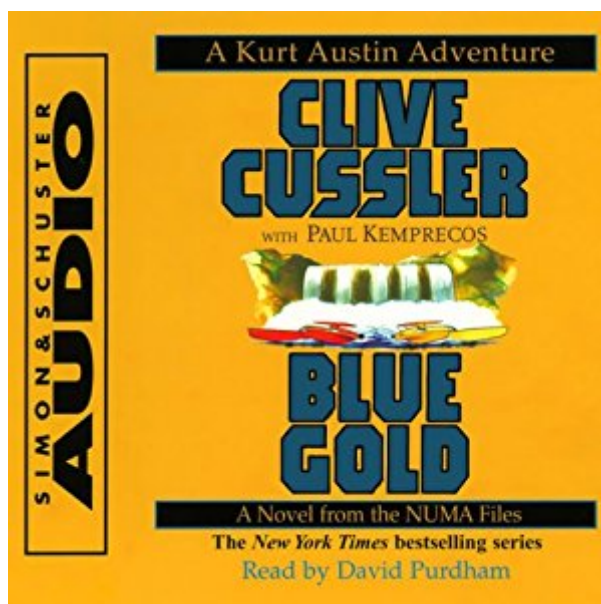


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Blue Gold: A Novel From The NUMA Files



Synopsis

A POD OF WHALES, A DEAD WITHOUT REASON IN SAN DIEGO BAY . . . A PRIMITIVE BRAZILIAN TRIBE WHOSE SECRETS COULD SAVE LIVES . . . A BILLIONAIRE TYCOON SET ON WORLD DOMINATION . . . An investigation into the sudden deaths of a pod of gray whales leads National Underwater & Marine Agency leader Kurt Austin to the Mexican coast, where someone tries to put him and his mini-sub permanently out of commission. Meanwhile, in South America's lush hills, a specially assigned NUMA® team discovers a murdered body—a member of a mysterious local tribe, who live like ghosts beyond a five-part waterfall the locals call the Hand of God, and are rumored to be led by a mythical white goddess. Now they are in danger from a vicious cadre of bio-pirates intent on stealing medicinal discoveries worth millions. Soon, Austin and his crew realize that they're working opposite ends of the same grand scheme, and must race against time to save the world's freshwater supply from a twisted eco-extortionist. But every step toward salvation takes them deeper into a dense jungle of treachery, blackmail, and death. A NOVEL FROM THE NUMA® FILES --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 54 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Abridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 4, 2007

Language: English

ASIN: B000QBYC8O

Best Sellers Rank: #35 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Forests & Rainforests
#175 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Espionage #358 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Sea Adventures

Customer Reviews

I was very critical of the first joint effort by Mr. Cussler and Mr. Kemprecos ("Serpent") because it was subpar by Cussler standards. I also thought he had let himself fall into the "franchise trap", where he stamps his name on books authored by someone else and watches his credibility and reader base suffer. However, I wound up giving Mr. Cussler the benefit of the doubt and read "Blue

Gold". "Blue Gold" is the second novel featuring the NUMA team of Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala. As with the first book, however, one cannot help but continually visualize Dirk Pitt and Al Giordino - the descriptions of the characters are that similar. Oh, there are some minor differences, but they only serve to make you feel that you are reading the adventures of "Pitt Lite" and "Giordino Lite". The Trouts, minor characters spotlighted both here and in "Serpent", are wholly unappealing because they don't bring much to the overall story, other than an excuse to print an extra chapter or two revolving around a chase or escape. This book is much improved over "Serpent" mostly due to its, shall we say, more judicious use of detail. Whereas "Serpent" was bogged down by mind-numbing, superficial detail, "Blue Gold" is free of most of these anchors. The end result is a story that reads slightly closer to the Cussler adventures we fans are accustomed to, and moves along at a much quicker pace. The plot is average, though the closing sequence is exciting and unique, with an interesting turn of events not typically found in the Dirk Pitt tales. All in all, the "sophomore" Kurt Austin adventure is an average effort.

Other best-selling Authors who have "co-authored" books that have gotten a marginal or strongly negative reception, heads up, "Blue Gold" is how it's done. This was not quite a five star read but the quality of the book that Mr. Cussler has put his name on and given to fans is not the compromised mess that other established stars of the genre have dealt recently. And while the paternity of the book is apparent, the outrageous "escape from Cuba in a bathtub" story lines have been toned down. They all were fun reads; I just enjoyed this work, as it didn't stretch credulity on every page. The result is this latest effort that I enjoyed as much as some of Mr. Cussler's best work. I mean no slight to Mr. Kemprecos, as I have no way of knowing to what degree he created this work, but whatever his involvement, he deserves high marks. The book is very tightly written, well paced, and even though a bit less outlandish, is every bit as good as the previous 16 bestsellers this storyteller has given readers. The series while continuing more toward a stand-alone status still retains some crossover, and in this case Admiral Sandecker and Hiram Yaeger were very well integrated. This tale did not have a fairy tale ending, and for me that added a great deal to the book. The villain brought to mind an extended Cruella DeVil, which these authors brought off very well when it could have fallen flat. Per the book's description the "metal mouthed morons" were bordering on the annoying, but didn't cross the line. All considered a well-done work worthy of a genre that Cussler can almost claim as his own. That the book is priced at about half of what many hardcover books demand, is a bonus. Unlike some others who have attempted this new outlet for their work, I hope Mr.

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