



The Tombs

Clive Cussler, Thomas Perry

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Husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo are intrigued when an archaeologist friend requests their help excavating a top secret historical site. What they find will set them on a hunt for a prize greater than they could ever imagine.

The clues point to the hidden tomb of Attila the Hun, the High King who was reportedly buried with a vast fortune of gold and jewels and plunder . . . a bounty that has never been found. As they follow the trail through Hungary, Italy, France, Russia, and Kazakhstan—a trail that they discover leads them not to one tomb, but five—the Fargos will find themselves pitted against a thieving group of amateur treasure hunters, a cunning Russian businessman, and a ruthless Hungarian who claims direct descent from Attila himself . . . and will stop at nothing to claim the tombs' riches as his own..

The Tombs Details

Date : Published September 4th 2012 by Putnam Adult

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Author : Clive Cussler , Thomas Perry

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Genre : Adventure, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery, Action

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From Reader Review The Tombs for online ebook

Linda says

There are just so many things wrong with *The Tombs* that it makes me tired just to think about articulating it all, and this book really isn't worth that much thought. Other reviews have pointed out all the flaws. I say ditto. As action-adventure goes, I could have done better, but this is fine in a pinch at the right price point. And by the right price point, I most definitely mean free. If you like Cussler, and you want to read his new stuff, do yourself a favor and check it out from the library.

Bandit says

So I'm not particularly imaginative when it comes to my audio book selection. I like Scott Brick's reading and Fargo series seem to entertain enough to do the trick. This book, part 4 in the series, was actually better than some of its predecessors. The are all ridiculous, of course, the Fargos are much too perfect to be taken seriously and it's all entirely too predictable to be compelling per se, but I do enjoy the historical aspect, in this case Attila the Hun, who apparently was quite an enthusiastic treasure burier, but of course no match for the uber enthusiastic treasure hunters that are Sam and Remi Fargo. Fun enough well read story to keep company on bike rides and walks.

Douglas Brown says

I gave this 2 stars, only because I have always enjoyed CC's books, but this one was pretty much a disaster. It sped through each little Fargo adventure, but dragged on with facts about Attila the Hun and other useless information.

If all chapters read like the last 3 it could have been a decent book.

Now, would you trust a complete stranger to pilot a boat you just loaded with millions in treasure and not even go with him...come on. The befriending and trusting was way to cheesy. All these instant friends or people they find at random, who just happen to have cousins, all who have the answers. Please!!!

Glad I only borrowed this one from library, because it would have been a waste to add to my collection of his other books.

Don says

Clearly Grant Blackwood was doing the heavy lifting with this series because here, in the first novel Blackwood didn't co-author, the "adventure" in this adventure series disappears. In place of adventure, we, the reader, are instead given...I don't know. A story, to be sure. One that had great potential, even. But no adventure. The Fargos go from A to B to C with little or no drama.

The premise of the book is that a friend of the Fargos has discovered a clue leading to the tomb of Attila the Hun. Suddenly that friend is kidnapped. It turns out there's this Attila fanatic who wants to find his tomb first. So the Fargos rescue him and the chase is on.

Turns out Attila had five treasure hordes hidden across Eastern Europe with each horde containing a clue to the next, with Attila's tomb being the final treasure. Sounds interesting, right?

Problem is the Fargos never lose.

They get buried alive in one of the tombs. Only to get free three pages later.

Remi gets kidnapped and Sam literally walks into the kidnapper's house at night and frees her.

There was just no action; no drama. The Fargos either find each treasure first or steal it from the bad guys within pages. The only interesting action piece is at the end when the bad guys attack the Fargo house and that is more of an epilogue than anything else.

It was just a bland story. The one plus I feel needs mentioning is that it appears Thomas Perry did an outstanding job researching Attila the Hun and Eastern Europe.

Still, call me when Grant Blackwood returns.

Jarek says

The Tombs by Clive Cussler is the fourth book in the series depicting adventures of Sam and Remi Fargo, a couple of millionaires who enjoy archeology and treasure hunting. This time they are set against Eastern European mafia in a race across Europe and Asia to uncover the tomb of Attila the Hun.

The storyline of "The Tombs" is very simplified, to the point of being more appropriate for a cartoon or kids comic book than a novel. In the beginning of their adventure the Fargos conveniently meet Tibor, a Hungarian taxi-driver, who can instantly provide them with anything they want, no matter how illegal it is. As the story progresses, Tibor procures a set of uniforms used by security personnel of a Hungarian drug lord, Czech-made pistols with live ammunition, a boat, numerous cars and trucks, a protection-trained German Shepherd and a helicopter with a pilot. He is like Rico from The Penguins of Madagascar, but speaking impeccable English.

The Fargos, as all millionaires, can travel anywhere in the world with no need for almost any paperwork, have the most sophisticated scientific equipment instantly delivered to their current hotel, and own cell phones that work everywhere, from the forests of Transylvania to the plains of Kazakhstan. They can also shoot anyone who stands in their way with no legal consequences. No wonder that they dispose of mafia hit-men with efficiency of a SWAT team.

I think it's obvious that I haven't found any value in this book. It's too naive to be enjoyed by even most undemanding adults, and has no educational virtues to be suitable for kids.

Deniz says

This was my first book by the author. It was a pretty painful read, honestly.

It started quite slowly, and picked up a bit as the story unfolded, but it soon became obvious exactly what was going to be happening at every turn. It was way too predictable, and there was no suspense at all making the story really tiresome after the half way point for me. The characters seemed a bit childish in a sense that I felt like everybody and their personalities, no matter how bad they were, were appropriate for a PG movie. The good people were too friendly, too helpful, and too nice, which along with the complete predictability of everything, and the unbelievable ease the main characters have in obtaining the most impossible help in an instant, made it obvious that nothing bad was going to happen, sucked all suspense and realism out of the story, and made it a very tiresome effort to get through.

Add to it that after the story should have ended with the clear and obvious climax of the plot, it drags on and on with an unnecessary event, which has an expected result.

Not to mention, the cover art is completely misleading as no part of the story takes place in a lush, green jungle. I couldn't wait for it to end so that I could just start a new book.

Not recommended.

Bob Milne says

I've been on vacation all week, doing my best not to think about work. Since I knew we'd be spending a few days camping, I decided to push the review pile to the side and do a little pleasure reading. I didn't have any specific titles in mind, but I knew precisely what kind of books I wanted to enjoy.

First up, I made sure we stopped at the drug store on our way out of town. I wanted a Clive Cussler adventure to read, and there's always a new one on the paperback rack, so I figured I would take my chances with what was available. I was hoping for a new Dirk Pitt story, or perhaps something from the Isaac Bell series, but what I ended up with was a copy of *The Tombs*, the fourth Fargo Adventure. I knew nothing about Sam and Remi Fargo, but the cover blurb hit all the right notes - archaeologist . . . secret historical site . . . hidden tomb . . . treasure hunters - so I gave it a shot.

I'm glad I did. Yes, it's a formulaic bit of storytelling that manages hit on pretty much all the genre clichés, but that's okay. Actually, it's more than okay, it's precisely what I expect from a Cussler novel. It's familiar and enjoyable - a fast-paced, easy read that 'feels' authentic in terms of history and technique. As for Sam and Remi, they're a thoroughly enjoyable couple of protagonists, and the members of their support team are interesting in their own right, particularly Tibor, the resourceful taxi-driver.

The story is a fun one, built around a globe-trotting race to discover a series of treasures buried by Atilla the Hun, all leading to the final resting place of his own jewel-filled golden coffin. It's the Fargos versus a crooked Hungarian mobster and his Russian hired gun, with special appearances by local law enforcement and historical antiquities authorities. Many of the treasures are far too easily located, requiring nothing more than two shovels and the cover of darkness, and the speedy removal of a thousand skeletons from a battlefield strains credibility, no matter how many graduate students help out, but the excavation of the final tomb is worth the wait.

The final climax is, perhaps, a bit unnecessary in its excessiveness, but it's nice to see that there are consequences for running afoul of the bad guys. It's not great literature, and certainly not comparable to the

best Dirk Pitt adventure, but The Tomb is better than most of the competition, Dan Brown included.

Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins

Bettie? says

Author: Clive Cussler & Thomas Perry

Read by: Scott Brick

Edition: Unabridged.

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Date: 2012

11 hours 23 minutes

blurb: *Husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo are intrigued when an archaeologist friend requests their help excavating a top secret historical site. What they find will set them on a hunt for a prize greater than they could ever imagine. The clues point to the hidden tomb of Attila the Hun, the High King who was reportedly buried with a vast fortune of gold and jewels and plunder . . . a bounty that has never been found.*

As they follow the trail through Hungary, Italy, France, Russia, and Kazakhstan-a trail that they discover leads them not to one tomb, but five-the Fargos will find themselves pitted against a thieving group of amateur treasure hunters, a cunning Russian businessman, and a ruthless Hungarian who claims direct descent from Attila himself and will stop at nothing to claim the tombs' riches as his own.

Need some adventure after the misery of New Grub Street.

James says

I became fascinated by the history of Attila the Hun. Could I be related to him too? :)

Gread adventure novel. Picked it up in an airport bookstore as I didn't have anything ready at home to take with me.

Good pacing, interesting history. Main characters were ok, but not amazing.

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. *Note:* All written content is

my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

Chris Bauer says

When I finished the final page of The Tombs by Clive Cussler I had a sad epiphany, a suspicion which had been brewing for some time before crystallizing.

Cussler is now a book factory. I've known it for a while, but didn't really care. I've been reading his books since I was in high school and enjoyed them all. The Tombs is no exception. Plenty of action, exotic locations, perilous situations and interesting characters plus the guaranteed cameo appearance by the author himself in every book.

But while reading the book I could not help but imagine some iPad app, a Wheel of Fortune-like construct which he would spin several times during the writing process.

"Okay. Treasure = Attila the Hun. Bad guys=mobsters+crazy megalomaniac. Locations=Rome, La Jolla etc." and so forth.

Reading The Tombs felt like doing an old Choose Your Own Adventure book with a lot less choices. Or maybe a Mad Libs approach to writing. I'm not sure which.

That being said, I really enjoyed reading it. The pace, the situations, the treasure-hunting were all rote, but entertaining anyways. Don't get me wrong; I love his formula. Want over the top action with an aquatic theme? Check out Dirk Pitt or Austin. Want a historical, Pinkerton novel with more grit? Check out Issac Bell. In the mood for globe trotting adventure? Pick up a Fargo book. Pseudo-military action adventure? Yep, covered in the Oregon Files.

Reading one of his books is like hanging out with old friends stuck in a rut. You're comfortable in their presence, they're just as entertaining as you remember but don't expect anything to blow your mind.

Jerry says

An exciting adventure yarn. Better yet, the content was cleaner than in the last entry in this series that I read.

Kathy Davie says

Fourth in the Fargo Adventure suspense series revolving around Sam and Remi Fargo, wealthy treasure hunters with a reputation for success.

My Take

What a disappointment! I have to wonder if Cussler had anything to do with writing this other than putting his name on the cover. It could be unfair of me to put the onus on Perry, but of all the Cusslers I've read, this is one of the very few that have appalled me in the writing sense.

The story idea is terrific and great fun. Its execution is just that. Killing it with words. A lack of them. And a lack of finesse, development, complexity...I feel like I've read a children's primer that is somehow aimed at adults.

The chunk in which Tibor questions the Fargos about their intentions in his country and we get the info dump. And it reads like a dump of background history only with "Sam said" and "Remi said" in front of it.

The professor is kidnapped. No worries, just follow the script and he'll be rescued. The ease of the rescue was pathetic. Pick up a dog, track his scent...I thought I was on a ride at Disneyland.

Then there's the entire premise of the story. Finding the lost tombs or burials of Attila the Hun. It was as easy as a children's scavenger hunt. Clues popped up as regular as a metronome and within hours they were deciphered. The only real time it took on these hunts was the travel time to get there. A board game would take longer.

It was irresponsible of Sam and Remi to put down their toys and run off to play with someone else. Especially when they had already committed to being there. Yes, their reasons were good, but Cussler/Perry could have written the transition better and not left me feeling as though I were reading about a couple of children suffering from ADD.

There are some interesting bits of history about the events of the time that affected Attila's choices. An interesting tidbit about the founding of Venice. I wonder if it's true? Sam and Remi do have a few nice meals.

Cussler/Perry try to build in some tension by allowing Bako to find a few graves although the Fargos quickly change that. The kidnapping almost felt like karmic justice for Remi being so dismissive. Although I can't believe Sam was so slack about her security that he wasn't paying attention. All the mouthing off that Cussler/Perry do about how prepared the Fargos are to defend themselves is contradicted by their actions. The emotions the Fargos experience in this part are so nebulous and yet Sam and Remi should both be terrified. Instead it's rather ho-hum. Even the CIA is amazingly accommodating about Sam's running off.

Interesting that this is the first time the "CC" character that usually appears in any of Cussler's books shows up with a companion as well as a Tucker automobile. Hmmmm, what is happening in Cussler's private life...?

Ooh, interesting theory about why Rome and Ruga chose Attila as the hostage. Nice bit of credit giving at the end. The battle at the La Jolla house is certainly interesting. Anyone concerned about home security will be interested in reading this bit. It does reiterate what Gin Blanco points out in her story in *Widow's Web* in the Elemental Assassin series by Jennifer Estep. Pull up the drawbridge!

The Story

It starts as so many of Cussler's stories do with a prologue of events in the past. In this case, we get a peek into Attila the Hun's death and its aftermath. Enough that we know what Professor Fischer discovered in that field in Hungary and why it is so important to keep it quiet.

Naturally, the first thing one does when one is trying to keep an archeological site secret is call in people who are notorious for their successful treasure hunts. And so it begins with the chasing, hunting, and battles as treasure is sought, found, and battled over in a tug of war that is both mental and physical.

It's a grand way to see the hidden gems of Europe.

The Characters

Sam and Remi Fargo are fascinated by history and the sale of their scanner company allows them to indulge their interest. Unfortunately, the treasures they have found in the past make them a couple of interest to criminals interested in getting rich without effort. The interest has been intense enough that both Sam and Remi have taken a wide variety of classes in self-defense.

The Fargos employ several people who live and work at their La Jolla home: **Sela Wondrash** is the primary researcher and **Wendy and Pete** are the junior researchers.

Professor Albrecht Fischer teaches classic archeology at Heidelberg and is fascinated by the Romans. **Dr. Enikö Harsányi** and **Dr. Imre Polgár** both teach at Szeged University. **Dr. Monika Voss** is the regional director of the National Office of Cultural Heritage.

Tibor Lazar is a taxi driver in Szeged in Hungary with lots of relatives and friends. **János** is Tibor's brother. **Paul** is a cousin who speaks Italian. **Zoltán** is a very protective German shepherd belonging to one of Tibor's relatives. **Nurin** is the driver the Fargos hire in Kazakhstan.

Sergio Boiardi is with the Tutela Patrimonio Culturale of the Carabinieri in Naples. *I do like him, but it's too bad that Cussler/Perry give him such lousy dialog!*

Ray Holbert is an archeologist salvaging the remains of a sunken village off the coast of Louisiana and he's grateful for the Fargos' help. **Dave Carmody** owns the boat the Fargos are renting while they salvage dive in Louisiana. **Carl Hagar** is with Diplomatic Security at the U.S. embassy in Moscow.

Consolidated Enterprises is too interested in the Fargos' movements and have a reputation for swooping in.

Arpad Bako is from a Hungarian family known for their greed and flexibility. They flow from side to side, picking up with whoever is in power and stamping down on anyone around them. Bako believes he's at least a spiritual descendant of Attila. **Etienne Le Clerc** is a French drug dealer in France who is associated with Bako. **Sergei Poliakoff** is another of Bako's associates with a criminal empire in Russia.

The Cover

THE cover is all greens and golds with the wooden chests of treasure relating to this story and the jungle-like plants surrounding the boxes that do not relate. There weren't any jungles or rain forest-like areas where the Fargos were exploring. But then the disconnect suits the rest of the story.

The title is what it's all about---*The Tombs*. All of them belonging to Attila the Hun or someone in his family.

Steven Paglierani says

In a word, disappointing. This is probably the most poorly written Cussler I've ever read and I own and have read every one. Compared to books like Inca Gold and Sahara, this book is just plain slow, plodding, lacking in suspense, and without the slightest hint of clever twists. For instance, every time the Fargoes get in trouble, they miraculously and with little to no thought escape and move on, all this within no more than a

few pages. Compare this to Patterson's latest, "Zoo," which I'm having trouble putting down.

Clearly, this is not Cussler's writing.

Mark Muckerman says

In a word: disappointing.

I'm a Cussler fan of 20+ years, but sadly I think it's time for him to retire his fountain pen. More and more "Cussler Books" are "with co-author", and based on quality of writing, story development, and historical research and interesting plot hook (or lack of), it seems that each successive work is written more by the "with" and less by the great CC himself.

The Tombs is another example of collaborative authorship trading on the legacy of the name, but without the quality of work that built that reputation. Spoilers aside (and it would be hard to leak spoilers on a story that is barely past one-dimensional), there really is no true storytelling in this one. No development, no suspense, no plot intricacies or historical mystery slowly revealed. The Tombs charges ahead as a straight line narrative, that reads at a pace like a storyteller trying to beat a deadline. Plot development is non-existent, as phone call from old friend leads to frantic globehopping with no resource constraints, and the "clues" to the big finish are literally laid out like a trail of oversized breadcrumbs for the nearsighted and incredibly stupid.

Once a hallmark of a Cussler novel, interweaving of historical context is thin at best, and clumsily heavy-handed at its worst. Compounding a formulaic plot style (the side story of the Louisiana incident was a waste of text, as it had no bearing on the storyline, and introduced a group of superfluous characters that had no real place in the overall story), this one was riddled with too many perfect plot devices of convenience: My first complaint is that all of Cussler's protagonists are now independently wealthy, geniuses, and so gifted in a host of combat and surveillance arts against ridiculous odds that we can't help but wonder how poor Dirk Pitt (being only flesh and blood) must feel standing in their shadows. My second complaint is in the ready availability to all parties of money, aircraft, boats and weapons - all with just a phone call, and provided with overnight delivery. Need an airplane - call Selma. Need a barge and crane - call Selma. Need perfect satellite recon mapping over a foreign country - call Selma. Third - it's just thin. A weak premise underdeveloped and undermined by weak writing.

With great regret, this will be my last Cussler book. I'd rather re-read and re-enjoy the well worn and dog-eared Dirk Pitt classics on my shelf, than to keep touching the stove of disappointment when I've been burned too many times.

In a final instance of poetic irony, after I finished the book I left it on the coffee table. I returned to find the dog had chewed up part of the book, but not all. I guess he disliked it so much he literally couldn't stomach finishing it . . .!

P.S. - at the end, they hit an iceberg and everyone dies.

Katharine Ott says

"The Tombs" - written by Clive Cussler and Thomas Perry and published in 2012 by G P Putnam's Sons. The plot of this action-adventure story centers around the opulent burial treasure secreted with the body of Attila the Hun, and Sam and Remi Fargo's attempts to beat others to the horde. The Fargos are millionaire adventurists and gourmands who can do what they want, when they want, with no worries about how much it will cost. "You've become known for finding gold and jewels." A complicated excavation that might carry through a thick chapter in another book is started and finished on a page, almost always with positive results. Cussler's characters are not especially developed although this is their fourth adventure, but the action is really the focus here. I feel the style of such stories has become more sophisticated, but Cussler has stamped his own imprint on the genre and I have no complaints. Bringing Thomas Perry along as a writer can only be a good thing - I've really enjoyed his Jane Whitefield novels. "The Tombs" also offers a brief primer on Hun warfare and their dominance in EurAsia around 450 AD. A lively, entertaining read.
