



Piranha

Clive Cussler , Boyd Morrison

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Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the *Oregon* return in the extraordinary new novel in the #1 *New York Times*–bestselling series by the grand master of adventure.

In 1902, the volcano Mt. Pelée erupts on the island of Martinique, wiping out an entire city of thirty thousand—and sinking a ship carrying a German scientist on the verge of an astonishing breakthrough. More than a century later, Juan Cabrillo will have to deal with that scientist's legacy.

During a covert operation, Cabrillo and the crew meticulously fake the sinking of the *Oregon*—but when an unknown adversary tracks them down despite their planning and attempts to assassinate them, Cabrillo and his team struggle to fight back against an enemy who seems to be able to anticipate their every move. They discover that a traitorous American weapons designer has completed the German scientist's work, and now wields extraordinary power, sending the *Oregon* on a race against time to stop an attack that could lead to one man ruling over the largest empire the world has ever known.

Piranha Details

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From Reader Review *Piranha* for online ebook

Deborah Wall says

Darn! Finished already

I think I have read almost all of the Cussler books and enjoyed most of them. This is no exception. I do think the original Pitt books were a little richer in character development, but the storyline in this one kept me reading late into the night.

Jean says

This is book ten in the Oregon series. I saw an ad for book eleven in the series and discovered I had missed reading book ten. It has been awhile since I read a Cussler book.

This book follows the Cussler tradition of non-stop action. The characters no sooner get out of one predicament than they plunge into another. In this story the book opens in 1902 with the eruption of Mt. Pelé on Martinique then switches to modern times. Lawrence Kensit is attempting to take over the world. Admiral Dayana Ruiz of the Venezuelan Navy is helping him and of course the crew of the Oregon is out to stop both of them.

The book is well written and has all the high tech wizardry that I like about the series. I did notice the style of writing was different and saw there was a change in co-authors from Jack DuBral to Boyd Morrison. I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. Scott Brick performed his usual excellent job narrating the story. Brick is known as one of the golden voices of audiobook narration. He has won over 50 Earphone Awards and two Audie Awards. Some of his recent awards are the 2016 Best Voice in Science Fiction, 2011 Best Voice in Mystery and Suspense, 2010 Best Voice in Biography and the 2008 Best Voice in Science Fiction. He has also won awards for acting.

Kathy Davie says

Tenth in the Oregon Files suspense series and revolving around Juan Cabrillo and his team — the Corporation.

My Take

I love the *Oregon*. It's deceptive appearance is so very clever, and the contrast with its interior is amazing. Of course, I am a gadget nut, so I love all the fun weapons and vehicles they have aboard as well. Then there's its mission. Another astute ploy to put eyes-and-ears in any port.

Their opening mission in *Piranha* is so clever! Simple and extremely effective in theory. Unfortunately, the enemy is omnipotent. And it's terrifying what and where the Doctor can go, what he can see, hear, and take. I suspect it's my own terror at how easily the Doctor can penetrate anything, anywhere, any time that left me feeling flat about *Piranha*. I was so busy being afraid that I couldn't enjoy the action as much.

I had planned on giving *Piranha* a "4", but in writing this review, I realized how wrong I was. It really is a brilliant premise Cussler and Morrison have created, and I can only pray it never does become a reality.

I can sympathize with the Doctor. The powers-that-be aren't doing what they could to fix the planet and solve crime, war, famine, pollution, disease, and energy and water shortages. All of which sounds to me as if he wants to help people as well as the planet, but the Doctor is deluding himself if he thinks his way is so much better. He certainly isn't too concerned about the poor and the disadvantaged. He's using drug money, enabling stolen military tech sales, and permitting the destruction of ships' crews and his own teammates. It's that background about him and his love for online role-playing games that tell the truth. And yet another example of how brain smarts don't translate into self-awareness.

The Story

The *Oregon* has a problem, and it needs to disappear, to die. There are too many rumors spreading about a ghost ship bristling with weapons. And this mission to discover if the Venezuelans are supplying arms to the North Koreans provides the ideal opportunity to do so.

It's an op whose files will prove to be a breadcrumb to yet another plot of destruction, and yet another. But not before the mass assassination attack in Jamaica.

The Characters

The Corporation was created...

...to stop terrorists and assassins. They're mercenaries with a code of honor. Their home base and transport is the *Oregon*, a bristling state-of-the-art tramp freighter with its own moon pool, submarines, mega-weapons, and a team of experts who can turn their hand to most anything. The *Washington* was her sister ship and scheduled for the scrap yard.

The captain is **Juan Cabrillo**, a.k.a., Buck Holland, Chairman of the Corporation. **Max Hanley** is the chief engineer and president of the Corporation. The massive **Linc** is a former Navy SEAL. **Kevin Nixon** is a Hollywood makeup artist and costumer. **Linda** is a Navy vet and former Pentagon staffer who is now vice president of operations. The Cajun, Marion MacDougal "**MacD**" Lawless, a former Army Ranger, and the gorgeous **Mike Trono**, a former elite pararescue jumper for the Air Force, are gundogs. **Hali Kasim** is the communications officer. **Eddie Seng** is director of shore operations, a.k.a., Gao Wang-shu. **Maurice** is the chief steward who takes excellent care of the crew and Juan. **Dr. Julia Huxley**, a former U.S. Navy doctor, is the medical officer. **Eric Stone** had worked in the Navy in research and development and is now the *Oregon*'s helmsman. **Mark Murphy** is an arms development genius with a Ph.D. from MIT and is the ship's weapons officer with a love for skateboarding. Both are computer experts. **George "Gomez" Adams** is the helicopter pilot and drone operator. **Tiny Gunderson** is their fixed-wing pilot. One of their latest weapons is a land-based version of the *Oregon*, nicknamed **PIG**.

Government and Military Interests

Washington D.C.

Vice-president James Sandeker was once the head of NUMA. **Langston Overholt** is the Corporation's CIA contact. **St. Julien Perlmutter** is a maritime expert with an exhaustive library of naval history. **Fritz** is his beagle.

Gordian Engineering is doing the forensic investigation of the Chesapeake Bay disaster with **Dr. Tyler Locke** in charge. **Grant Westfield** is their top electrical engineer; he's also renowned as The Burn.

Panama City, Florida

Major Norm Miller is in charge of this latest drone test.

9 months ago, Chesapeake Bay was...

...the site of a drone test. **Frederick Weddell** is an electrical engineer who is the Air Force's top communications specialist; **Lawrence Kensit** is a brilliant computer scientist and physicist; and, **Douglas Pearson** is a hardware designer with strong opinions.

The Caribbean

Jamaica

Captain Craig Reed commands the *Cast Away* and uses her for fishing charters. **Colin Porter** is a friend and the captain of the *Oceanaire*. **Bill Musgrave** owns Atlas Salvage which is based in Kingston.

Martinique

1902: Ellery Scott is the first officer aboard the SS *Roraima*, and **George Muggah** is its captain. **Mr. Havers** is the third mate. **Taylor** and **Quashey** are some of the sailors. **Gunther Lutzen** is a German passenger with a fascination for photography who has almost gotten his doctorate in physics. **Ingrid Lutzen** is his sister in New York City. **Monsieur Plessoneau** is the agent on Martinique. **Captain Marino Leboffe** tried to leave harbor but was refused permission by the harbormaster.

Today: Captain Batiste operates a pleasure sub for tourists.

Venezuela

Puerto La Cruz

Manuel Lozada is the harbormaster for La Guanta Harbor and a reservist for the Venezuelan Navy. **Gao Wang-shu**, a.k.a., Fernando Wang, is a former Chinese marine who had been at the battle in *Golden Buddha*, 1. **Captain Carlos Ortega** is based in Puerto Cabello. **Lieutenant Pablo Dominguez** is in charge of security for the shipping operation that night.

Admiral Dayana Ruiz has her own sideline going and uses the *Mariscal Sucre* and its **Captain Escobar** to aid her plans. **Captain Eduardo Garcia** is in command of the *Valera*, and he and the *Maracaibo* are functioning as escort for the *Reina Azul*.

Cabimas Shipping is...

...owned by **Ricardo Leal**, and he is making noises about running for president in Venezuela. The *Ciudad Bolivar* is another of his ships and is captained by **Maria Sandoval**. **Jorge** is the navigator, **Miguel** is part of the crew, and **Roberto** is the helmsman.

The Doctor

Lake Péligre is where...

...Phase One of **Sentinel** is located in Haiti. **The Doctor** is in charge. **Hector Bazin** was born in Haiti and served as a servant to a wealthy family who mistreated him. **David Pasquet** is a former Haitian National Police SWAT officer and sniper. **Jacques Duval** is a deputy commander with the Haitian Police and was a fellow servant with Bazin when they were children.

Colombia

Alonzo Tallon is a drug trafficker. **Sergio Portilla** is his second-in-command who has gotten sloppy.

Miami

Brian Washburn, a two-times former governor of Florida, is quite conscientious about appearing to be a

man of the people with an ambition to be president of the United States. Too bad he's not as careful in his business dealings at Washburn Industries. **Gary Clement** was an accountant.

Berlin

Greta is a student working at the library at the Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Center. **Herr Schmidt** is the librarian.

New York City

Greg Horne owns a **Global Translation Services** in New York City where the late Bob Gillman worked. **Jill** was his receptionist. **Leonard O'Shea** is a delivery driver.

The Cover and Title

The cover is a nice complement of deep orange and blue from the fireworks in the sky over the burning ship in a rolling sea.

The title is the smallest part of this story, although their actions color it all, for they are like *Piranha*, eating whatever they can get their teeth into.

Glenn says

Rated 3.5 Stars - still the same formula but we some better twists in this book. This makes it a much better read. Still it would be better that some characters are 'killed' off because no-one can go through what they go through and survive every time... Still a good read.

Emmie says

A bit over the top, but Cussler fans will love it

Pamela says

Holy Emerald City, Batman!!!

Fans of Juan Cabrillo and The Oregon Files won't be disappointed with this tenth installment. *Piranha* has all the balls-to-the-wall adventure, flank-speed action, and high-tech wizardry of "The Corporation" the Oregon Files series is known for - but with a new co-author at the helm.

Boyd Morrison stayed true to Cussler's concise/simplistic format, complementing it with high energy verve; helping take the series into a more ultramodern cyberistic/futuristic direction. The techno savvy plot points along with the sci-fi mystery 'element' gave this high-octane ride an epic movie adventure feel.

Another plus, expletives were kept to a minimum, as typical with Cussler tomes. Plenty of laser-guided missiles, torpedoes, gunfire, and other explosions – but no F-bombs. Much appreciated!

Additional kudos: Delightedly, I received this advance reader copy - FREE - via Goodreads First-Reads

giveaways . . . Happy Dance!! A shout-out of appreciation to Clive Cussler, Boyd Morrison, Putnam Publishing, and any other entities/individuals involved in providing ARCs for fan/review giveaways.

Four Action/Adventure Cabrillo stars.

I look forward to reading one of Boyd Morrison's stand-alone suspense/thrillers: *The Ark: A Novel*

Mike French says

Another great read from the Oregon Files! *Piranha* will keep you turning pages late into the night. Non-stop action from start to finish!

Joshua says

I've always had a soft spot for the Oregon Files series. In terms of Clive Cussler's various subseries, it's my favorite, if only because it's slightly more believable for high-tech, ultra-talented do-gooder mercenaries to get involved in villainous plots than oceanographers. Plus, the Oregon is awesome. Cussler got a new coauthor for this particular volume, and I have to say that I was extremely impressed. *Piranha* almost manages to transcend the limitations that Clive Cussler books inherently have, and does it with style, flair, and a whole lot of action.

The crew of the Oregon fake the sinking of the ship off the coast of Venezuela in an effort to regain their anonymity. This fails miserably, because after the ship is "sunk," the crew members are attacked by mysterious assassins. Suddenly, the crew of the Oregon are plunged into a deadly cat and mouse game with a mad scientist. And this is like no other game they have played, for their adversary has access to unlimited knowledge – and thus unlimited power.

Part of what makes *Piranha* so special are the villains. The mad scientist in question is a visionary nutcase who is following the NSA's data collection program to its logical and evil conclusion. Paranoid, anti-social, and brilliant, this mad scientist won't stop until he's saved the world. By any means necessary. In fact, I have to say that he's my favorite Cussler villain ever, probably because, if we're going to be honest, he reminds me a lot of myself with all the limits gone.

Action is one thing that Cussler specializes in, and a good thing, too, because no one reads his stories for the believable plots. He and his new coauthor delivers this aplenty in *Piranha*, featuring more gunfights, chases, and explosions than you can shake a stick at. The writing team also manages to preserve the suspense fairly well, only revealing the villain's plans in bits and pieces, saving the truly horrifying reveal of his plan for later on in the book. The writing is smoother, the characters wittier, and the book is just more enjoyable than Cussler's usual fare.

There are no bloodsucking creatures in Clive Cussler's new novel (except in a metaphorical sense). There's just excitement, action, and adventure, as the stalwart crew of the Oregon battles their most dangerous adversary yet. From the beginning to the end, you will be enthralled by this book. This may be Morrison's first foray into being a Cussler co-author, but I very much hope that it will not be his last.

Tom Tischler says

May 1902 a volcano erupts on the French Island of Martinique with devastating force. the local population are not it's only victims. A ship is also destroyed carrying a German scientist who was on the verge of an astonishing discovery. A century later Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon are about to confront the scientist's legacy. Cabrillo and crew are forced to fake the sinking of the Oregon during a covert operation when an unknown adversary tracks them down despite all of their best laid plans. Their adversary seems able to anticipate their every move. It appears that a traitorous American weapons designer has completed the dead German's work and he now wields extraordinary power. This could lead to the largest one man empire the world has ever known. This is the tenth book in the Oregon files and once again Clive Cussler comes through with flying colors.

Laura Harrison says

Not my usual genre. So many of my friends have been gushing over it I though I would give it a go. Glad I did! Loved the fast paced action. Not bored at all. New Clive Cussler fan!

Pop says

I wasn't disappointed!

David says

Another great action-packed read from Cussler's Oregon Files. I am very pleased and relieved that new co-author Boyd Morrison has maintained and enhanced the high quality of this series, and I look forward to his fresh influence on this series going forward.
4.5 stars.

Angus Mcfarlane says

A willingness to suspend disbelief is a prerequisite for much fiction, and a greater degree of this is always required for Cussler. The important thing is internal and external plausibility, which is usually not a problem, although in this one the use of selenium crystals with traces of copper and uranium got to me: the caves of mega crystals of selenite/gypsum have been conflated with the element selenium, a very different material

and not likely to form crystal caves... Anyway, I liked the use of modern political tensions to set the drama within, and although the world ending technology is crazy, it works, and as usual the plot moves along nicely. Is there a philosophical reflection in this about omniscience not being the same as infallibility? The bad guy is unusual but only explored briefly - I would have enjoyed having him stay on as an ongoing nemesis. Good fun, but I'm good for another year at least for any more of these!

Darlene Quinn says

I did not rate this book as it would be unfair. It was well written and Cussler has gained many avid fans through delivering riveting plots . However, I was unable to connect with the characters. For me to really enjoy a novel it must have characters I can root for as well as a page-turning plot. The type page turning plots I most enjoy are those that deal with real life issues we face today.

Carol says

The first nine books in this series were written by two different authors. This seems to be the growing trend of well know, well read authors these days but it sometimes takes the reader a few books to get accustomed to the different writing styles...hoping that yet another author won't come on the scene before the next book even gets published. Some reviewers have said that the topic was unbelievable but it is...thank heavens...fiction and the unbelievable can be given a little free reign. I really like this series...Juan Carbillo and the magnificent wonders of his ship, "The Oregon". Adventure, excitement, with a little history thrown in the mix, is always a given no matter who writes these books. Pick it up and enjoy the ride.
