pg. 145). He goes on to tell Pitt that the search for the sunken ship is already underway with a colleague of his, Giordano involved on the mission, not aware of its true purpose. Seagram says that they want Pitt to be in charge of the entire salvage operation. He is considered to be an expert on the Titanic since he made studying the subject a hobby of his.

The cornet was given to Jon Vogel to restore. He is the curator of the Washington Museum's Hall of Music. He decided to give it to an assistant to work on when he



received a call from Admiral Sandecker requesting a report with any information he could find on the cornet. Vogel tells Sandecker he will try to have a report for him the next day. After telling his secretary to order pizza and wine, he begins to work on the horn. Later that night, he made an interesting discovery and immediately called Sandecker, and went to his office.

Sandecker introduces Vogel to Pitt and Gunn. Vogel tells him that the cornet was manufactured for a professional musician in October or November 1911. The manufacturer was a British firm named Boosey-Hawkes. It is called a presentation model which means it was engraved for a special event or service with the name, date, manufacturer and name of the musician's company. The employee was Graham Farley who was an employee of the White Star line. The ship was the Titanic. Vogel asks if Sandecker would donate the instrument to his museum and Sandecker says he will as soon as the NUMA scientists finish with it. It will be a permanent loan. Before leaving, Vogel agrees to keep the find from the press for the time being. Gunn realizes that they had to be within a few hundred feet of the sunken ship but they hadn't been told what they were looking for in the area. Sandecker reminds him that studying the currents was their main assignment.

Sandecker and Seagram are on an ostentatious fishing trip with Admiral Joseph Kemper. The trip is taking them on a cruise up the Rappahannock River. As they talk back and forth, Sandecker tells Kemper that they are going to try to salvage the Titanic and that the authority for the mission comes from White House. Sandecker turns the discussion over to Seagram. Seagram explains to the Admiral about Meta Section. They have developed a defense system that is code-named the Sicilian Project. The project is based on maser technology that basically forms an impenetrable invisible shield that could be invaluable as a form of defense in the case of enemy missiles. This isn't a weapon, Seagram says, it is pure science.

Seagram goes on to explain that the necessary installations are already being constructed. When the Admiral asks what all of this has to do with the Titanic, Seagram tells him that the maser is based on byzantium and the only known supply went down with the ship. Raising the Titanic is vital to national defense. They ask the Admiral if they can use the navy's ship Modoc and a salvage crew for the operation and are told yes.

Dirk Pitt is given Brewster's journal to read. He asks Donner if the byzantium would lose any of its properties after being submerged for all those years. Donner replies that they don't know. He tells Pitt he will have five hundred million dollars in secret funding to begin the project.

Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 23-28, pgs. 129-170

Analysis

The information that the ore is on the sunken Titanic leads to a mission to salvage the ship. There is an undersea mission in the Sappho I that is exploring the ocean floor ostentatiously researching currents, but really photographing the bottom for evidence of



the sunken ship. They find a cornet and retrieve it. The cornet is brought back to Washington for analysis and found to be from the Titanic.

Seagram is sent to ask Dirk Pitt to head the salvage operation. He feels that it is impossible but Seagram refutes all of his arguments. They already have a search mission taking place for the ship and there are more than two hundred scientists and engineers working on the technical problems. Seagram tells Dirk there will be secret government funding for the project.

Seagram and Sandecker cruise up the Rappahannock River with Admiral Joseph Kemper. They tell him about Meta Section and its Sicilian Project. To make it work they need bzyanium and the only known supply sunk with the Titanic. They have a project underway to salvage the sunken ship to obtain the bzyanium. The Admiral agrees to let them use the salvage ship Modoc and a crew for the salvage operations.

Dirk reads Brewster's journal and discusses the project with Donner. Donner tells him that he will have five hundred million dollars for the project and that it will be secretly transferred to NUMA. The coverup for the real reason for raising the sunken ship is underway. This sets the stage for a confrontation with the Russians.



Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 29-34, pgs. 171-188

Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 29-34, pgs. 171-188 Summary

The President has a meeting with CIA director Warren Nicholson and his chief aide for the Kremlin, Marshall Collins. They have learned of the Sicilian Project from their contacts in the KGB instead of from the U.S. government. They know that the Russians know the code name but they don't know how much information they have about the project itself. Nicholson's plan is to feed the Soviets information about the program. The President agrees to the proposal and says he will have a report written by Meta Section. He tells the men that anything to do with the Sicilian Project must go through him.

Sandecker, Pitt and Gunn are meeting and trying to pinpoint the location of where the cornet was found. There is a six-mile discrepancy between where the cornet was found and the last reported position of the Titanic. They are wondering where to concentrate the search efforts. The Sappho I's mission led them through the area where the Titanic was last reported and they picked up nothing. Gunn is in favor of beginning where the cornet was found. Pitt plan was to send a submersible in and skip the TV camera search. They can program every bit of information they have about the Titanic and the computer should be able to pinpoint the location for the search efforts. They can then take the Modoc and the submersible Sea Slug that she carries. They decide to follow this approach.

Donner drives to Chevy Chase to pick-up Seagram. He and Dana have been fighting again. Donner suggests that he and Dana take a vacation and try to work things out. There's nothing for them to do until after the salvage operation. Seagram tells Donner that the President wants Seagram to leak information to the Russians. The plan came from the CIA. Seagram doesn't like this idea because the Russians could build their own system if they find any byzantium. Donner says that Admiral Kemper wouldn't let them near the Titanic. Seagram suggests that it is possible that Kemper might be ordered to do nothing. Donner asks if he is suggesting that the President is working with the Russians and Seagram says that anything is possible.

In Moscow, Marganin arrives at the Borodino Restaurant for his rendezvous. He is lead to Prelov's table, where Prelov is reading a sheath of papers. He comments about the Lorelei project and the fact that the United States has a submersible than can spend two month traveling fifteen hundred miles on the ocean floor with surfacing. Prelov thinks that they should find out why the Americans are interested in the Newfoundland Grand Banks area. Marganin excuses himself to go to the men's room. The man gives him an envelop and tells him that it contains explosive information.



When Seagram returns home, he finds a letter from Dana on his desk. She thinks it is best that they separate for a while. She is staying in Georgetown with a friend from work and doesn't want Gene to contact her.

As Dana is driving to work with her friend, Marie Sheldon, Marie asks her how many pills she has taken. She notices the mood swings in Dana and thinks that Dana feels guilty for leaving Gene. She thinks that Gene needs Dana's support and that he is headed for a coronary or nervous breakdown. They make plans to meet for lunch and Marie says she will bring some males along.

Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 29-34, pgs. 171-188 Analysis

Security surrounding Meta Section and the Sicilian Project are so tight that the CIA found out from contacts in the KGB. They don't know how much the Russians know about the program but decide they can feed the Russians disinformation. The President agrees to the plan and says he will have Meta Section deliver a report. Anything to do with the project must go through the President, he tells the two men.

Sandecker, Pitt and Gunn are meeting to determine the best approach for the search operation. They decide to follow Pitt's plan to use a computer to try to pinpoint the location of the Titanic and then take the salvage ship Modoc to the area and use The Sea Slug. This is the submersible vessel that the Modoc carries.

Seagram is not happy about being ordered to leak information to the Russians concerning Project Sicilian and suggests that the President might be working with the Russians. Donner, who has already suggested that Seagram take a vacation and try to work things out with Dana, says nothing in response to Seagram. Seagram's paranoia and mental condition is beginning to show.

Gene and Dana Seagram separate as Gene finds a letter from Dana waiting in his study. She is staying with a friend in Georgetown. The failing marriage adds to the mental strain on Gene.



Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 35-36, pgs. 189-204

Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 35-36, pgs. 189-204 Summary

Sandecker meets with Dr. Murray Silverstein at the Alexandria College of Oceanography. They are discussing the computer results for pinpointing the location of the Titanic. They talk about the missing information or the discrepancies in the data and the resulting magnitude of any miscalculation. The computer is trying to simulate the sinking of the ship. Silverstein shows Sandecker a model of the Titanic and how they determine the angle of descent. They calculate that the best place to begin is thirteen hundred yards southeast from where the Sappho I found the cornet.

Pitt is on the Modoc with Giordino and they are preparing to check out The Sea Slug. They go through the checklist with Gunn. "Life-support timer on,' Giordino announced. 'An hour to the bottom, ten hours for the search, two hours for surfacing, leaving us a reserve of five hours just in case'" (Chapter 36, pg. 196). They don't have the luxury of the space and the eight week life support system available in Sappho I. If there was an accident, the only thing they could do is hope for a quick death.

They began their descent in the Sea Slug. They looked at the sea life on the ocean's bottom. As they are looking around, they pick up something on the sonar. The sonar indicates a solid object. Soon they begin to see a lot of objects, enough that makes Gunn comment that it looks like a junkyard. They came across the bow of a ship and followed its line. They found it was the Titanic. They send word to the Modoc that they have found the Titanic.

Part III The Black Abyss, Chapters 35-36, pgs. 189-204 Analysis

The team follows Dirk's suggestion and uses all of the information they have about the Titanic to fairly accurately pinpoint the location of the sunken ship. With Giordino on the Modoc, Pitt and Gunn make the descent in the Sea Slug. They find a lot of debris on the ocean floor and eventually find the Titanic, very close to where the computer projections put it. They signal the Modoc of their success.

The mission is the submersible is not far from where the Titanic sunk. It is not where the Titanic was last heard from and assumed to have gone down. Since time was of the essence, the team had to make a decision about where to begin their search. Luckily, they made the right decision and searched near the area where they found the cornet.



Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 37-42, pgs. 207-234

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 37-42, pgs. 207-234 Summary

In Moscow, Captain Prelov is at a meeting with some high level people. Also in attendance are Georgi Antonov, Soviet General Secretary, Admiral Boris Sloyuk, Vladimir Polevoi, the Chief of the Foreign Secrets Department of the KGB, and Vasily Tilevitch, Marshal of the Soviet Union and chief director of Soviet Security.

They know there is a massive effort by the United States to raise the Titanic. Antonov asks if they have any observers in the area and is told that they have the Mikhail Kurkov. He asks if they know the reason why and is told yes. Sloyuk passes out a red folder with the details of the Sicilian Project. He tells them that it is a new defense system. They are told that their scientists say that the system is theoretically possible with a strong power source. This is what they think is in the hold of the Titanic. They need an element called byzanium. The only supply in the world was stolen from Russia and shipped on the sunken ship.

Prelov feels that the United States has the capability to conduct a successful salvage operation but Polevoi disagrees with him. Tilevitch says they must make sure that the Americans do not salvage the byzanium: they must find a way to sabotage the operation. They know that the Americans have a nuclear submarine in the area and then find out from Prelov that they have two operatives on the salvage crew. He asks Prelov for his plan.

When Prelov returns to his office he finds Marganin waiting for him. They snap at each other because Marganin knows that Prelov presented the information as his own, when it actually came from Prelov's contact.

Seagram enters Sandecker's office with a newspaper. In it is a story about NUMA undertaking a salvage operation to raise the Titanic. Pitt and the crew have been working through the Arctic winter for nine months. Seagram asks what they should do about the press and Sandecker replies they do what everybody else in Washington does: they call a press conference.

It is Dana who handles the press conference. She presents the salvage as a good business deal. Collectors will pay a lot of money for the items on the ship. She explains how they plan to seal the hole to raise the ship using a substance called Wetsteel. Dana does a good job of handling the press until she is asked a stupid question about how she competes with the males. Dana fires back at her that she can hold her own with the men and that most pig-headedness comes from woman.



In the Arctic Circle, the wind is increasing. The chill factor makes the cold almost unbearable. They have had four days already that week when they couldn't work. Their weatherman predicts that the wind will begin to abate in another hour when Pitt asks for his opinion. They check the position of the ships and change them to where they will and then when they resume operations. The Russian ship is still in the area. Pitt feels that they can finish in ten days if the weather allows them.

The sonar operator tells Pitt that he is picking up a strange pinging sound that he has been picking up on and off for the past two months. The radio operator indicates he is picking up a faint broken conversation. They put it on a speaker and find it is being jammed. They pick up the name Henry Munk but can't make out the rest of the conversation. The TV monitor shows a man lying on the deck and the crew indicates that Munk is dead and they want to surface. The wind is too strong for the Sappho I to surface. Pitt decides they will have to wait to surface until the wind abates.

The next morning the salvage crew prepares for the submersible to surface. When the men are onboard the Modoc, Woodson and Pitt go to Pitt's quarter to talk. Woodson tells Pitt that Munk was found with his left temple smashed. They found blood and skin on the alternator housing cover but Woodson says that Munk's feet were facing the wrong way for him to have fallen. Since his feet were pointing toward the stern, his right temple would have been caved-in if he had fallen. There was no malfunction of the TV camera but someone had put a towel over the lens. Woodson explained where each of the men was located. Woodson and Pitt continue to look at different explanations trying to figure out how Munk died. Pitt can see that Woodson needs some sleep and tells him that they will talk about it later.

The doctor examines Munk's body and says that it was obviously murder. Munk's spinal cord was crushed in addition to his head injury.

Sandecker is discussing the situation with Warren Nicholson at CIA headquarters. Sandecker is being told to do nothing at the moment and to wait. Sandecker doesn't like the idea of waiting. There are men on the submersible that might be in danger. Nicholson tells him that Munk was killed by a professional Russian agent. He says that all of the facts point to it and they don't kill unless they have to. Nicholson tells him that they have been impenetrated by two Russian agents who use the code names Silver and Gold. Sandecker finally agrees to wait to have the agents arrested.

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 37-42, pgs. 207-234

Analysis

There is a meeting in Moscow between Prelov and his superiors. They discuss the Titanic situation and are told the known details of the Sicilian Project. The American need byzantium as a power source and that what is supposed to be in the hold of the sunken ship. They have an observer ship in the area. It is suggested by Tilevitch that they must sabotage the project to keep the Americans from obtaining the byzantium.



Prelov tells them that they have two operatives on the salvage crew. The Cold War mentality of paranoia led both sides to impenetrable and spy on the other.

Prelov's battle with Marganin is developing. Marganin let him know that he is upset because Prelov presented the information as his own instead of coming from Marganin's source. It is obvious that they are heading for a showdown as Marganin comes across as being critical of his superior and ambitious and wanting his position.

Seagram is unhappy about the press breaking the story about the salvage operation. He asks Sandecker how they are going to handle it and he says with a press conference that Dana can handle. Dana handles the press conference well until a woman asks her how she competes with the men. This doesn't sit well with Dana who fires back and tells her that the women are more pig-headed than the men. Dana is sensitive about the woman's role in the workplace and the fact that people consider her as part of a couple instead of considering her merits as an individual.

There are problems in the Arctic where the salvage operation is being hindered by strong winds. The Sappho I is submerged and they receive notice that Henry Munk is dead and they want to surface. Pitt decides they won't surface until the wind dies down. When the ship surfaces the next day, Pitt learns the details from Woodson. It appears that Munk has been murdered. They only saw the head injury. When a doctor examines the body, he finds a crushed spinal cord and says it definitely was murder. Sandecker wants to have the agents arrested right away when he learns from Nicholson of the CIA that there are two Russian agents using the code names Silver and Gold. He finally agrees to wait. This again is ore evidence of the Cold War mentality of the time.



Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 43-48, pgs. 234-270

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 43-48, pgs. 234-270 Summary

Mel Donner goes to Marie Sheldon's house in Georgetown to see Dana. He and Marie introduce themselves. He tells Dana that he came to see her because he is worried about Gene. Dana learns that Gene's project will be completed in another month and then he could return to teaching. He is trying to talk Dana into going back to her husband and mentions seeing her on a date a few days earlier. This doesn't sit well with Dana who gets upset because they all expect her to crawl back to Gene. She says she'll go back to him if and when she wants to and walks out of the room and cries in the bedroom.

Donner is sitting in a club when Marie appears. She is there with friends and comes over to say hello. She tells him Dana is on a ship with a group of press correspondents going to the site of the Titanic salvage. They want to be there when the ship is brought to the surface.

Dirk Pitt takes a two day leave from the salvage operations and goes to England. He is on a train traveling to Teignmouth, Devonshire to interview the last survivor of the Titanic on the orders of Sandecker. "None of this adds up.' Pitt was pacing the floor nervously, his equilibrium struggling to forget the months of endless itching and rolling of the Capricorn. 'You order me ashore during a crucial moment of the salvage and tell me I have two Russian agents, identities unknown, who have carte blanche to go about murdering my crew under the personal protection of the CIA, and then in the same breath, you calmly order me to England to take down the deathbed testimony of some ancient limey'" (Chapter 44, pg. 241).

Dirk isn't happy about the assignment since computer simulations indicate that the hull could break loose after the next seventy-two hours. Sandecker tells him he'll be back before the critical time. Sandecker also tells him that he intends to be aboard the Capricorn, one of the boats involved in the salvage, when the ship is raised.

Pitt arrives at the cottage and is greeted by Sandra Ross, the commodore's great-granddaughter. The commodore is Sir John L. Bigalow and he has been awaiting Pitt's visit. He wants to know what the ship looks like and Dirk shows him some pictures. Bigalow tells Pitt the story of the sinking and gives him some information he never told anyone else. On the return trip, Pitt is not sorry that he went to interview the old man.

At the NUMA Hurricane Center in Tampa, Dr. Ryan Prescott is watching a hurricane develop. It is May and early for a hurricane. He notes the predicted course and hopes it will just develop into a storm.



Pitt returns to the Capricorn and is greeted by Rudi Gunn. He finds that the Uranus Oil sub, the Deep Fathom, is trapped on the wreck. Sandecker is on another ship where the rescue operations are being directed from. They go to the operations room and Gunn explains the details of the accident that had happened three and one half hours earlier. There is a crack in the Deep Fathom's hull and water is entering the cabin. Gun says they figure the trapped crew has six hours, at most. He finds that the manipulator arm on the Sea Slug is broke and can't be repaired in time. That was the last chance for a possible rescue.

After talking to the crew on the Deep Fathom, Dirk talks to Sandecker and tells him that there is another way to rescue the submersible. His plan is to use explosives. If they can budge the Titanic, then they can free the Deep Fathom. There is a chance that the crack in the submersible might expand and instantly kill the trapped men. Sandecker authorizes Pitt's plan.

The group on the press ship is watching the preparations for the rescue. They know that they are attempting to raise the Titanic early in an attempt to save the trapped men. Dana doesn't know anything more than they are going to try to raise the Titanic in the next four hours. She doesn't have any of the details of how.

Sandecker and the crew are going over the plans for the placement of the explosives. Their plans are based on computer data. They would do better if they had more explosives, but they don't have the time so Sandecker says they go with what they have. With the time it will take to place the explosives, the trapped men will only have fourteen minutes left.

The men inside the ship panic when they see the Sappho I leaving. They have no way of knowing that there is a rescue mission taking place and that the submersible is needed to place the explosives. The submersibles place the explosives and leave the immediate area. The explosives are detonated, as Dirk and the crew watches on the TV cameras. The Titanic didn't budge from what they could see on the cameras. The Sappho II descends to see what has happened. Pitt and the others figure that they have failed, until the Sappho II radios that the ship has moved. The crew cheers and monitors the ship as it rises.

A doctor and helicopter are readied to go to the trapped men as soon as the submersible surfaces. They begin to worry as the rate of ascent is too rapid. The ship could rocket out of the water at the surface and capsize, which would spell the end for the Deep Fathom's crew. They all watch as the ship surfaces bringing the Deep Fathom with it. The hatch is opened and the doctor enters the submersible. The three crew members are still alive. When the ships heard the announcement that the men were alive, they all began to blast their sirens and horns.

"It was a moment that none of those present would ever live again. And, for the first time in all the years he could remember, Pitt felt the trickle of warm tears on his cheeks" (Chapter 48, pg. 270)



Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 43-48, pgs. 234-270 Analysis

Donner goes to see Dana to try to talk her into going back to Gene. He feels that Gene needs her. He mentions that he saw her on a date and this upsets her and she walks out and goes to her room to cry. She is upset because she feels that no one is concerned about her feelings and needs. They all think she'll crawl back to her husband. People don't see her as an individual and separate from being part of a couple.

Dirk Pitt is sent to England to interview John Bigalow, the last survivor of the Titanic. Bigalow tells his story and then says he wants to tell him something he never told anyone else. Pitt is happy that he made the trip. He isn't happy when he returns to the salvage site and is told of an accident involving one of the submersibles which is stuck against the hull of the Titanic and taking on water. The only chance of rescue is the Sea Slug which has a broken manipulator arm. The men have about six hours before they drown. The explosives are placed and detonated. The ship moves and the men are rescued.



Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 49-54, pgs. 271-296

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 49-54, pgs. 271-296 Summary

"The late-afternoon sun was just touching the tops of the trees as Gene Seagram sat slouched on a bench in East Potomac Park and contemplated the Colt revolver in his lap. Serial number 204,783, he thought, you're about to serve the purpose you were manufactured for. Almost lovingly, he ran his fingers over the barrel, the cylinder, and the grips. Suicide: it seems the ideal solution to end his flight into black depression. He marveled that he hadn't thought of it before. No more uncontrollable crying in the middle of the night. No more sensations of worthlessness or the gnawing inside his guts that his life and been a transparent sham" (Chapter 49, pg.271).

The Sicilian Project and Dana were all that he had and all that mattered to him. Now Dana was gone and the Sicilian Project wasn't going the way he had planned. The president had ordered him to leak the information of the project and the CIA told them not to interfere with the two Soviet agents that had impenetrated the project. He felt that the Sicilian Project was dead and he was deciding to die with it. As he is removing the safety on the gun, a police officer walks up. He sits on the bench and begins to talk to Seagram about suicide. As they talk, Seagram learns that the President was on television. One of the things he talked about was the successful salvage of the Titanic. Seagram hands the gun to the police officer. He only needs thirty days to complete the project once he has the byzanium.

In Moscow, Marganin is in the office of Admiral Boris Sloyuk reporting Captain Prelov as a traitor. He produces records of a Swiss bank account in the name of V. Volper, an anagram of Prelov's name. There are regular large deposits made to the account. Sloyuk replies that it looks like a phony situation. Marganin then produces a document of correspondence between the U.S. ambassador and the U.S. Defense Department saying that Prelov has been a vital source of information for them. He talks about Prelov's luxurious life-style and his affair with the wife of the aide to the U.S. ambassador. Sloyuk thought that Prelov was obtaining information from her. She is really a CIA agent.

Marganin and Sloyuk discuss the possibility of Prelov passing the information concerning the Russian plan to deal with the Sicilian Project. Sloyuk tells him that the Titanic was raised three hours earlier. Marganin says they must change their original plans to take the byzanium. Sloyuk tells him that the original plan will stay in effect and that he won't order the arrest of Prelov. He views Marganin as someone trying to backstab his superior.



The Titanic is being prepared for towing to New York. Pitt boarded the ship and raised the red pennant of the White Star Line that was given to him by John Bigalow. Sandecker came aboard to ask for a status report. Gunn tells him that they are trying to correct the list. He finds Pitt and learns that the three men rescued from the Deep Fathom are almost completely recovered and asking to return to duty. They walk around and look at some of the areas of the ship.

Prelov is meeting with Soviet General Secretary Georgi Antonov to discuss their plans for stealing the byzanium. Once the Soviets have the byzanium, the U.S. will no longer be the superpower that it is. If they have to destroy the Titanic to destroy the byzanium, they will. Prelov will be leaving for the North Atlantic. He needs to be on the Mikhail Kurkov within twelve hours.

Dirk finds that the vault where the byzanium is supposed to be is buried by debris. They will not be able to move it to the Capricorn as they had planned. Pitt tells Sandecker that he is close to identifying Silver and Gold. To complicate matters, the list of the ship had increased. The ship is taking on water and in danger of sinking again. There is too much debris for them to access the area and there are no blueprints for the ship. Pitt says it won't sink. They will access the bottom levels of the ship by going through the places where the boiler casings once were. Within two hours they were pumping water out.

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 49-54, pgs. 271-296

Analysis

Seagram is close to committing suicide. The only two things that mattered to him, the Sicilian Project and Dana, are gone. As he is sitting on a park bench with a gun, a police officer sits down and talks with him. He learns that the President has announced the successful raising of the Titanic. Even though he gives up the suicide, this is still evidence of his deteriorating mental condition. He is suffering from the strain of his marital break-up and the strain of his work.

Marganin feels he has built a case against Prelov and takes his evidence to Admiral Boris Sloyuk. He shows him evidence of a Swiss bank account in the name of Volper, an anagram of Prelov with frequent large deposits. There is also correspondence between the U.S. ambassador and the Defense Department saying that Prelov is a vital source of information. Marganin also tells of the affair with the woman from the American embassy who is really a CIA agent. Sloyuk tells him that Prelov is using her for information and also that the Titanic has been successfully raised. Marganin said that the plans for stealing the byzanium have to be changed and Sloyuk tells they will not be changed and that Prelov will not be arrested. Sloyuk views Marganin as someone trying to backstab his superior to advance his own position. Marganin does not know that Prelov will be on the Mikhail Kurkov to carry out the Russian's plans. Marganin's attempts against his superior have failed for the time being.

Dirk and the crew are preparing the ship for towing. They have to correct the list. The entrances to the lower levels are blocked and they can't access the vault where the

byzantium is. To complicate matters, the ship is taking on water. They decide to access the lower levels through the funnels where the boiler casings were and were pumping the water out within two hours.



Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 55-60, pgs. 296-326

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 55-60, pgs. 296-326 Summary

The sea was clearing of vessels due to the hurricane when the hurricane warnings were issued. The hurricane is a powerful one. They also find that the Titanic and rescue fleet are in the hurricane's projected path. They rush to notify NUMA. The salvage team's weatherman was also checking his data and finding that it indicated a powerful hurricane that they were in the path of. He rushes to tell Pitt.

Two Navy salvage tugs arrive and their captains meet with Dirk and the others. They discuss the weather situation. Sandecker tells the tug captains they should get themselves out of the area. They say no and say the sooner they move the Titanic the better the chances are of surviving the storm. They explain how. Dirk says he can't have them risking their lives and the risks of their crew. They reply that they are staying so they all begin to work on their plans.

The Russians are watching the actions around the Titanic from their ship. A small bomber appears and a parachute drops. The Russian ship sends out a small boat to pick-up Captain Prelov and brings him to the boat. The Mikhail Kurkov Captain Ivan Parotkin and Captain Prelov meet.

Pitt is standing on the deck of the Titanic watching the salvage ships begin to leave the area. The nuclear submarine and the Capricorn remained in the area until the tug operations begin. It will take about an hour to hook-up the tow cable. Pitt gathers all of the men who are on the Titanic and tells them they will all to leave with the exception of himself and Giordino. Several of the men say they are staying. Two men aren't enough to handle the problems in the hurricane. The copter pilot tells Pitt that he has to stay because of a broken rotor blade on the helicopter. Someone had thrown a hammer at it.

All of Pitt's men were accounted for on the Titanic when the hammer was thrown at the rotor blades. He tells the pilot that there has to a stowaway. The pilot says the stowaway has to be in the helicopter. They decide to check the helicopter and Dirk pulls a gun. They find the unconscious body of Dana Seagram under the tarpaulin. She has a bleeding bruise below her hairline.

The Soviet ship went dark when the hurricane began. They were watching a radar screen monitoring the ship's progress. Parotkin is not happy about the military operation that his crew is about to get involved in and he makes sure that Prelov knows it. He is told by Prelov that a Soviet nuclear submarine will arrive in the area in a little over an hour. They will be one hundred miles away and will broadcast distress signals to lure the American submarine away from the Titanic. Siler and Gold will take out the tugboats.



Prelov plans to board the Titanic when the eye of the hurricane passes over and his men will eliminate the American crew. The world will think they fled the hurricane. The Russians take over the abandoned ship which they can legally do under international law. If all else fails, they will sink the ship.

The pumping operations are still continuing on the Titanic but they are not keeping up with the incoming water. As the hurricane worsens, they notice a problem with the cable.

The tugboat captain is notified of the problem and they begin to realize the implications of the Titanic being beside them instead of being towed. They order the tugboat engines at full speed.

Inside the Titanic Dirk and the others are ministering to Dana, who regains consciousness and is told that she is on the Titanic. They ask her what happened on the helicopter. She had lost her make-up kit and was looking for it on the helicopter. She found it jammed in between the seats. She thinks that she fainted. In response to their question, she says that she remembers seeing yellowish-cream color cowboy boots before she lost consciousness.

They go to talk to Sandecker. The man who is has a pair of boots like Dana described in Ben Drummer but Drummer was aboard the Titanic and not the ship with the press group. They are interrupted by Woodson who brings them the news that the American Submarine, the Juneau, has picked up a distress signal that they have to respond to.

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 55-60, pgs. 296-326 Analysis

The approaching hurricane is causing problems for the rescue crew. Two Navy tugboats arrive and the captains discuss the situation with Sandecker, Pitt and the others. They decide to stay and begin the towing as soon as possible. All of the men were accounted for at the meeting but a hammer was thrown at the helicopter's rotor blades so it couldn't depart. Dirk suspects a stowaway. They don't know who it was but view it as an act of sabotage, adding to the aura of suspense and intrigue.

Prelov is aboard the Soviet ship. He had parachuted out of a bomber and was picked up by a small boat. As the hurricane begins, he tells Parotkin of the Soviet plan. A Soviet nuclear sub will be one hundred miles away and broadcast distress signals, luring the American sub away from the Titanic. The Soviet agents will take out the tugboat and Prelov and his men will board the ship and eliminate the Americans making it look like the men perished in the hurricane. The Soviets will then tow the abandoned ship. If the plan doesn't work they will sink the Titanic. Either way they will prevent the Americans from obtaining the byzantium, which is their ultimate goal.

As the hurricane intensifies, the crew notices a problem with the cable that keeps angling and going slack. They order the tugboat engines at full speed so the Titanic doesn't ram them. Inside, Dana has regained consciousness and explains how she



went back to the helicopter to look for her missing make-up case. The last thing she remembers seeing before she lost consciousness was a pair of cream-yellow colored boots. Drummer has a pair of boots that fit that description, but he was on the Titanic at the time. As they are discussing this, they are told that the Juneau has to respond to a distress signal.

The Soviet operation is beginning. Each side has anticipated some of the actions of the other side.



Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 61-67, pgs. 327-366

Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 61-67, pgs. 327-366 Summary

A meeting is taking place in the Pentagon office of Admiral Joseph Kemper. In addition to Kemper, Gene Seagram, Mel Donner and Warren Nicholson were there. A phone call notifies them that the President and his Kremlin security adviser, Marshall Collins, have arrived. They are discussing the hurricane and the distress call that the Juneau went off to answer. An aide comes in with a message from the Capricorn reporting Dana's disappearance. Another message tells them that one of the towing cables has snapped and that the Titanic.

In the North Atlantic, the crew of the tugboat, Wallace, is trying to figure out how the cable could have snapped. They discover that the cable has been cut with an acetylene torch. On the Titanic, Dirk checks the helicopter for the life raft, after the cable snapped. It is gone. Dirk is knocked unconscious by a wave.

In the engine and boiler rooms, the Russian boarding party overtakes the pumping crew. The Russians then went topside. Dana's screams alerted the crewed to trouble. The crew realized that they were helped against the highly trained Russians. Prelov walks in and Sandecker demands to know who he is. "My name is of no consequence," Prelov replied. 'The answer to your other question is obvious. I am taking over this ship in the name of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics'" (Chapter 63, pg. 334). Prelov tells Sandecker that Pitt in the helicopter when it went overboard.

At the Pentagon, Admiral Kemper is telling the President not to worry. They will have an aircraft carrier in the search area and will send out planes at first light. The group has had no news of the Titanic or the tugboats. The President says that in the worst case scenario, they write off Pitt, Sandecker and the others and the Sicilian Project.

Dirk Pitt regained consciousness on the Titanic; he was not on the helicopter as Prelov had assumed. The cargo door was jammed so he had to go through the control-cabin hatch. He found the helicopter which also hadn't gone overboard. Pitt continues to make his way around the ship through the dark. He sees the running lights of another boat. In the lightening, he recognized the Soviet ship Mikhail Kurkov.

The Russians have the crew in the first-class dining saloon. Prelov, in an attempt to force the crew to follow his orders, tells Dana to remove her clothing. Sandecker told her not to do it, but she did so in a manner to taunt the Russian. The men of the crew turned away, but Prelov ordered them to look at Dana who defiantly tells the men not to be bashful. They have all seen a woman's body before. Prelov tells her he considers her



behavior an indication of Western decadence. Dana taunted him right back with her opinion of Communists.

Prelov sees the crew tensing, and says something in Russian. He orders one of his men to cut off Dana's left breast. Sandecker says they will have to kill him first and has a gun muzzle shoved into his kidney. Dana feels a hand on her shoulder that pushes her away. It is Pitt. The Russians search Pitt and find no weapons. Prelov says that he has read Pitt's dossier. When Pitt addresses him as Andre Prelov he tells him that he has read Prelov's dossier also. Prelov says that Pitt knows nothing but his name and orders one of his men back to Dana with the knife. Pitt then mentions a couple of bumblers known as Silver and Gold.

Prelov tells Pitt he has five minutes in which to prove his point so Pitt begins to tell him a story about two Canadian engineers who found that there was money to be made in espionage. They sent their information via an underwater pinger, which is what they were picking up on their sonar but dismissing as random noise. Nobody was suspicious until Henry Munk's death. Munk had walked in on the pinger transmitter and was killed. Pitt found the pinger hidden in Munk's locker. By alternative the work schedule on the submersible, Pitt was able to pinpoint Munk's killer through the pinger transmission. He identifies Ben Drummer as Munk's murderer.

It was Drummer who drilled holes in the ship to delay the towing operations so the ship would be in the eye of the hurricane which was the only time the Russians could have boarded. If he hadn't, they would have missed the eye by thirty miles. Drummer admits that his codename is Gold. Pitt says his brother is codenamed Silver and was on the Deep Fathom. His brother is Sam Merker, the man who killed Woodson when the Russians boarded. He was the stowaway on the helicopter and was wearing his brother's boots. They are interrupted by the sound of a muffled machine gun blast. Prelov has heard enough and now wants the men to resume the pumping operations and seal the leaks so the ship is ready for the Mikhail Kurkov to tow.

Prelov says that his man will begin shooting Dana in the limbs as he counts if Sandecker doesn't have them follow his orders. Pitt tells him that they knew of the Russian plans and that the Russian will die on the count of four before he can shoot Dana. On the count of four there is a gun blast that catches the Russian in the head. Pitt throws Dana to the ground and the others all follow. The Russians began firing into the darkness. There was no return fire to indicate to the Russians where the shooter was. Prelov knew they had walked into a trap. The only name he could think of was Marganin.

There were ten heavily armed U.S. Navy SEALs on board. Pitt introduces the SEAL leader to Sandecker. They announce that the ship is secure. The SEALs had come from underwater through the torpedo tubes of a nuclear submarine. Pitt had helped them aboard while the crew was waiting for him. As they talk of the events, Pitt tells them about the byzantium and the defense system that could be based on it. Prelov tells them the ship will be destroyed by morning so they'll never get the byzantium. He is told to stop dreaming of the Cossacks rushing to the rescue.



Part 4 The Titanic, Chapters 61-67, pgs. 327-366 Analysis

The President, his Kremlin specialist, Donner, Seagram and Nicholson are meeting in Admiral Kemper's Pentagon office. They receive the report of the Juneau departing to answer a distress call. They also find out that Dana is missing and that the cable on the Wallace has snapped. They are monitoring the Soviet operation in progress and are anxiously awaiting information.

The crew of the Wallace finds that the snapped cable has been cut with an acetylene torch. On the Titanic, Dirk looks for the life raft in the helicopter and finds that it is missing, before he is knocked unconscious by a wave. When he regains consciousness and finds his way through the ship, he finds the Russian boarding party holding the crew and walks in just as they are about to cut off Dana's left breast. Sandecker won't order the men to repair the leaks and pump the water to prepare the ship for towing by the Russians. Pitt and Prelov identify each other. One of the Russians is killed right before he is about to shoot Dana. Prelov knows he has walked into a trap and is blaming Marganin.

Pitt explains how he knew who the Russian agents are and what their plan was. There are ten U.S. Navy SEALs on board that were waiting for the Russians. The Americans had obtained information from their sources and had anticipated the actions of the Russians. If they hadn't, they wouldn't have survived.



Part 5 Southby, Chapters 68-73, pgs. 369-393

Part 5 Southby, Chapters 68-73, pgs. 369-393 Summary

Hurricane Amada was the worst hurricane in many years. The storm doubled back on Newfoundland causing a great deal of damage and caused more than three hundred deaths. At the NUMA Hurricane Center, Dr. Ryan Prescott had spent three days tracking the hurricane and now that it was over, the clean-up crew was at work. He wondered what happened to the Titanic and salvage crews. He hadn't heard any reports from NUMA in more than twenty-four hours.

The Titanic survived the night in the North Atlantic. The ocean was still churning from the hurricane. Captain Parotkin could see the ship through his binoculars but not the crew and the Navy SEALs that were working to keep her afloat. She was twenty feet lower in the water. The Russians haven't heard from Captain Prelov and are assuming that his mission failed. "There is no time left. American search planes will be here within the hour.' Parotkin pounded his fist in frustration on the bridge counter. 'Damn Prelov!' he muttered angrily. 'Let us fervently hope our final option will not be required'; his exact words. He is the fortunate one. He may even be dead, and it is I who must take the responsibility for destroying the Titanic and all who remain on board her" (Chapter 69, pg. 373).

Captain Parotkin is not happy about the orders to destroy the ship rather than allow it to remain with the Americans. But he must follow orders and he gives the command to have the nuclear Stoski missile prepared. Half an hour later the Russian ship is in position. They know that there are eight planes and two tugboats headed for the Titanic. He orders the beginning of the countdown for the launch knowing that he will be remembered in history as the captain who sunk a helpless salvaged ship to the bottom. Thirty seconds from launch they receive a message from the U.S. nuclear sub telling them that an aggressive action will result in an immediate attack. Parotkin stops the countdown at three seconds. They know they have disobeyed orders but they think the Soviet command will understand. The Mikhail Kurkov turns and heads for its own port.

On board the Titanic Spencer tells Pitt that they can't keep up with the rising water. Pitt says they have to hold on until the tugs arrive and then they can use their pumps. They don't have enough fuel to keep their own pumps operational. The planes are circling overhead but they have no functional radios on the Titanic to communicate with. The imaginative Pitt picks up a hammer and begins pounding. The U.S. submarine picks up a strange sounding SOS code. They raise their periscope and see a woman on deck waving a brassiere. The sub surfaces and delivers the badly needed fuel to the Titanic.



The group in Admiral Kemper's office receives a message from the submarine, Dragonfish, that they have sent fuel and a boarding party aboard the Titanic. They also report that Dana Seagram is aboard. Donner wakes Gene Seagram to tell him the news about Dana. Most of the group has been in the Pentagon office since the operation began. The message from Sandecker indicates that the Russian boarding party was negated and that Silver and Gold have been identified. He also talks of a present for Nicholson that they figure must be Andre Prelov. The admiral makes the arrangements for Nicholson to travel to the Titanic, at his request.

Dana has had time to do a lot of thinking. She has decided that she can never go back to the way she was two days ago and that she will divorce Gene. Dirk Pitt joins her on deck. They have had an affair.

Warren Nicholson arrives on the Titanic. He introduces himself to Prelov and says that he has come to escort him to the United States. Nicholson offers him the chance to defect. He tells him that Marganin's real name is Harry Koskoski and he was born in New Jersey. He replaced the real Marganin who survived a Russian naval accident and died soon after being rescued. He appeared off the Russian coast suffering from amnesia. The Russians re-educated him with the details of Marganin's life. Nicholson goes on to tell him that Marganin is branding him a traitor with planted evidence and claiming that Prelov intended for the mission to fail. The KGB will kill Prelov when he is released. The other alternative is for him to cooperate with the CIA. They will alter his appearance, educate him in English and American ways and provide him with a good paying job that will allow him to maintain his life style. Prelov accepts the offer.

Part 5 Southby, Chapters 68-73, pgs. 369-393 Analysis

The Russians come very close to attacking the Titanic with a Stoski nuclear missile, which were the orders given to the Mikhail Kurkov. They haven't heard from Prelov and assume their mission failed. Parotkin is unhappy about his orders, but begins the countdown to the launch. During the launch countdown they receive a message from the U.S. nuclear submarine that they will be attacked if there is any aggressive act. Parotkin stops the countdown and orders the Russian ship to sail for home. He has disobeyed his orders, but he feels that he can explain his actions to the Soviet command.

The Titanic is taking on water and their pumps can't keep up with it. They are also running out of fuel to power the pumps. They have tried signaling the circling aircraft but have no way to communicate with a functioning radio. Pitt pounds out an SOS signal on board the ship that is picked up by a submerged American sub. The sub surfaces and transfers fuel to the ship.

Dana has made the decision to divorce Gene sensing that she has no future with him. She has had a lot of time to think while on board and decides that she cannot be the same person that she was when she was with Gene.



Nicholson flies out the to Titanic and confronts Prelov. They tell him that Marganin is an American agent and that Prelov has been set up as a traitor. Prelov is a man with few choices given the set up. He can cooperate with the Americans or he can be killed by the KGB when the Americans free him. The CIA will alter his features with plastic surgery, educate him in English and American ways and give him a good paying job to support his life style. Prelov has no choice but to accept the American's offer. This again is the Cold War mentality that prevails throughout the novel.



Part 5 Southby, Chapters 74-82, pgs. 394-435

Part 5 Southby, Chapters 74-82, pgs. 394-435 Summary

The Titanic was on the final leg of its journey to New York. There was a lot of air and marine activity around the boat, the closer to New York it went. Thousands of people were watching as the Titanic was towed under the Verrazano Bridge on its way to the old Brooklyn Naval Yards. The New York City fireboats sprayed their hoses in honor of the Titanic's arrival. The fireboats all rang their whistles and the cars on shore sounded their horns and the Titanic reached port.

Pitt takes a cab to the Pierre Hotel where he tries to check-in under an assumed name. A voice behind him tells the clerk to give him their best suite and gives the clerk the information for charging the expenses. The man was Gene Seagram. Once in the suite, Seagram tells Pitt that it will be forty eight hours before the Titanic is in dry-dock and they can begin to clear the debris blocking the byzanium. Seagram then says he wants to talk about Dana.

Dana has refused to see Gene. She says it is over between them. Pitt suggests that Gene forget her, but Gene says he loves her. As they talk, Gene screams at the image of Joshua Hayes Brewster. He smashes the mirror and runs from the room.

Dana is back at Marie's Georgetown house. Dana wants to go out but Marie tells her to start acting like a woman with responsibilities. Dana can't tell Marie the truth of what happened on board the Titanic so Marie only knows the reported version of the story. Marie tells her that she and Mel Donner are going to get married. She is pregnant. They are both beginning new lifestyles.

The President has a meeting with John Burdick, the Senate Majority Leader. Senator Burdick wants to know why the President has been vetoing so many spending bills. The President talks about the national debt. The Senator tells him that he had a team of investigators trace the funding for the Titanic project to Meta Section which then led to the President. The Senator wants one of his spending bills passed. They are interrupted by a secretary who says Dana Seagram wants to see the President. He says he'll have dinner with her aboard the Presidential yacht. The Senator promises the President a scandal over the funding of Meta Section. The President tells him what Meta Section and the Titanic project are all about and the Senator shreds his records.

Pitt goes to see the Titanic for one last look. They are going to open the vault. It takes them a while, but they finally pry the vault door off. Pitt is the first one to enter. They find ten wooden boxes and the remains of a man who Pitt figures is Joshua Hays Brewster. Seagram and Donner are also there. Pitt tells them that he was warned by John



Bigalow. They examine the contents of the boxes and find they don't have the byzanium.

Seagram breaks completely and begin bashing the body of Brewster.

Donner meets Sandecker in a hotel dining room. Donner tells him that he has been served with a subpoena to appear before a Congressional committee and that they are going to serve Sandecker. Donner tells Sandecker that the President told them to be truthful. They don't need a bunch of conflicting lies on top of everything else. They don't know where Pitt is. All they know is that he has gone to look for Southby.

Pitt is in England trying to follow the path that Brewster and his crew took. He finds two of the Coloradans are buried in a local Glasgow cemetery. The same was true for three others. Alvin Coulter and Vernon Hall were the ones he could find no trace of. As he is driving he decides to stop in a small town to eat. He sees something that makes him slam on the brakes. He looked at a small sign and suddenly the whole mystery became clear.

Marganin is sitting on a park bench, waiting for his contact to arrive. The man arrives and congratulates Marganin on his promotion. He now has Prelov's position. He tells Marganin that one of his men will slip an envelope into his pocket that will have the details of U.S. Navy chief of Staff's meeting with his fleet commanders. The material will be confirmed by a KGB agent who has been slipped the same material. This is their last contact. Marganin's new contact will be the orderly who cleans the barracks where he lives.

Sandecker arrives by helicopter to meet Pitt in the little village. He is accompanied by Sid Koplín. Pitt greets Sandecker by welcoming him to Southby. Donner introduces Koplín to Pitt who thanks him for saving his life in Novaya Zemlya. The President had to call the Prime Minister to obtain permission for them to dig up the graveyard. Southby was mentioned in Brewster's journal and it was also mentioned by Bigalow who said the man in the vault mentioned the place. They walk to Vernon Hall's burial vault. The men begin to dig.

Their equipment begins to register radioactivity. They notice a difference in the composition of the soil that is over the gravesite. It doesn't match the soil that is around the gravesite. The soil over the grave site is rocky. It is the byzanium they have been looking for.

The body of Commodore John L. Bigalow is buried at sea.

In the depths of the Pacific Ocean, a submarine launches four missiles. Thirty-two minutes later they blue up. "The Sicilian Project had proven itself an unqualified success on its first try" (Reckoning, pg. 425).



Part 5 Southby, Chapters 74-82, pgs. 394-435 Analysis

The Titanic arrives safely at the old Brooklyn Navy Yards, among much fanfare. Thousands of people turn out to greet the arriving ship.

Gene Seagram's mental strain is showing. He follows Pitt to the Pierre Hotel to talk about Dana. He loves Dana and wants her back. Pitt tells him to forget Dana and begin to live his own life. Gene sees the image of Joshua Hayes Brewster and screams. He smashes the mirror and runs from the room screaming. Later, after they open the vault on the Titanic and there is no byzanium found, he begins beating the corpse of Joshua Hayes Brewster. Seagram's mental collapse and breakdown is complete.

Sandecker finds that Donner has been subpoenaed and that he also will be subpoenaed by a Congressional investigation into the details of the Titanic. Pitt will also be subpoenaed. Sandecker doesn't know where he is, just that he went to find Southby. Pitt followed the last clue that he had obtained by Bigalow that the man in the vault had mentioned Southby. Pitt found a partially hidden sign that led him to the graveyard and the byzanium. Pitt is a good investigator who has a lot of good luck, like finding the partially hidden sign.



Characters

Dirk Pitt

Dirk Pitt is the main character and hero of the novel. He is a scientist for NUMA and is the Special Projects Director. Pitt is also the son of a powerful Senator. Dirk is the man who went ashore at Novaya Zemlya to rescue Sid Koplín when he didn't show up at the rendezvous. He shot the Russian guard and the dog, destroyed Koplín's sloop and brought the injured man to safety.

Pitt is asked by Seagram to head the operation to salvage the Titanic. He will work with Giordino who he has known since high school and others who he has worked with before. Pitt is the person who always has the imaginative idea that saves a hopeless situation. Pitt not only heads the salvage effort, he also does a great deal of the investigative work. He identifies the Russian agents Silver and Gold in the operation. It is Pitt who interviews John Bigalow and learns of the man who locked himself in the vault.

Pitt returns to the British Isles at the end of the book to locate Southby. He didn't know what he was looking for so he followed the path of the Coloradans and located their graves. That is how he learned the secret of Southby.

Gene Seagram

Gene Seagram is a chief evaluator for the Meta Section. As such, he is one of the few people that has access to the President on a 24/7 basis. Seagram has a PhD in physics and is married to Dana. Their marriage is suffering because of their jobs. He, along with Donner, investigates the information provided by Sid Koplín. When the information indicates that the byzantium is aboard the sunken Titanic, he is sent to ask Dirk Pitt to head the salvage operation.

Seagram is involved in tracking down the information provided by Koplín, the American who was sent to investigate the Russian mine. This information leads them to believe that the missing byzantium sunk with the Titanic. He is involved in putting together the salvage team and watches the operation in a Pentagon office with others of the group.

Gene's marriage to Dana has fallen apart. They separate and while she is aboard the Titanic she decides she wants a divorce. Other people begin to notice the change in Seagram and in the end he suffers a nervous breakdown.

John L. Bigalow

Bigalow was a crew member on the sinking ship. As the ship was sinking, a passenger forced him at gunpoint to lead him to the ship's vault. The passenger, claiming to have



killed eight men, locked himself in the vault and went down with the ship. Bigalow made it to the top and was dragged into a lifeboat and rescued. He spent the next seventy-six years wondering about the passenger and the men that he claims to have killed.

Bigalow is located by NUMA and Dirk Pitt is sent to England to interview him. Bigalow gives Pitt some information he never told anyone before about the strange man who locked himself in the vault, rather than try to save himself.

Dana Seagram

Dana Seagram is the wife of Gene Seagram. She has a PhD in archaeology and works for Admiral Sandecker at the Maritime Museum. She is watching her marriage fail due to the professional obligations that both she and her husband face. She wants them both to quit their jobs and return to teaching. She handles the NUMA press operations when the salvage operations begin and is at the salvage site with a group of press correspondents when the Titanic is raised. Dana is found injured and unconscious in the sabotaged helicopter on the Titanic. She makes the decision to divorce Gene which contributes to his mental collapse.

Sid Koplín

Sid Koplín is a forty-year old professor of mineralogy and a trained secret agent. He is sent into Bednaya Mountain by Meta Section and is detected by a Soviet patrol and shot. According to his deal with Meta Section he cannot be taken alive or allow his body to be found. As the Russian soldier is dragging him to his command post, the dog and soldier are shot by Dirk Pitt, who rescues Koplín. Koplín is brought to Walter Reed Hospital to recover from his injuries. He tells Donner and Seagram the story of what happened in Russia and that he found an old abandoned mine that had mining equipment manufactured in the United States. There was also an old Denver newspaper and a body. This was enough for Donner and Seagram to begin to track down information. In the end, it is Koplín who identifies the byzanium at the gravesite.

Captain Andre Prelov

Captain Andre Prelov is a Russian intelligence officer who holds a high position in the Soviet Navy's Department of Foreign Intelligence. He lives in a plush apartment on the Moscow River and has a penchant for Italian sports cars, much to the chagrin of his superiors. His father was a high ranking Party official which tended to protect Prelov's position. His aid, Marganin, reports him as a traitor but is not believed. He is in charge of the operation to prevent the Americans from obtaining the byzanium and arrives by parachute just as the towing begins. Prelov is captured by the Americans and agrees to work for them in the end. His other choice was eventually being released and shot by the KGB.



The President

The President is the President of the United States. He is in his early fifties and is divorced. Now he is serving his last term and then plans to spend his time on a forty foot ketch in the South Pacific. One of his projects is from the Meta Section, which is a group of scientists that perform super secret projects. This is where the secret funding for the salvage operations went through. The Meta Section answers directly to the President.

Rudi Gunn

Rudi Gunn was the commander of the Sappho I mission. He has been the captain of every ship in the NUMA fleet. He was on the Sappho I when the cornet was found and was in Sandecker's office for the meeting with the head of the music museum. He is also present at the strategy meeting with Pitt and Sandecker where they decide how to begin the salvage operation. Rudi is there for every step of the operation.

Admiral Joseph Kemper

Admiral Joseph Kemper is the navy's Chief of Staff. He is cruising on the Rappahannock River with Seagram and Sandecker when he is told about Meta Section and the Sicilian Project. He promises them the use of the salvage ship Modoc and a crew. When the suspense during the hurricane begins, the group, including the President, gather in Kemper's Pentagon office to monitor the situation.

Admiral James Sandecker

Admiral James Sandecker is Dana's boss and Dirk Pitt's boss and the director of NUMA. He is the one who orders Dirk Pitt to England to interview John Bigalow. Sandecker is also on one of the salvage fleet ships when the Titanic is raised and is aboard the Titanic during the intrigue during the hurricane.

Lieutenant Pavel Margain

Lieutenant Pavel Margain is an aide to Captain Prelov at Soviet intelligence. He is really a American agent that has impenetrated Soviet intelligence. He and his American contact set up Prelov so he appears as a traitor. After Prelov's capture, he is promoted to Prelov's position.

Mel Donner

Mel Donner is a chief evaluator for the Meta Section. As such, he is one of the few people that has access to the President on a 24/7 basis. He is one of the people that



investigate the mine in Russia and the story from Sid Koplin. He meets Dana's roommate and they decide to marry.

Harry Young

Harry Young is the nephew of Joshua Hayes Brewster who reopened the Little Angel Mine. There was a cave-in, and the nine men were killed. Young's has researched the incident and felt that it was a cover-up. He believes that the men left the country and that the French Societe des Mines de Lorraine was behind the cover-up.



Objects/Places

Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. is the where the White House is located and where the Meta Section is being run from.

Novaya Zemlya

Novaya Zemlya is the area of the Soviet Union where the byzanium deposits are located.

Moscow, Russia

Moscow is where the home of Captain Andre Prelov and Soviet intelligence is located.

Denver, Colorado

Denver is the capital of the Western state of Colorado where Donner flies to check out the information obtained from Koplín.

Little Angel Mine

The Little Angel Mine in Central City, Colorado was the site of a mining disaster on November 17, 1911 in which nine men were supposedly killed. No bodies were ever found.

California

California is where Jake Hobart's widow is visited by Seagram and it is also where Dirk Pitt appears and introduces himself to Seagram.

The Sappho I

The Sappho I is a NUMA submersible vessel that can hold seven men and two tons of equipment.



North Atlantic

The northern part of the Atlantic around Newfoundland is where the Sappho spent two months on an underwater mission.

Alexandria, Virginia

Alexandria, Virginia is a suburb of Washington D.C. and the site of the Alexandria College of Oceanography.

England

England is the European country where Dirk Pitt goes when he is on leave from the salvage operation.

Arlington, Virginia

Arlington, Virginia is where the Pentagon is located. Admiral Joseph Kemper's office is located in the Pentagon.



Themes

Intrigue and Suspense

The novel has a theme of intrigue and suspense from cover to cover. It begins in the opening pages when the Titanic is sinking and an unnamed passenger locks himself in the vault instead of trying to save himself. He tells a crew member that he has killed eight men and can't live with the guilt. As he closed the vault door, he mentions Southby. This sets the stage for the intrigue and suspense that follows.

The intrigue follows through Koplín's mission in Novaya Zemlya and Donner and Seagram tracking down the clues that Koplín provided them with. Where is the missing byzanium? They are led to believe that it sunk with the Titanic and this is what leads to the salvage operation. Byzanium is the only element that will work in a secret defense project called Project Sicilian.

The Russians learn of the project and the missing byzanium and are determined to keep the Americans from obtaining the element. The tension mounts during the hurricane as the Russians board the Titanic and are defeated. The ship is towed to the old Brooklyn Navy Shipyards and it is discovered that there is no byzanium in the hold, only worthless gravel. Where is the missing byzanium? Pitt travels to England to find Southby and they find the missing byzanium.

Throughout the novel, the reader feels the tension mounting. In the beginning, the reader is curious about what the different events are. As the events are tied together, the tension mounts. The reader wonders who the spies are and what their plans are. The tension is at one of the highest levels during the Russian boarding party scenes on the ship. The reader has no way of knowing about the Navy SEALs that are on board so the tension mounts.

Cold War Mentality

Another theme recurring throughout the book is the cold war mentality of the Soviet era. At this time the Soviet Union is more or less closed to foreigners. The ore was mined and removed during the days of the czar but its existence and strategic importance wasn't known until more than seventy years later. At first, the Russians have no knowledge of the ore, but they find out that they have been impentrated when a Russian soldier is missing.

Cold war style espionage comes into play when the Russians learn of Project Sicilian. There is an American agent in Moscow named Marganin who is the aide to Captain Andre Prelov who leads the Russian effort to recover the byzanium. The Americans plant information and set-up Prelov to look like a traitor.



The Russians board the Titanic during the eye of the hurricane. The Americans had anticipated this and had Navy SEALs aboard to handle the situation. Prelov is captured by the Americans. A message from an American nuclear submarine to the Mikhail Kurkov prevents the launching of a Soviet nuclear missile intended to sink the Titanic. Prelov, who will be killed by the KGB when he is released, agrees to work for the Americans.

The whole Cold War mentality of paranoia is evident in the book. The Americans don't trust the Russians, and the Russians don't trust the Americans. Each side is building its weapons arsenal fearing the strength of the other side. The results were secret operations and espionage.

Relationship Between Gene and Dana Seagram

A third recurring theme is the relationship between Dana and Gene Seagram. Gene is a physicist who is the chief evaluator for the super secret Meta Section. Dana is an archaeologist for NUMA. They had had a good marriage while they were both teaching at a university. When they moved to Washington D.C., they both have professional duties and obligations that cause them to drift apart. They eventually separate and Dana moves into the house of a colleague in Georgetown.

Throughout the novel, Dana becomes more independent and assured of herself. She objects to being seen only as the wife of Gene. The President, Donner and even her roommate Marie tried to talk her into returning to her husband. She feels that no one is considerate of her own emotions. After the events on the Titanic she decides to divorce Gene and won't see him when she returns.

Gene's mental condition is deteriorating throughout the novel. He has only two things that matter to him: his wife and the Sicilian Project. Dana walks out on him and it looks to him like the Sicilian Project has failed. A police officer finds him sitting on a park bench with a gun, contemplating suicide until he learns of a Presidential news conference at which the successful raising of the Titanic was announced. When he is in Dirk's hotel suite, he sees the face of Joshua Hayes Brewster and smashes a mirror and runs out of the room screaming. When the vault of the Titanic is opened and they find there is no byzantium, he starts beating the body of Brewster that was found in the vault. He has a nervous breakdown.

Style

Point of View

The book is written in the third person point of view. This allows the reader to learn more information than the reader could if there was a first person narrator. The use of the first person restricts the reader to events that occur in the presence of the narrator. The use of the third person avoids this problem. The reader gets to know all of the characters and their viewpoints. The reader can see the action that takes place outside of the presence of the narrator.

The author Clive Cussler is well qualified to write a book of this nature. He grew up in California and served in the Air Force during the Korean war. There are many parallels between him and his main character, Dirk Pitt. He has authored many books having to do with undersea adventures.

The intended audience for this novel is anyone who likes a good book. This one is filled with suspense and intrigue and will hold the reader's interest from beginning to end.

Setting

There are various settings for the action of the novel. Much of the action takes place in the Washington D.C. area. This is where the meetings are held and where the Seagrams, Donner, the President, Kemper and the others are based. This is where Meta Section is directed from and where the crucial part of the salvage operation is being monitored from.

The salvage operation obviously takes place in the North Atlantic where the sunken ship lies. There are various ships that go to the area and a great deal of the action takes place undersea with the salvage crew using submersibles.

Other scenes of action are in the Soviet Union. The ore was originally found and removed from Bednaya Mountain in Novaya Zemlya. It is the clues obtained from the concealed mine that led to the search for the missing byzantium. There are also scenes in Moscow where Prelov and Margannin live.

Colorado is where the clues obtained by Koplín lead Donner and Seagram. They learn of the mine disaster at the Little Angel mine in Central City and find it to be a cover-up for the Coloradans who went to Novaya Zemlya to remove the byzantium.

There are also scenes in California and The British Isles. Pitt visits Bigelow in England and at the end tracks Southby and finds the missing ore.



Language and Meaning

The novel is written in easy to understand and follow everyday English. Whenever there are any technical terms, they are explained in a way that the reader can understand. The reader does not have to have any technical knowledge to follow the novel. The reader is given the information that he needs to follow the action of the novel without affecting the suspense of the novel.

The style of writing makes the novel quick and easy to read. The fact that it is full of intrigue and suspense makes it hard for the reader to put the novel down. There are no broken English, foreign language terms or jargon in the novel that slow the reader down. Cussler will indicate that a character like Prelov is speaking with an accent rather than present the dialogue as broken English or accented English. This makes it easier for the reader to identify with the various characters.

Structure

The novel has a simple structure. There are five parts to the book and eighty-two chapters. Many of the chapters are short, sometimes only a page or two. The different parts divide the novel according to the events as they occur. They are more or less chronological in order without much skipping around on the basis of time. Each covers the events of a particular scenario.

There are several map illustrations in the book. This helps the reader to understand the location of the events. The inclusion of these diagrams makes the action more realistic for the reader.

The structure works well for the book and adds to the intrigue and the suspense of the novel. The reader does not have to skip around trying to find out where places are or what happened when, if paying attention when reading. It is easy to identify the main characters, but some of the action of the sea involves many characters who appear only briefly, and it is sometime hard to keep track of them. The novel is well written.



Quotes

"The physical grind and the mental torment of the last five months had exhausted him to the ragged edge of madness. During his waking hours, he found his mind wandering down vacant channels, losing all track of time and reality. He had to remind himself continually where he was and what day it was. He was going mad, slowly but irrevocably mad, and the worst part of it was that he knew he was going mad." (Prelude, pg. 1)

"Meta Section was the President's own brainchild. He had conceived it during his first year in office, connived and manipulated the unlimited secret funding, and personally recruited the small group of brilliant and dedicated men who comprised its core. He took great unadvertised pride in it. Even the CIA and the National Security Agency knew nothing of its existence. It had always been his dream to back a team of men who could devote their skills and talents to impossible schemes, fantasy schemes with one chance in a million for success. The fact that Meta Section was still batting zero five years after its inception bothered his conscience not at all." (Chapter 1, pg. 15)

"Prelov looked up from a file and gave Marganin a cool, disdainful stare. 'Like so many of our comrades, you are ignorant of the world at large. I think like an American, I drink like an Englishman, I drive like an Italian, and I live like a Frenchman. And do you know why, Lieutenant?'

Marganin flushed and mumbled nervously. 'No, sir.'

'To know the enemy, Marganin. The key is to know your enemy better than he knows you, better than he knows himself. Then do unto him before he has a chance to do unto you.'" (Chapter 3, pg. 28)

"'You're only half right, Gene.' Koplín said. 'The logic, I fear, remains an enigma; but the method was brilliantly executed by professionals - Coloradans.' The word came slowly, almost reverently. 'They were the men who excavated the Bednaya Mountain mine. The muckers, the blasters, the jiggers, the drillers, the Cornishmen, the Irishmen, Germans, and the Swedes. Not Russians, but men who emigrated to the United States and became the legendary hard-rock miners of the Colorado Rockies. How they came to be on the icy slopes of Bednaya Mountain is anybody's guess, but these were the men who came and mined the byzantium and then vanished into the obscurity of the Arctic.'" (Chapter 9, pg. 55)

"Young gestured helplessly. 'I don't know.' He leaned forward and his eyes seemed to burn. 'But I do know that whatever the price, whatever the influence, it took my uncle and his eight-man crew to some unnamed hell outside the country.'" (Chapter 14, pg 85)

"'I know what was printed in the newspapers, Mr. Seagram, but Jake never set foot in the Little Angel mine, nor did the rest of the crew.'" (Chapter 15, pg. 93)



"'You were far too confident,' Seagram said testily. 'You dated to meddle in something that didn't concern you. You flaunted Russian vigilance by taking a grave risk without authority. And, you cold-bloodedly murdered a man and his animal. If we were all like you, Mr. Pitt, this would be a sorry nation indeed.'" (Chapter 16, pg. 100)

"'And since it cost fifty thousand dollars to process one gram of radium,' Donner added, 'the French government suddenly saw a chance to corner the world's only known supply of a fantastically expensive element. Given enough time, they could have realized hundreds of millions of dollars on a few pounds of byzanium.'" (Chapter 22, pg. 118)

"Giordano turned to Gunn, gave him a long look, and spoke slowly: 'This has been one hell of a weird mission, Rudi.'

'I don't get your meaning,' Gunn said.

'A poorly cast drama is what I mean. Take a good look at your crew.'" (Chapter 23, pg. 133)

"Pitt regarded Seagram grimly. 'The question still stands. Why me?'

'Not a selection that excites me, I assure you,' Seagram said. 'However, since the National Underwater and Marine Agency is the nation's largest acknowledged authority on oceanographic science, and since the leading experts on deepwater salvage are members of their staff, and since you are the agency's Special Projects Director, you were elected.'" (Chapter 25, pgs. 146-147)

"'We go beyond the ordinary think tank,' Seagram said. 'Our people devise futuristic concepts and then attempt to construct them into successful functioning systems.'" (Chapter 28, pgs. 163-164)

"Giordino knew well the facts of the situation. If the unthinkable happened, an accident at twelve thousand feet, there would be no hope of rescue. A quick death would be the only prayer against the appalling suffering of slow asphyxiation. He found himself actually amused at wishing he was back on board the Sappho I, enjoying the uncramped comfort of open space and the security of her eight-week life-support system. He sat back and watched the water darken as the Sea Slug buried her hull in the depths, his thoughts drifting to the enigmatic man who was piloting the craft." (Chapter 36, pg. 196)

"'Why not. You undoubtedly sold Comrade Antonov on the fact that it was your genius that arrived at the purpose of the Sicilian Project and the Titanic salvage operation, when in reality, it was my source who passed along the information. And you also most likely told them about your wonderful plan to wrest the byzanium from the Americans' hands. Again, stolen from me. In short, Prelov, you are nothing but an untalented thief.'" (Chapter 37, pg. 211)

"Pitt's mind was whirling. Only one thought broke away and uncoiled. Not a thought broke away and uncoiled. Not a thought really, rather an unreasoning certainty that



something would point an accusing finger toward Munk's murderer. He figured it would take him an hour or more, but the fates were kind. He found what he knew he must find within the first ten minutes." (Chapter 41, pg. 231)

"Then I'm going to give you another story to try on for size,' Bigalow said. 'Until now I never told a soul about my last minutes before the ship went down. I never mentioned a word in any of my interrogations about the sinking; not to the United States Senate inquiry or to the British Court of Inquiry. Nor, did I ever breathe a syllable to the newspaper reporters or writers who were forever researching books on the tragedy. You, sir, are the first and will be the last to hear it from my lips.'" (Chapter 44, pg. 245)

"Pitt smiled a disarming smile. 'The last desperate roll of the dice, Drummer. You people failed, and failed miserably. You may be God's gift to the world of marine salvage, but as a rescue force, you come off like a bunch of amateurs. Bad luck compounded your mistakes, and now you sit around whining that all is lost. Well all is not lost, gentlemen. We're going to change the rules of the game and put the Deep Fathom on the surface before the six-hour deadline, which, if my watch serves me, is now down to five hours and forty-three minutes.'" (Chapter 46, pgs. 252-253)

"At that very moment, a huge wave of bubbles spread across the sea and the fantail of the Titanic burst up into the afternoon sun like a gigantic whale. For a few seconds it seemed as though there was no stopping her soaring flight from the depths - her stern kept crowding into the sky until she came free of the water up to the boiler casing, where her No. 2 funnel had once stood. It was a staggering sight; the inside air bleeding down sent great torrents of spray shooting through the pressure-relief valves, shrouding the great ship in billowing rainbowed clouds of vapor. She hung poised for several moments, clawing at the crystal blue heavens, and then, slowly at first, began to settle until her keel smacked the sea with a tremendous splash that sent a ten-foot wave surging toward the surrounding fleet of ships. She heeled down as if she had no intentions of recovering.'" (Chapter 48, pgs.267-268)

"That's mutiny,' Sandecker said flatly; but there was no hiding the trace of satisfaction in his tone, and it took no great stroke of perception to recognize that the argument had gone exactly as he had planned it. He gave everyone a very shrewd look and said, 'Okay, gentlemen, it's your funeral. Now that that's settled, I suggest that instead of sitting around here, you get about the business of saving the Titanic.'" (Chapter 56, pg. 302)

"When I took command of this ship,' Parotkin said, as though lecturing a schoolboy, 'I was under the impression my orders were to carry out research and surveillance programs. Nothing was said about conducting an out-and-out military operation.'" (Chapter 58, pg. 314)

"The Russians came aboard the Titanic during the storm's lull. Deep down in the bowels of the engine and boiler rooms, Spencer and his pumping crew had no chance, not the



least opportunity for any resistance. Their total surprise acknowledged Prelov's dedication to exact planning and detailed execution." (Chapter 62, pg. 334)

"The President looked up. 'A helpless ship adrift and lost in the middle of the worst storm in fifty years? A ship that's rusted half through after lying on the bottom for seventy-six years? A ship the Soviet government is looking for any excuse to get their hands on? And you say not to worry. You're either a man of unshakable conviction, Admiral, or you're a hyperoptimist.'" (Chapter 63, pg. 336)

"The truth began to register then. None of the salvage crew had actually witnessed Drummer slaving over a pump or offering to carry his share of the load. It registered that he'd always been off on his own, showing up only to complain of his frustration at not overcoming the obstacles that supposedly prevented his survey tour of the ship. They stared at Drummer as though he was some alien from another world, waiting for, expecting the indignant words of denial." (Chapter 66, pg. 353)

"Parotkin aimed his glasses at the Titanic in the distance. He could just make out her outline against the gray clouds that crawled along the horizon. A barely perceptible shiver gripped his body. His eyes reflected a distant sad look. He knew he would be forever cursed among sailors as the captain who sent the helpless and resurrected ocean liner back to her grave beneath the sea. He was standing braced and waiting for the roar of the missile's rocket engine and then the great explosion that would pulverize the Titanic into thousands of molten particle when he heard the sound of running footsteps from the wheelhouse, and the radio operator burst onto the bridge wing." (Chapter 66, pg. 353)

"She knew now that she could never go back and slip into the painted puppet that had been the Dana Seagram of two days ago. She had made up her mind: she would divorce Gene. Nothing between them mattered any more, at least to her. The girl he had loved was dead, never to return. She reveled in the knowledge. It was her rebirth. To begin again, start fresh with no holds barred." (Chapter 72, pg. 385)

"Many of the watchers wept openly. Among them were three of the passengers who had survived that tragic night so long ago. The air seemed heavy and hard to breathe. Most people, describing their feeling later, were surprised to recall nothing but an odd sense of numbness, as though they had been temporarily paralyzed and struck dumb. Most that is, except a rugged fireman by the name of Arthur Mooney." (Chapter 74, pg. 396)

"The hushed note of bewilderment in Lusky's voice faded away and the quiet in the Titanic's cargo hold became heavy and deep. Pitt stared downward, stared dumbly. Every eye was held by the rubble and the broken boxes while numbed minds fought to grasp the appalling reality, the horrible, undeniable truth that everything - the salvage, the exhausting labor, the astronomical drain of money, the deaths of Munk and Woodson - had all been for nothing. The byzantium was not on the Titanic, nor had it



ever been. They were the victims of a monstrously cruel joke that had been played out seventy-six years before." (Chapter 78, pg. 416)

"My understanding is that he intends taking the Titanic's salvage operation first, and then working backward to involve Meta Section and finally the President.' Donner picked up the subpoena and shoved it back in his coat pocket. 'The first witness they're most likely to call is Dirk Pitt.'" (Chapter 79, pg. 419)

Topics for Discussion

What is the Meta Section?

What was the reason for Koplín's trip to Russia? What were the implications of his trip?

What was the significance of the Little Angle mine disaster?

Why is it necessary to find the Titanic?

What is the intrigue surrounding the murder of Henry Munk?

What was the Russian plan for seizing the byzanium?

How did the Russians plan to recover the byzanium? What was their plan? How did their plan play out?