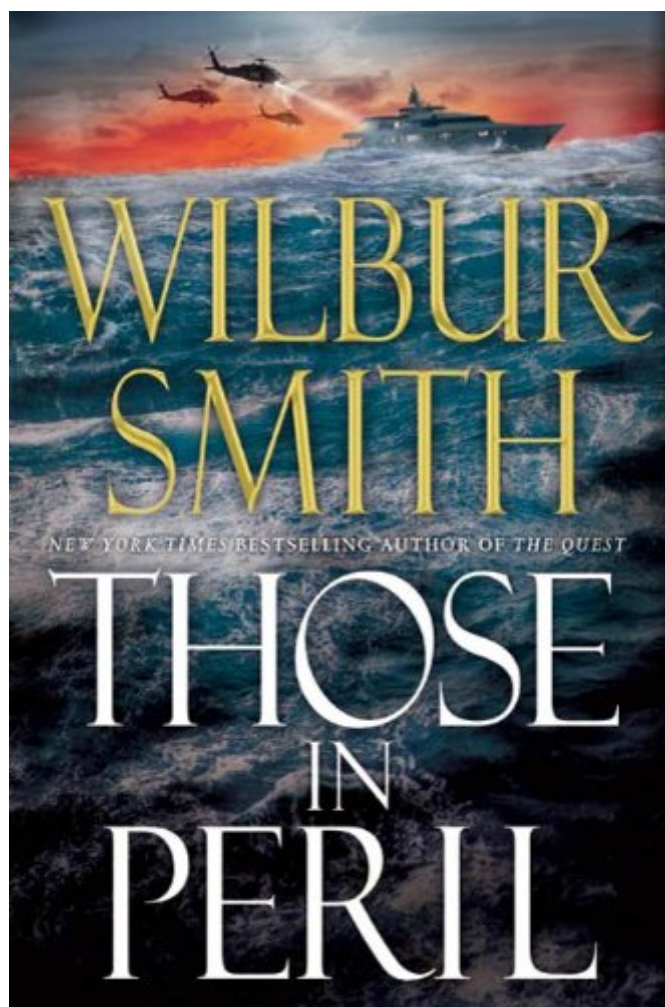


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Those In Peril (Hector Cross Novels Book 1)



Synopsis

In *Those in Peril*, a nail-biting tale of adventure, bestselling author Wilbur Smith brings his matchless storytelling to bear on the violent, ruthless world of twenty-first-century piracy. While cruising on the family yacht in the Indian Ocean, nineteen-year-old Cayla Bannock is attacked and taken hostage by Somali pirates. Her kidnappers demand a staggering ransom: twenty billion dollars. And Cayla's not just anyone--she's the daughter of Hazel Bannock, heiress to the Bannock Oil Corporation, one of the world's foremost oil producers. The sensitive global political climate means not even the most powerful groups in the world can intervene. Left to handle the problem on her own, Hazel calls on Hector Cross, head of the security agency that protects Bannock Oil. As threats increase and evidence arises of horrific torture, the need to take action becomes more urgent than ever--and soon Hazel and Hector will have no choice but to take the law into their own hands...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read my first Wilbur Smith novel, *When the Lion Feeds*, when I was in my teens forty years ago. Since this first novel I have been an avid fan of Wilbur Smith, waiting eagerly for his next novel. I have read each more than once, produced a family tree of the Courtney's & Ballantynes and loved the Egyptian novels. I say this only to show that this review has been written by a life time fan and it

hurts me to only give it one star. Readers not familiar with Wilbur Smith's previous work will probably find *Those in Peril* quite a good yarn, though it was extremely obvious by the end of the first third what was going to happen. It was like watching a TV show made to fit in a one hour time slot. As a matter of fact, I would have made better use of my time watching trash TV than reading this offering from Wilbur Smith. For those wanting a novel to read whilst on holidays that doesn't require too much intelligence and which will help you pass the time, then consider this but there are better books available. For those fans of Wilbur Smith, don't waste your money. Wait for the next one and hope he has come to his senses and rediscovers himself as a wordsmith. Sorry Wilbur, five stars for everything else you have written and one for *Those in Peril*.

Do not buy this book if you are a Wilbur Smith fan. It is complete and unadulterated rubbish. I can not believe that Wilbur's support team of publishers, editors and managers would allow such damage to be done to his brand by releasing this amateurish & vacuous drivel. I am just glad I bought it on Kindle otherwise, in the bin it would go. No way would it end up on my bookshelf alongside every other book he has written. This book is not even worthy of donation to a charity book fair; I could not bring myself to be so unkind to some poor, unsuspecting bargain hunter. If Wilbur Smith has come to the end of his writing life, fine, and thanks for all the great reads over the years; well done, you were a true wordsmith! But to plod on in this fashion? Please, someone who knows him, throw a bucket of icy cold water over him. Did he and his support team really think that no-one would notice?

I have to say I have been a BIG Wilbur Smith fan for the last 15 years and have read all his books at the very least a couple of times but this last book was a big disappointment, I really didn't even recognize the writing style, and where his stories have always transported you right into the action with his descriptions this book couldn't even bring you close. The characters were empty and unrealistic, the story predictable with no surprises...What happened to our favorite story teller?

I think Mr Smith has two options here. First; sue the pants off the author of this book for using his name to publish it under. Second; come clean and admit that this was written by his protégé who is going to take over the mantle so as Mr. Smith can enter well deserved retirement. If neither of these scenarios are correct one can only assume Mr. Smith himself is responsible for this work. Like a few other reviewers, I have read every one of his books and always look forward to his next instalment, not thinking twice before buying it. What a disappointment this book is. It's just inane

rubbish. I can't go into details as to what is wrong with the story because I don't think there is anything wrong with it. The book is well written with a mildly entertaining, though entirely implausible, storyline. It is the type of book that will appeal to some. What I really dislike is the way I was duped into believing this would be a "Wilbur Smith" quality book. I'm sure his name is a registered trade mark which he uses to market his wares. This is false advertising. I nearly bought the hard copy at \$40.00 instead of the E version. If I had it would be going back to Mr. Smith with a demand for a full refund. As it is I feel \$14.65 is way overpriced for this trashy novel. Reading this book was hard work! Come on Mr. Smith, return to your tried and tested formula and please use a pseudonym for experiments and/or indulgences so I don't get sucked in again.

I have to say, I was mighty dissatisfied in this book. As someone who has read every Wilbur Smith book I have come across, I am perplexed. My issues are many. Half of the book is a good action story. Reads more like a Cussler than anything Smith has written in the past. In fact, if you cut that good half out and put it in its own book, it would rate much higher. In the first chapters you are presented with 2-3 pages of pure smut. No other words for it I am sorry. It is unnecessary to the story to go into that much detail, and makes this book Adults Only 18+. It could have been left out with no loss. Where is the character development? A good part of the middle of the book goes like this 'and they went here. And then they went here and played golf. And then they visited a park.' Chapter after chapter. It provides nothing to the story (a single line of 'life went on for a while' would have covered it). The story lines, when they break, are almost totally predictable. Again, this is not his usual style. In the end I am very disappointed. It is like a book written by another author with Smith's name on it, but it is nowhere near his usual standard. Many of his older Africa books were excellent, even without peer. This is almost pure capitalization on the author's name with no value, I am very sorry.

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