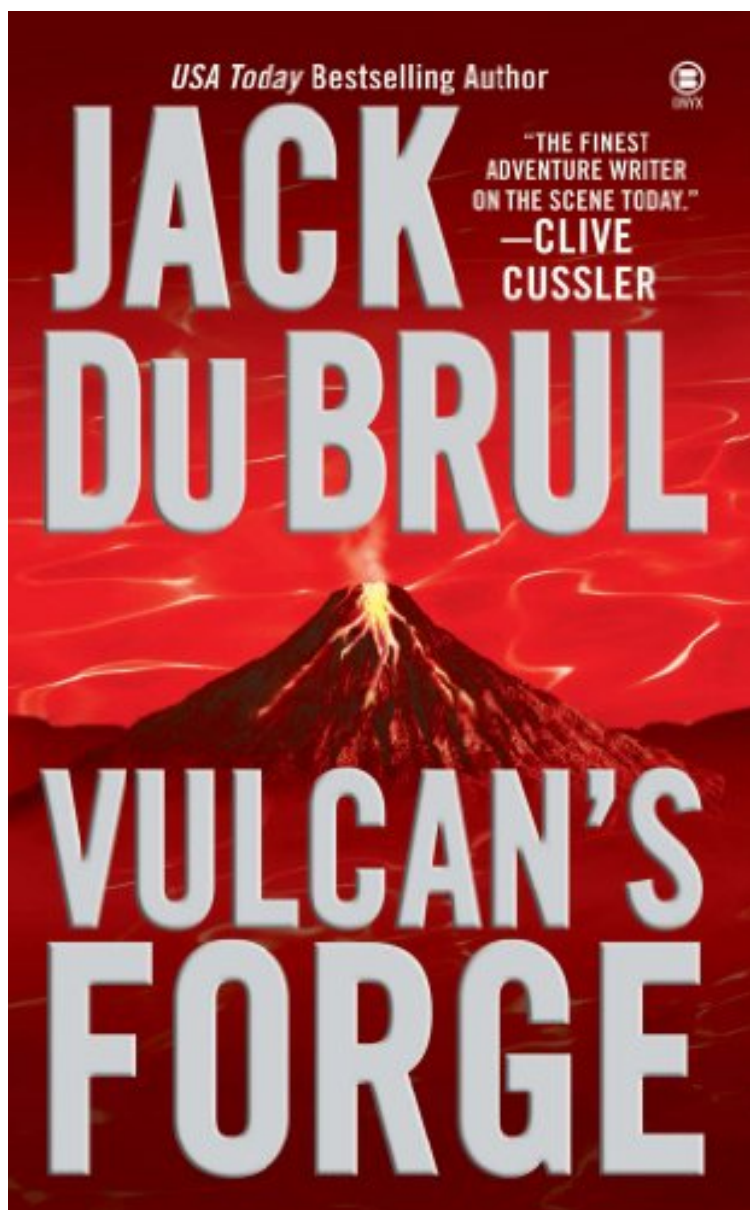


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Vulcan's Forge



Par Jack Du Brul
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Description : Description du produitIt begins deep beneath the Pacific Ocean, where a nuclear bomb strikes at the fiery hot heart of the earth. Churning, spewing boiling lava, a volcano rises with unnatural speed from the ocean floor--the source of a new mineral that promises clean, limitless nuclear power.It continues in hot spots around the globe: Hawaii, where a secessionist movement is about to turn violent and the American Army may be asked to fire on U.S. citizens; Washington D.C., where the subway system becomes the site of a running gun battle; the Far East, where disrupted diplomatic negotiations jeopardize world peace; a rogue Russian submarine, circling the infant volcano.Caught in the middle if Philip Mercer, a geologist and a one-time commando with shady contacts in all the right (or is it wrong?) places. When Mercer learns that the daughter of an old friend is being kept under armed guard in a local hospital, he vows to rescue her, not

knowing that this is the first step in unraveling the fantastic secrets of...Vulcan's Forge.

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AudioFileVULCAN'S FORGE takes the listener all over the globe on secret military submarines and high-powered jets. Narrator J. Charles masterfully performs over a dozen characters with a variety of Russian, Asian, and American inflections. One of the influential politicians can even be mistaken for Ted Kennedy, for better or worse. Charles combines the intelligence of MacGuyver and the roughness of Grizzly Adams in his portrayal of the main character, geologist and freelance agent Philip Mercer. However, Charles reads at such a clip that the listener needs to work hard to keep up and may even need to relisten to some parts.

K.M.B. AudioFile 2002, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, MaineKirkus sA debut thriller introducing Philip Mercermine engineer, geological consultant, and the only Bond clone who carries a Derringer strapped to his testicles. A study in triple crosses, Du Brul's story tells of a 40-year plot contrived by the Russians, who want to own a newly risen underwater volcano 200 miles off Hawaii. Geological physicist Pytor Borodin and an American physicist who's studying the oceanic Bikini A-bomb test have independently discovered the same fact: that enormous underwater thermal heat, when mixed with lava, can produce the hardest fuel known to manbikinium, which, once put to use, gives off more energy than is needed to burn it. Back in 1954, Borodin had also discovered that the thinnest part of the tectonic plate in the

Pacific is just 200 miles past Hawaii. So the Reds secretly sink a ship carrying an A-bomb. The plan is to detonate it on the seafloor, creating a volcano whose lava can then be processed very cheaply for bikinium, leaving the Soviets as the most powerful people on earth. But during the 40- year wait for this secret volcano to break to the surface, at which point it can be claimed as Soviet territory, the USSR empire collapses and a KGB officer decides to sell the whole plan for Vulcan's Forge to North Korea for \$100 million. Enter Philip

Mercer, out to save the life of on old friend's daughter, a member of a geologic survey team lost near the volcano. Much bang-bang but little kiss-kiss ensues. Meanwhile, a superbillionaire Japanese racist plots the secession of Hawaii, and Mercer, empowered by the US President, finds himself in cliffhangers more wonderfully outrageous than you'll find in Clive Cussler or Ian Fleming. A finely tuned first installment in the Mercer series, buoyed by strong, fresh writing. Remember, Fleming could never top From Russia With

Love, so come aboard now. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.