



Dark Light

Randy Wayne White

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Imagine hurricane winds over the Sahara Desert, preceded by a cavalry of tornadoes. Imagine dunes flattened, then resculpted. Then imagine all that at the bottom of the sea.

A Category 4 hurricane has swept the west coast of Florida, creating havoc, changing lives, and reshaping the ocean bottom. Well-known reefs and wrecks have been covered—and new ones have emerged.

From one such wreck, marine biologist Doc Ford and his friends make a chance discovery that will have a monumental effect—a cluster of mysterious objects that lead to an equally mysterious woman and her ancient, gray-gabled estate of a beach house.

The woman weaves a haunting story of a loved one lost, and her chance to uncover the truth if Ford will help salvage the boat, named *Dark Light*, which sank without explanation in the hurricane of 1944. Intrigued, Ford agrees, and begins a chain of events that will change his life forever. For there are other things in that wreck as well, and other men who want them, men willing to commit terrible acts. And the woman herself—the woman is not what she seems. . . .

Filled with passion and vivid, pungent prose and some of the best characters in suspense fiction, *Dark Light* is a thriller of uncommon intensity.

Dark Light Details

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Author : Randy Wayne White

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From Reader Review Dark Light for online ebook

Mark Giordano says

I'm thoroughly enjoying this new author and I am amazed at his ability to come up with completely different plot lines with every story I read. This one has a bit of a mystical feel to it with ties to WWII and Captiva Island. Well worth the time. Gonna have to go back to the beginning and start reading his stories in chronological order.

Geoffrey Gelb says

Fantastic Doc Ford book. Leaves me waiting for the next in the series and, after all, isn't that the mark of an awesome book! Randy Wayne White is another Florida mystery writer in the same vein as Carl Hiaasen, Laurence Shames and Tim Dorsey and his Doc Ford character never disappoints the reader.

Glen says

Just after a hurricane hit Florida, the fishermen and other denizens of the marina are trying to get their lives back together. An unscrupulous marina owner stole as many boats as he could from the locals under a self serving interpretation of salvage laws.

A wreck is uncovered out in the ocean. A mysterious woman wants to bankroll the salvage operation for Doc and Tomlinson. Meanwhile, there's ghosts of old Florida, the residue of a Nazi spy ring, and Doc's got a concussion.

A good entry in the series, but a bit more mystical than most.

Melidee Hall says

Interesting and intriguing. Left with unanswered questions....or not. :) I enjoyed this book.

David Ward says

Dark Light (Doc Ford Mystery #13) by Randy Wayne White (G.P.Putnam's Sons 2006) (Fiction - Mystery) is the first one I've tried by this author. I like him very much! He writes in the style of John D. MacDonald. His sleuth is Marion "Doc" Ford, who is a collector of marine specimens and who lives on Sanibel Island, Florida in a stilt house over the water. Doc Ford is also apparently a spy or a CIA operative of some type, but this book only hinted at that. This book featured Nazi relics recovered from a wreck and an evil land developer. I've got more of the author's work on order from the library. My rating: 7/10, finished 7/29/12.

Donna says

A circle of evil, old and new, entangles Doc Ford, Tomlinson and Dinkin's Bay. Randy Wayne White combines a World War 2 mystery with a hunt for treasure, while dealing with a modern day murderer and discovers how the old mystery influenced Doc's present troubles. The novel also includes the aftermath of a devastating hurricane on Dinkin's Bay, and the difficulties of obtaining aid from anyone-government, insurance etc. While the novel was written several years ago, it is more than relevant today, after 3 devastating hurricanes in one year. The characters and the mysteries, along with the hunt for treasure make for a very engrossing novel. And Chesta and Marlissa will remain some of my favorite characters! A thoroughly enjoyable and thoughtful book.

Rachel N. says

Doc Ford just made it through a hurricane at his home on Sanibel Island. Doc's friend Jeff finds a shipwreck while chartering a boat for some unscrupulous people from Indian Harbor Marina. Doc and his pal Tomlinson agree to help Jeff salvage the shipwreck while dealing with the unsavory marina owner. I have read on previous book in this series and don't remember much about it. The book alternates between Ford's perspective and that of the evil marina owner and I found the marina owners to be more interesting. There isn't much suspense or mystery in the book and it just kind of randomly ends.

DemetraP says

I liked the earlier books better. I'm still confused about the identity of the woman Ford met in the house.

Phil says

Excellent work Randy Wayne White outdid himself on this Doc Ford pulsating mystery. Sanibel amidst in a crime wave that dates back to the Nazi infiltration an excellent read.

Donna Mcnab says

This story takes place on the gulf coast of Florida, when a wreck appears due to a Category 4 hurricane which has reshaped the ocean bottom. Marine biologist Doc Ford, together with his rather unusual friends, try to solve the mystery of the wreck with very interesting artifacts that they rescue from the bottom, while they fight off some very bad men also interested in their find. Also involved is a mysterious "older" woman who wants to fund the retrieval of the objects, which seem to be connected to her past or the past of an ancestor who she greatly resembles. This was a story that haunted me after I finished the book.

Thomas Nevins says

good base story but slow, wandered abit and too many n9on significant characters

Vickie says

Doc Ford is a man I could easily have a crush on. And there's his buddy, Tomlinson, who is a free spirit with a wicked sense of humor. Both are smart and take care of themselves, each other and their friends.

There seem to be two stories going on, but they are intertwined. There are some Wisconsin mob guys down taking advantage of the last hurricane's destructive path. Doc wants to set them straight after the mob guys take on some of Doc's buds.

Then there's the mystery woman Tomlinson introduces to Doc. The story she tells of lost WWII treasure in the ocean intrigues Doc as much as the mystery woman does. I've listened to a couple of books from this series and enjoyed each one thoroughly. This one was especially so. This is a series, but each one can be listened to as a stand-alone as far as I am concerned. And rarely does a series keep going strong when there are a lot of books in the series. This isn't one of those, again, as far as I am concerned. DARK LIGHT is #13 in the lineup and there are 17 of them.

Five Florida coast can be dangerous beans.....

Richard Thompson says

My second outing with Doc Ford and the crew from Sanibel Island. This one predates the first one I read and comes after the one I am currently reading aloud to Maggee so things get a bit confused at times.

The island had been hit by a major hurricane and people are slowly crawling out from under the wreckage. A bunch of bad guys who own a newly developed marina are trying to take advantage of the chaos to claim salvage rights on boats that they had been storing for clients, boats that, in fact, have not been damaged in the storm.

Doc Ford locks horns with these guys when a friend (who happens to be using one of the BG's boats at the time) discovers the wreck of a WW II era yacht and recovers a few artifacts that seem to suggest a link to Nazi Germany. Then there is the hauntingly beautiful older woman who seems to have ties to the people who were on the boat...

Good characters. Solid plot.

Meg says

I picked this up thinking it was going to be just a silly book, but it is another in a series that I have picked up

before (Sanibel Flats) and really enjoyed. Many south Florida books are all silly and humorous, but White takes the setting in a much more serious direction. (And how weird is it that there is a South Florida mystery genre?)

Mike says

The first few "Doc Ford" adventure novels were extremely entertaining. However, since then they are sounding like "more of the same".

Bonnieb says

Quick, decent mystery, with a little environmental awareness, land developer destruction and greed thrown into the mix. White always combines a decent mystery with environmental education. I always like Doc Ford as protagonist. You don't see many fish biologists with both a side 'job' helping the CIA and having a 1970s hippie as his best friend. Just funny, quick, reminders of how messed up Florida is sometimes!

Greg says

This was a very different chapter in the Doc Ford series. I found it very interesting and entertaining at the same time. A hurricane hits Sanibel Island prior to the beginning of the story. Things are not the usual at Dinkin's Bay Marina. An old boat, named Dark Light is discovered after the hurricane. The boat is from the WW2 era and the mystery surrounding the boat begins to unfold. History comes alive. From Nazi prisoner camps in Florida, lost loves and artifacts from the German Nazis. We learn that Hannah Smith's house on Gumbo Limbo has been demolished and is now becoming Indian Harbor Marina. After all these years, Arlis reappears during the story. Thoughts and longing for Hannah come alive in Doc. One of Dinkin's Bay regulars comes to his demise during the story. The mystery is solved and Jeth, Tomlinson and Doc find some very valuable items aboard Dark Light. During the Epilogue, Randy eludes to the next book titled Hunter's Moon. All in all, this is a well written book that keeps you wanting to get to the last page, but found myself not wanting the story to end as I approached the final pages.

Kathleen Crowley says

I didn't like the way the main character grapples with his attraction to an older woman. He only gives into her under hither influence of marijuana which he usually staunchly avoids as he seems a control freak. In the light if day he regrets it and she seems willing to apologize for being old. The author reconciles the main characters conflict by having him in the end meet s young version of the old lady. And even disparages the older woman with a phrase of "crazy aunt ---" as spoken by the young nubile niece. Lame. Not a bad story but that was lame

Charles Dingman says

A mystery of love and betrayal, limerence and madness; the inner life of a madman is disturbing.

Rapido says

This book seems a bit better than the last couple of Doc Ford stories I have read, but still falls short of White's earlier goes. This one had a bit of a metaphysical feel to it had me wondering just who the woman in the old grey house really was. The history of Florida during WWII was a nice touch, but you can always count on RWW to teach us something. A cut above his latest, but not his best IMHO.
