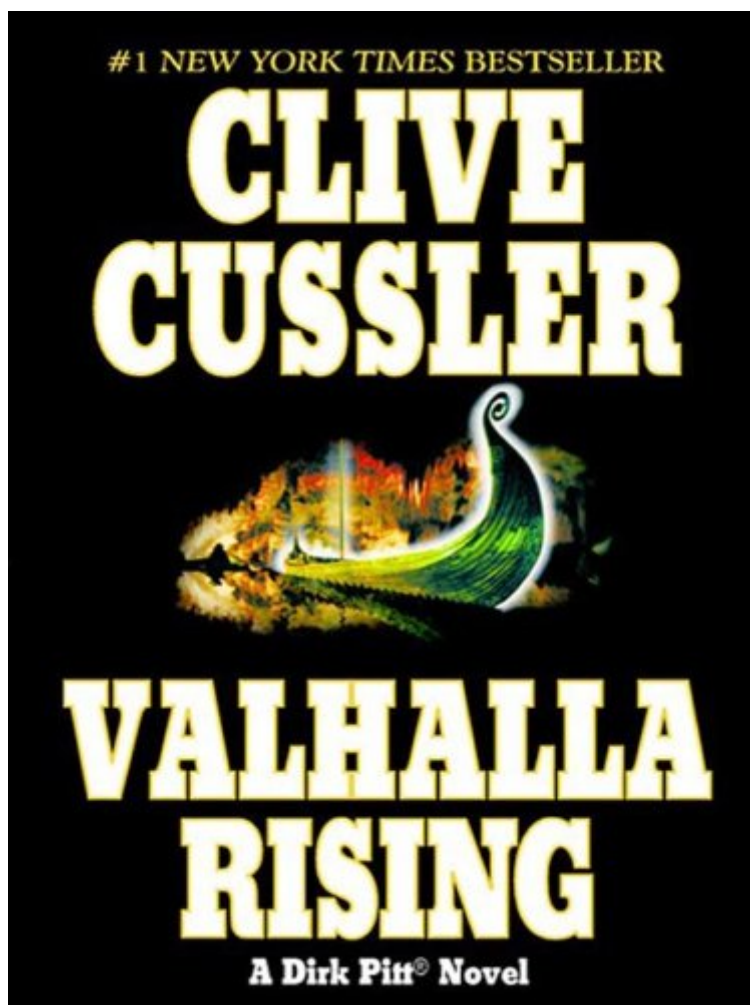


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Valhalla Rising (Dirk Pitt Adventure Book 16)



Synopsis

Marine explorer Dirk Pitt must rely on the nautical lore of Jules Verne to stop a ruthless oil baron with his sights set on political power in this #1 *New York Times*-bestselling series. In the middle of its maiden voyage, a luxury cruise ship using revolutionary new engines suddenly catches fire and sinks. Its alarms stay silent; its sprinkler system remains inactive. Nearby NUMA special projects director Dirk Pitt notices smoke and races to the rescue. He's too late to save the engineer behind the ship's new technology, but helps the man's daughter, Kelly Egan, escape with her father's work in a leather briefcase. While Ms. Egan strives to uncover the hidden value in her father's inventions, Pitt is hired on by maritime insurers to investigate the wreckage. Neither are prepared for the mechanical marvels they'll soon be forced to confront. The machines could only be the stuff of legend, described in the tales of Viking explorers or the accounts of Jules Verne. And they may be Pitt and Egan's only hope when an oil tycoon with a plan of his own appears on the scene. Before journey's end, Pitt will take on a power-mad millionaire, tread upon territory previously known only to Verne's illustrious Captain Nemo, and make shocking discoveries about his own past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not sure who wrote this, but did not seem like Clive. The crescendo of events was askew with a weather pattern leading the critical events, rather than a human antagonist. And, the incredibly frequent and ridiculous metaphors when describing somewhat difficult situations... It's as if someone with English as a second language was making up random and meaningless parallels to describe evolving scenes in this book. Rather than being the adventurous escape I've always enjoyed with Mr. Cussler, this interloper/would be author presented a head shaking, eye crossing, metaphorical confusion that could have been an additional adventure classic with better writing and much needed copy editing. Readable, but disappointing.

Most of the reviewers that "hated" Valhalla Rising had one thing in common. They said this was their first Clive Cussler book. I can understand that, seeing as how I sort of felt the same way after reading my first one. To enjoy these books, first off you have to accept the fact that they are not intended to be great literature. They are cheesy, self-indulgent fantasy, filled with outrageously impossible scenarios and some of the most lame dialogue (Iceberg and Jungle were the by far worst in this respect). There have been many times while reading his books that I said out loud "OMG this is so ridiculous. Why the heck am I reading this!". The answer to that question is illusive. But it is because I like them... I just plain enjoy them. I have now read all but one of Cussler's books plus some which he supposedly co-authored, and in my opinion Valhalla Rising is actually the best of all of them, hands down. I really enjoyed this book from cover to cover. It is still Cussler's trademark outrageous style of story-telling, but overall I think this was his best effort. The final scene at the end was quite unexpected and very touching, but you really had to have read several of the previous Dirk Pitt books to understand why.

This is a great story. However, as with so many of Cussler's books, it is far too long. He would have been better to have made it into two stories. I realize that would have required some juggling, but Cussler's so full of ideas, he could have done it easily. As Cussler does so often, he starts with a story from the past, and then brings it into the modern day. Lots of fun! Just far too long. Still, this is well worth reading, if you have the time. I would have been frustrated with the ending, bringing Pitt's twin children into the story right at the end, because I would have wanted to know more about them. However, I know from reading other Pitt stories, they do appear in future stories, and even as lead

characters sometimes.

I've been reading Cussler since Raise The Titanic. He's gone from fresh and original, to tarnished and long winded. When Cussler copied Hitchcock's walk-ons with little cameos of himself as a character in the books it was cute. The first time. The second time it was lame. Now it's just annoying, especially since it's no longer a cameo, but a minor character. If you read the book, you know the ending. WHY the briefcase? What was the point? It was really lame. Cussler is aging Dirk Pitt, and that's fine. But after he reminisced about his long lost, drowned in the underwater lab, girlfriend, you saw the final few pages coming a mile away. Predictable. Will I keep reading Cussler? Sure - even his bad books are better than many writer's good efforts.

I'm reading the entire series. Great books.

Another great book by Clive Cussler. I have read most of his books. This one finally gave some insight into how his children came into the picture. Great read and worth the time..

its a good read

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