



The Moonpool

P.T. Deutermann

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I remembered it from high school chemistry, one of those experiments where we made hydrogen. It was more of an acidic sensation on the palate than a real smell, but I recognized it. The pile of spent fuel at the bottom was beginning to outgas. Next would come the fire to end all fires. . . .

A private detective working in Wilmington, North Carolina, is found dead in a gas-station restroom, apparently poisoned. But when her body sets off radiation alarms in the pathologist's office, suspicion falls on the nearby Helios nuclear power plant, a heavily guarded facility with supposedly failsafe procedures.

As the FBI, local police, and the power plant's own security team investigate, ex-cop Cam Richter, head of the agency that employed the dead woman, begins his own inquiries. What was his detective investigating? And how could one person be poisoned by radiation without others being exposed?

Cam soon finds himself up against powerful forces that will stop at nothing to keep the plant's problems secret. The most vulnerable part of Helios is its "moonpool"—the radioactive storage pond that cools spent but volatile reactor fuel and must be kept completely full. Racing against time, Cam discovers an inside threat, which will use the plant's own systems to begin an unstoppable, disastrous sequence of events.

The Moonpool is a terrific thrill-ride, filled with insider details about the ultimate terrorist threat and how it might unfold.

The Moonpool Details

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Author : P.T. Deutermann

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From Reader Review The Moonpool for online ebook

Mary says

3+ to 4-. Computer nerd terrorist, off the rails colonel, and a former police lieutenant and his 2 german shepherds battle it out with help /hindrance from FBI, homeland security , a local police sergeant, and the nuclear regulatory commission in this murder investigation turned deadly. A lot happening here! A lot of violence.

Andy2302 says

I gave it 4 stars because it's better than a 3. Fast fun & short.

Brett Thomasson says

Cam Richter has been given a load of reasons from some powerful people to keep his nose out of investigating the death of his employee, Allie Gardner. Everyone from the FBI to the security boss at the local nuclear power plant Allie may have visited suggest he let them handle her death, even when it turns out she was poisoned with a radioactive substance. But Cam, a former sheriff's officer turned private investigator, doesn't trust any of them and knows he's the only one more interested in finding out what happened to Allie than in protecting secrets and screw-ups.

2008's *The Moonpool* is the third Richter novel, following *The Cat Dancers* and *Spider Mountain*. Cam has settled in to his role as a private detective, wealthy enough to do the work he wants and let someone else do the work he doesn't. Allie was one of his detectives who liked following philandering husbands, so the first suspicion at her death falls on her previous cases. But the presence of radioactivity in her body turns attention to the Helios nuclear power plant, and no one there is much interested in letting a private detective with no security clearance nose around to find answers.

Deutermann has an easygoing style and has done a clear job of painting Cam over the three novels in the series to that point. Although *Spider Mountain* had significantly tamed the Plot Hole Syndrome that tangled *Cat Dancers*, the remission seems to have been only temporary, as the condition returns in force here. Both the ultimate villainous plan Richter has to thwart and the roadblocks he has to handle to get there are vaguely drawn and more than a little ridiculous where they aren't. Even Allie's death, the original spark for the who sequence, winds up resolved with an "Oh, by the way" quality that can make you wonder why any of these things happened -- or, indeed, why you should sit through more of them.

Original available [here](#).

William Bentrin says

The Moon Pool by P.T. Deutermann

Keep in mind, I see myself writing recommendations rather than reviews. I can save you some time, I recommend the book. Deutermann and this book once again, kept me up late reading. Cam Richter who we met in Cat Dancers and Spider Mountain is back. Cam, Frick and Frack once again face myriad dangers, the FBI, Home Land Security, delusional hackers, psychotic ex-military and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I have all four books in this series and will be enlightening my readers with my reactions, sweaty palms and all. I reviewed Cat Dancers and then Spider Mountain on this blog a few weeks ago, this book is every bit as good. I have to feel that Deutermann is a dog person; he writes of Cam's sidekicks with respect and love but also is able to be pragmatic about them. Cam's love for his canine companions is once again aptly demonstrated.

Deutermann portrays his protagonists with nearly bottomless loyalty and unbelievable persistence, often to their detriment. Cam's fellow ex-cops demonstrate the astounding depths of friendship.

Cam and other characters express dismay over the state of the American psychic and derision for many of the agencies tasked to keep us safe. Deutermann is very even handed in his characters' criticisms. This book, as the others in the series, is a nail biting action adventure.

I highly recommend it.

Dan Smith says

This was the 3rd in a series of 4 books where Cam Richter was the main character. I read the last one first and then the other three. Outstanding stories of a former sheriffs deputy who opened up his on Private Eye office, using only retired law enforcement officers as his associates. The stories were thrilling, taking place in the areas all over North Carolina.

I have been in contact with the author and found that that there will be no more stories with this character as they did not sell as well as they had hoped.

I will still recommend these books as they are very entertaining...

Jennifer says

Very good and exciting library find of a detective, his two dogs, and a nuclear power plant conspiracy. Detailed, twisted, and exciting story line. Even made me want a german shepard for a moment. Definitely no snakes! Good book and the audiobook narrator had a nice voice.

Ann says

Main character Cal Richter (from The Cat Dancers and Spider Mountain) is back; this time he's looking into

the weird and out of the ordinary sudden death of fellow teammate Allie Gardner. Somehow Allie has been poisoned by contaminated water from 'the moonpool.' He brings his company, Hide & Seek Investigations, into the mix of FBI, Homeland Security and local police as they race to find who's tampering with a nuclear fuel reactor.

Mark says

I love the Cam Richter series...Its slowly grown on me...now its not the level of Joe Picket or Walt Longmire, but it sure is a fun read...Richter's agency loses one of its own, to of all things, radiation poisoning pulling Cam & company into an investigation of a nuclear power station targeted for sabotage...great, fun read!

Hazy says

Some decent action scenes and funny lines. But the book lost me midway through with too many fantastic plot twists. I think the author was trying to make a point with some of the set pieces, poking fun at government agencies and crazy ideologues, but the execution was bad and left me feeling increasingly confused as I read it.

But it has dogs. Can't complain too much.

Randi says

Read it in one day at the beach. Kept me till the end!

Christy says

This is the third book in Deutermann's Cam Richter thriller series. Former cop Richter now runs a private investigation business. When one of his PI team members dies from exposure to radiation, Richter is led to look at a nuclear power plant in Wilmington, N.C to figure out what happened to her. As per usual in this series, Richter gets on the wrong side of the law because he won't back off the case (this time with a Homeland Security twist). Also, as usual with the series, Richter ends up at one point trapped with a nasty critter (first book it was a mountain lion). And finally, per usual, Richter's two German Shepherds – Frick and Frack – end up being the Most Valuable Players of the action and of the story.

I don't read many macho thrillers and I seriously suspect this series won that slot in my reading attention because of those dogs. It's not even that I'm a dog lover, but I get a thrill every time the dogs end up being a game-changer in the action. Also, while Cam Richter has work partners and a special lady friend, the true emotional core of the book is his relationship with his dogs as the ending makes clear.

I read The Moonpool in the week before my move and with its pages packed with action and peril, it was the right book for the time. I think there is at least one more book in the series which I plan to get to at some

point.

Pamela says

Though I prefer Deutermann's WWII era novels, they seem to be more cohesively-tight, and flawlessly written, "The Moonpool" delivered a respectable suspense-driven punch. The plot is intense and relevant. Public water contamination via nuclear waste mishandling and/or containment tampering is certainly a post 9/11 credible threat. Add to it, brain-trust smuggling, anti-government homeland fanatics, and the misuse of the Patriot Act, and you have one heck of an adrenaline-pounding-story.

Yes, highly captivating and intense - five-stars for plot, suspense, relevance, plausibility, complexity, and nuclear science accuracy. I dropped a half-star for discrepancy in a couple key detailing scenes: Khakis and sneakers suddenly turned into Khakis and military boots within the same scene sequence; phone calls made from phones previously described as nonoperational. The lack of chapter-divisions, or any other clear division markers, caused me to drop another half-star. A book of substantial length and/or substantial heady-subject-matter becomes tiring and tedious without some reader-friendly marked pauses.

However, despite my rating drop due to mechanics and a few detail discrepancies, I "glowingly" enjoyed "The Moonpool." If heady complex plots, fierce action, surprising twists, and derange-driven-antagonists is your thing - this book should fit the bill.

Tom Tischler says

A private detective working in Wilmington N.C. is found in a gas station restroom apparently poisoned. But when her body sets off radiation alarms in the morgue suspicion falls on the nearby Helios nuclear power plant. A heavily guarded facility with supposedly fail safe procedures. The FBI, local police and the plants own security begin an investigation. Cam Richter head of the agency that employed the dead woman begins his own inquiries. Cam soon finds himself up against a powerful force that will stop at nothing to keep the plants problems secret. The most vulnerable part of Helios is it's moonpool which is a radio-active storage pond that cools spent reactor fuel. Racing against time Cam discovers an inside threat that plans to use the plants own system to begin an unstoppable disastrous series of events. This is book three in the Cam Richter series and it's another page turner well worth reading.

Lewis says

I wanted to like this book. It is set in my home state. I disliked The Cat Dancers but had ordered two by

Deutermann via Audible. com and thought the series might grow on me. It did not. I realize that this is adventure fiction but even In adventure fiction, I prefer characters to either act rationally or have reasons presented why they do not. Cam Richter is presented as a competent policeman. But he, in *The Cat Dancers*, does the most ridiculous things for no discernible reasons. He blunders into encounters with mountain lions. He constantly falls into traps. In *The Moonpool*, he continues to fall the most obvious ruses, like meeting a dangerous man at night in a boat using GPS coordinates provided by the villain. The man proceeds to ram his boat of course. Then he goes into a snake house for no apparent reason except to create another contrived cliffhanger. He runs into not one but two booby traps on a trail set by the villain. He escapes by defying the laws of physics. I won't even discuss the ludicrous pine tree episode (don't think Deutermann has ever looked closely at a pine tree) I gave this book one star because there was no option for giving it zero stars.

Tony Taylor says

This story which takes place in a small city in costal North Carolina is about a ficticious nuclear accident as perpetrated by some bad guys. I always enjoy Pete's novels and look forward to the next. He throughs a lot of realism into his stories that reflect his research for what is happening in the real world. Keep it up, Pete (a friend from the Naval Academy.)
