



Bright Shark

A novel by Robert Ballard and Tony Chu.

Book Report By Nikky Southerland

Time and Place Setting

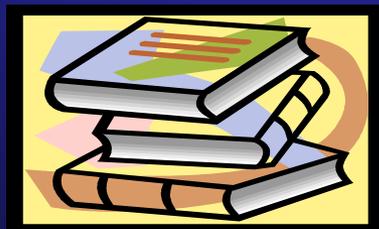
- The time period of the book, Bright Shark starts on May 17, 1988 and ended on June 1, 1988.
- The book takes place in many different areas.
- This includes London, Greece, Rainier National Park in Washington, District of Columbia, and The Eastern Mediterranean on the deck of the Fanning II, a mud boat refitted as a research vessel.

Fanning II



Edna J. Haddix

- She is lieutenant in the US Navy.
- Age 36, this will be her 2nd to last mission in the Navy before leaving it.
- She is very “by the book,” but is inexperienced as being a leader in an important mission, which will come to haunt her later in the book.



Wendell Trent

- Another main character is Wendell Trent.
- A divorced man of age 38 with 1 daughter.
- He is very active and is a mountain climber.
- He works for the Department of Energy.
- Once aboard the Fanning II he tightened the security.



The Main Problem

- A US research vessel crew is unknowingly looking for the Dakar, a Israeli submarine that sunk off the coast of Greece.
- A country is desperately trying to stop them finding the Dakar at all costs.....



While using 2 navy unmanned submarines names Bert and Ernie. The crew finds a diving suit way below the operating depth, a current disturbs it, revealing a Israel symbol. Haddix quickly orders all lights turned off, but not before the symbol is seen by everyone in the control vessel.

Wendell Trent is summoned from his vacation to be transported to the Fanning II, at the cost of over \$154,000 in all, making the trip in 18 hours. But in the way, he is almost killed when commandos crash into his taxi in England. In Greece, he is stopped by Adonis Thomopoulos Jr. for the propose of waylaying him enough to miss his flight. He fails.





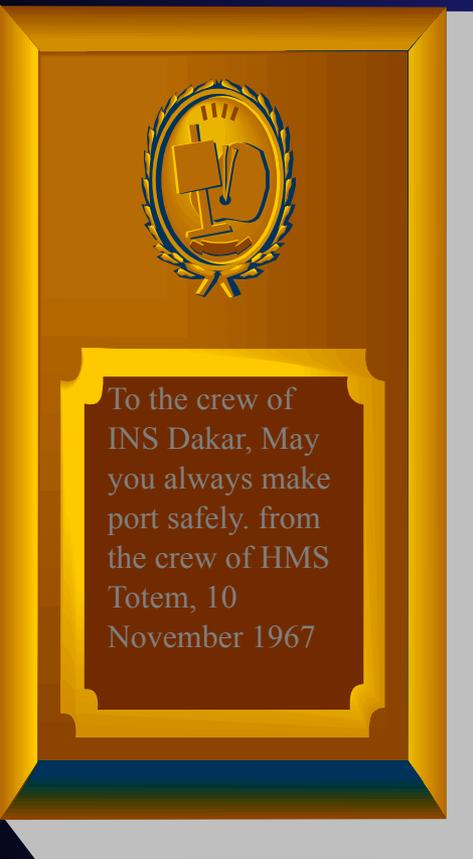
While Trent is in transit, a saboteur cuts the cable to Bert & Ernie, but thankfully not completely, a cable splicer is also brought aboard to fix it.

A middle eastern student is ordered to stay in his quarters, in a example of racial profiling.

Haddix and Trent decided that 3 revienes could hold the Dakar. Haddix chose number 2. No sign of the Dakar. So then they searched number 3, nope, no Dakar yet. Finally, they searched number one and found the Dakar in it.

The saboteur urgently tries to contact the Israeli submarine trailing the Fanning II. A diver from it put fishing nets in the Fanning II's propellers, causing the Fanning II to lose monverabilty until they can fix it.

After the propellers are fixed, Bert finds 3 acceptable openings in the hull that it can fit through, a gash atop the stern, a ruptured ballast tank on the port side and the forward base of the conning tower. After studying the submarine further, they found a fourth opening deep in the port side. The opening atop the stern was the one Bert went in first, but they found nothing less than normal. Now the ruptured ballast tank opening. They found in the crew quarters a huge room of bunks (beds), 80 of them, the submarine of the Dakar's size would never carry more than 60, and some would be on watch. Hmmm...



They also found rucksacks (duffel bag) that a military would never issue its soldiers. The rucksacks had Russian writing on it, keep in mind that this is an Israeli submarine. They also found a plaque that said, "To the crew of INS Dakar, May you always make port safely. from the crew of HMS Totem, 10 November 1967." In another room they found a small leather pump, one that would have fit a young girl, a golden necklace with the star of David, a miniature costume-jewelry tiara and a 1964 World's Fair pen. All signs of civilians, soviet civilians...



When leaving the room, they saw a red hatch, with a circle with three white equilateral triangles arrayed around a hub like to blades of a propeller, the international symbol of radiation. After opening the door, their gamma ray detector (it reads radiation) goes off the chart. A sign of Radioactive materials. They decided it was U_{238} . U_{238} used to power nuclear reactors, and can be converted to Pu_{239} , weapons grade plutonium, that is used for nuclear bombs. A tank was found with the bottom blown out, it should have been blown in, as what happens during an implosion. That points to the cause of disaster was sabotage.

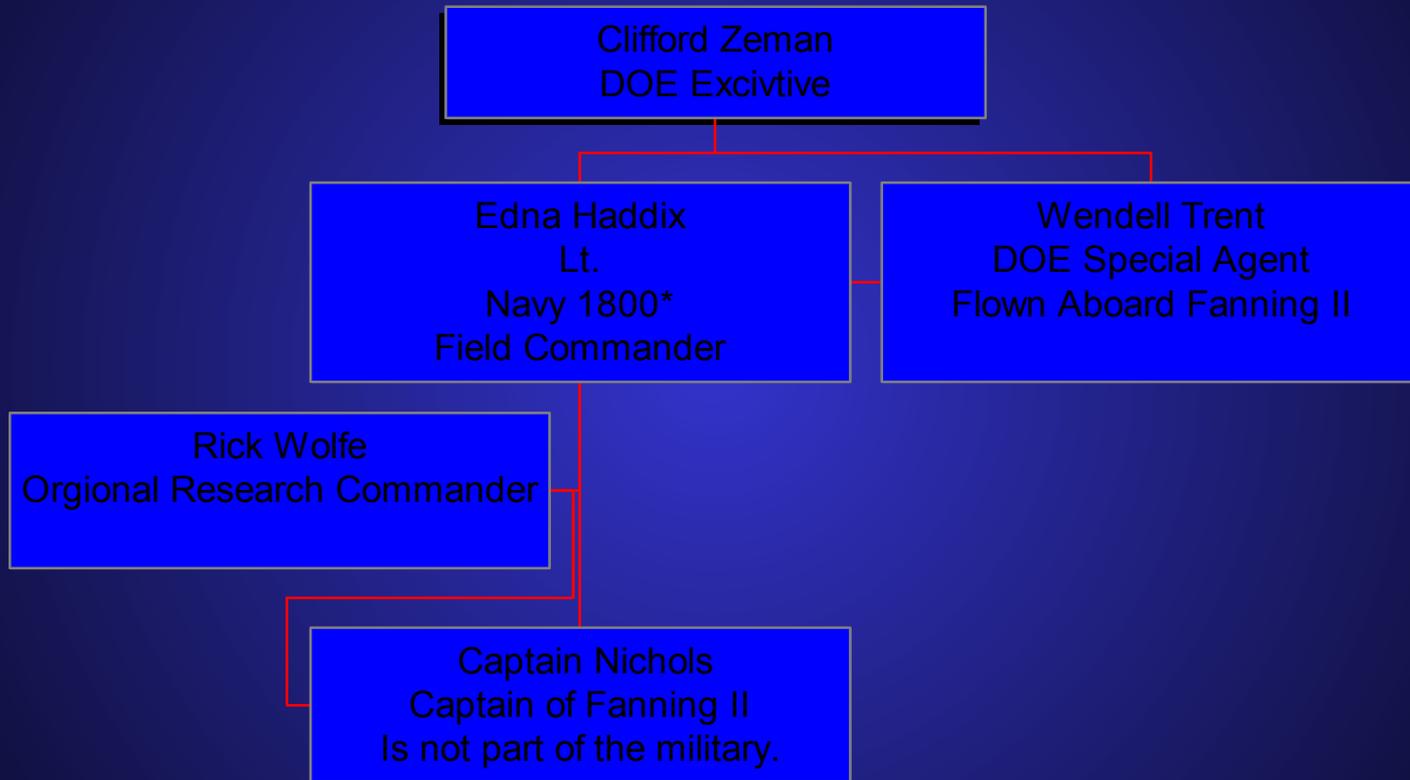
They also found a cylinder with writing on it, but then the captain of Fanning II called to the control van, that Israeli warships were closing on the Fanning II, and ordering them to surrender. They board the Fanning II and take away all of the recording's of the Dakar. Haddix rescues a video disk (kind of like a large DVD) and puts it in a transponder and sinks in in the ocean, with photos of the Dakar to be recovered later. A Israel submarine fires a deep diving torpedo, causing a landslide, covering the Dakar forever.



The resulting explosion causes the transponder to rise from the ocean, making Haddix, Trent and 3 Able Bodied Seamen go in a Zodiac boat, to find it. They finally find it after about 2 hours. Then they make full speed to mainland, and get picked up by a military sergeant. The disk, Haddix, and Trent are rushed to Suitland (Name for Navy intelligence). In the briefing room, the cylinder picture is shown for the first time (They were boarded before they can see it) and it said, Attention! Hazardous Substance, “ $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CHH}_3\text{CH}_3)\text{OPF}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ ” The weird letters and numbers is a symbol for the compound methyphosphonofluoridic acid one, two, two, trimethylpropester (no, I don't know how to say it), also known as soman, a nerve agent, the most poisonous gas in extince. The three cylinders hold enough to kill every person in downtown Chicago.



People/ US Side



Note: 1800 is a navy code, it basically means that she is someone who researches the ocean.

Every one else



My opinion of this story

What I liked about the book Bright Shark is the suspense, action and mystery all in one story. However, I didn't like the ending, it just sputtered out.

Me
(yes,
that's
really
me)



About the author

Nikky Southerland was born on May 12th, 1988 in Seattle. He lives in Allyn right now. Nikky enjoys playing soccer, computer games and reading. Nikky has a really bad sense of humor, as you probably already know. When he grows up, he wants to be an architect. If you squint, you might be able to see the picture of him.

The

End

