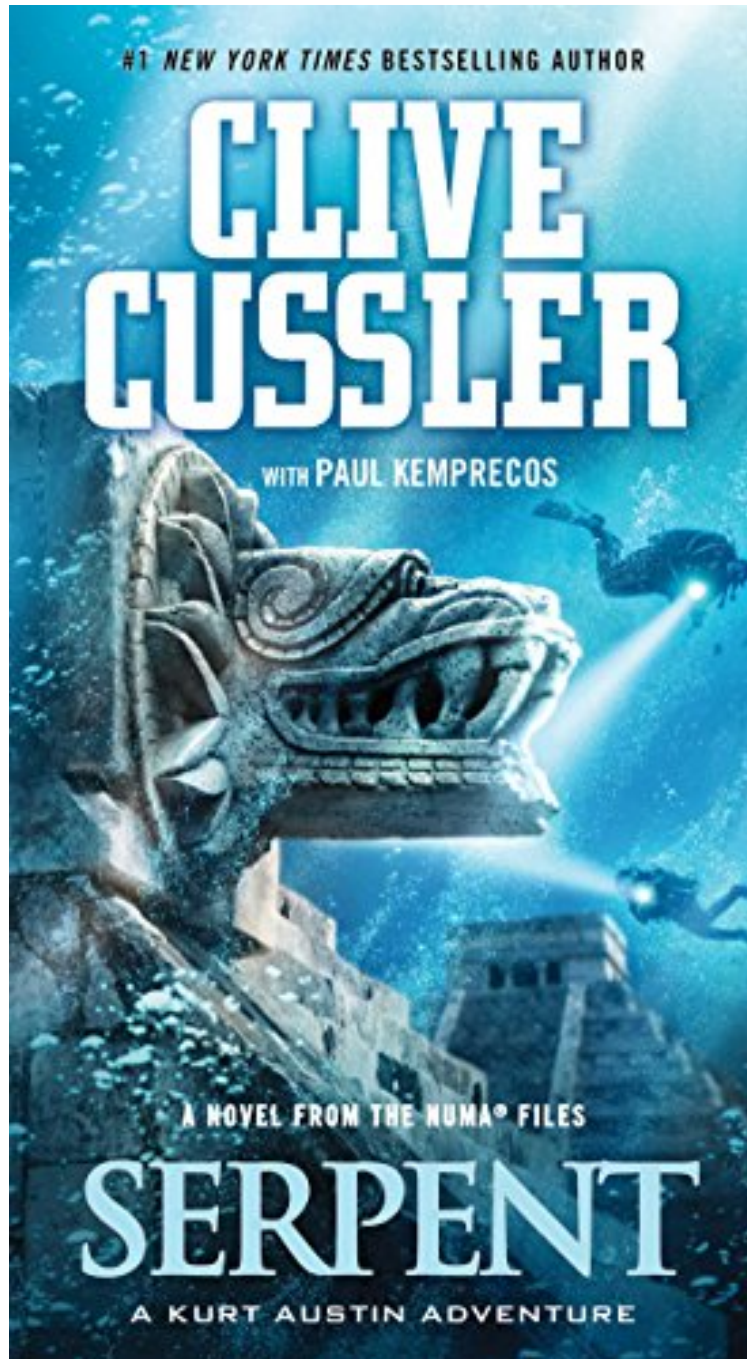


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Serpent: A Novel from the NUMA files (NUMA Files series Book 1) (English Edition)

Von Clive Cussler, Paul Kemprecos
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Von Clive Cussler, Paul Kemprecos : Serpent: A Novel from the NUMA files (NUMA Files series Book 1) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Serpent: A Novel from the NUMA files (NUMA Files series Book 1) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Awesome read! Von Robert M The first in the series of adventures of NUMA's Special Assignments Director Kurt Austin and his team (Joe Zavala, Gamay and Paul Trout) is not supposed to replace Dirk Pitt as our all-time-hero but rather add new and fresh excitement to the NUMA-files and let us see certain things from a different perspective. The plot kicks off with a typical Cussler-style prelogue, involving the famous ocean liner Andrea Doria. History is cunningly mixed with fiction to create one out of various story lines that all come together in present day at the very end. The voyage takes us to the Mexican Yucatan, explains fascinating facts about the Maya culture as well as underwater life and makes you want to join the closest diving school. Places and characters are very well developed and explained in detail what enables you to form clear images into your imagination and visualize the plot. All in all an indeed spell binding novel that's hard to put aside and which makes you feel like learning more about the adventures of Kurt Austin and his team. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Needs some work Von Ein Kunde I hope this review is constructive rather than acidic. Writing is a difficult occupation, but nonetheless even good writers like Mr. Cussler make mistakes. In my humble opinion these are the key problems with Serpent: How many central characters do there need to be? Across 474 pages, we've got 11: Kurt Austin, Joe Zavala, Nina Kirov, Dr. Knox, Gamay, Trout, Dr. Chi, Julian Perlmutter, Hiram Yaeger, Mr. Halcon, and Guzman. Minor characters that take up substantial pages include: Dr. Orville, Admiral Sandecker, Yellow Teeth, and Angelo Donatelli. When all of the characters are 2D, this many is way too many. Lack of attention to detail. Wooden ladders and bridges at least 1000 years old in a humid climate that are barely decayed? At least throw us a bone and have the characters break into a chamber that has been hermetically sealed by a landslide, hence keeping out the bugs, water damage, air, etc. It seems like everybody from a lowly deck hand to the Harvard professor has gourmet eating habits. Dirk Pitt novels in the last few years have been getting the same way. Remember the early Pitt that wanted a steak and a beer? Leave the gourmet cooking to James Bond and Julian Perlmutter. There's no challenge here. What about loss? None of the good guys (even minor characters) get anything but flesh wounds. Remember when Pitt's friend died in the middle of Iceberg? Not that someone has to die, but what about being disabled more than a few minutes hospital stay? I assume, since Cussler is older, that he wants to retire the Pitt and Giordino characters with him and these two new ones will keep the franchise alive. With a little more work, that may be possible. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of Cussler's Weakest, But There's A Reason... Von Ein Kunde I have read most of the reviews of Serpent and see that many people believe that Clive Cussler wrote this book with some help from a collaborator, Paul Kemprecos. Actually, Cussler only developed the plot outline and the characters while Kemprecos wrote the novel (although with Cussler's name in huge letters and Kemprecos' name in much smaller letters on the cover, I understand why people think that way, but that's book publisher marketing for you). One can tell fairly early that the prose is not that of Cussler. Kemprecos likes to take several pages to set a scene, going into detail as to the twists and turns of a boat adventure before he describes the little bit of action that occurs. Cussler usually gives just enough detail to set the stage for what becomes a ton of action. That is why I don't think Serpent should be considered a "Clive Cussler novel", because it isn't, despite the packaging. There are a lot of pages spent on details not that important to the main story, especially the subplot of Gamay Trout and Dr. Chi's adventure (I didn't think that would ever end). The new heroes, Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala, appear sporadically throughout the book and are not well developed. They aren't Dirk Pitt and Al Giordino clones, not even close. I also thought that the book ended rather abruptly for all the buildup. But I will say that Kemprecos tied the storylines together fairly well at the end, so the book was not bad at all, just a little too long (about 100 pages, I'd say). Overall, a Cussler fan should read this new book, because he may be setting the stage for Kemprecos to take over the series someday when Cussler and Pitt retire to enjoy tequila on the beach. If that's the case, I hope Kemprecos gets a better feel for developing action sequences.

Kurzbeschreibung The author of sixteen consecutive New York Times bestsellers unleashes a hero for the next millennium in an electrifying new series of unrelenting action and edge-of-your-seat thrills. Clive Cussler introduces us to Kurt Austin, the courageous leader of the NUMA exploration team. When Kurt Austin, the leader of a courageous National Underwater Marine Agency exploration team, rescues beautiful marine archaeologist Nina Kirov off the coast of Morocco, he becomes the next target of Texas industrialist Don Halcon. A madman bent on carving a new nation out of the southwestern United States and Mexico, Halcon's scheme hinges on Nina's recent discovery involving Christopher Columbus, and a priceless pre-Columbian antiquity buried in the battered remains of the sunken Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria. Only Kurt Austin and his crack NUMA team stand between Halcon and the Andrea Doria's

silent steel hull and if their deadly mission fails, Halcon will ride to power on a wave of death and destruction. From Publishers Weekly After more than a quarter century of chronicling the aquatic adventures of action hero Dirt Pitt, Cussler (*Flood Tide*; *Shock Wave*) has finally decided to cast his line in somewhat different waters. Co-written by veteran mystery author Paul Kempreco (*Bluefin Blues*; *The Mayflower Murder*), this novel still features the sturdy men and women of the National Underwater Marine Agency, plenty of hair-raising derring-do and a convivial cast of characters engaged in an outlandishly hatched thrill ride. The stars of this show are NUMA divers Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala, two young bucks without the seasoning and panache of Pitt but worthy successors, nonetheless. They are trying to find out why top archeologists are being killed, some of them butchered, at dig sites. The archeologists have apparently stumbled across artifacts proving, contrary to established historical thought, that Christopher Columbus wasn't the first Old World explorer to set foot in the New World. The killings can be traced to a mysterious organization in Texas called Time Quest, whose stated mission is to provide volunteers for digs. Its real intention, however, is much darker: to prevent anyone from learning that Spain was not the first on the scene in the New World and that the culture it claimed to discover had, in fact, been imported from other corners of the globe. Ultimately, Time Quest's leader, the evil Francisco Halcon, wants to foment revolution in the Western U.S. and reclaim it as Latin-American territory. The showdown between Halcon and NUMA's forces plays out in typical Cussler fury. First on the decks of the sunken passenger liner *Andrea Doria* in the waters off Nantucket and again in an underwater Mayan crypt in Guatemala. It's all great fun, if not a little top-heavy at times from flabby subplots and excessive detail on arcane historical facts and the machinery of deep-sea exploration. As for Pitt, his fans will be relieved to know that he and longtime sidekick Al Giordino make a brief appearance to wish Austin and Zavala luck, then depart for a mission in Antarctica, no doubt to return with tales of peril and glory. (June) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist It won't surprise those who remember Cussler's *Raise the Titanic!* (1976) that he now uses the 1956 sinking of the *Andrea Doria* as the springboard for another thriller involving the National Underwater and Maritime Agency. According to Cussler, the *Andrea Doria* sinking was deliberate, but that secret begins unraveling two generations later, when archaeologist Nina Kirov, fleeing a "terrorist" attack on her dig, is rescued by a NUMA vessel. Aboard are Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala, NUMA field operatives equally deft with underwater hardware and the ladies. The pair's first job is standing off the "terrorists" pursuing Kirov. Plots--not to mention counterplots--rapidly thicken as NUMA squares off against Halcon, who is clearly a descendant of Fu Manchu despite his Latino characterization. Halcon seeks an immense treasure, brought by fleeing Carthaginians to the Mayan empire, to finance an independent Latino nation in the U.S. Southwest. Before Halcon is defeated, Cussler dispenses, with new collaborator Kempreco's aid, the fast action, larger-than-life characters, less-than-graceful prose, credulity-stretching scenarios, and high-saltwater content that are his trademarks. A superlative subplot relays the adventures of archaeologist Gamay Trout and her companion, the Mayan Dr. Chi, as they try to escape outlaws, Halcon's minions, and the natural hazards of the Yucatan Peninsula. Likely to prove eminently satisfactory to Cussler fans. Roland Green