

Hi,



Well, this has come a long way since the first iterations! Keeps one`s attention (almost) throughout. I am not yet quite sure why I added the (almost) – something is niggling me, so I will have to read it again to see what it was/is I think it is something to do with how/when the alien appears – u will come ack to that later when I have read it again.

Dowd reads well and I am now invested in him. I like the occasional chips of humour (could maybe introduce more, but I know there is a balance to be struck, it maybe feels a little bit too heavy and dark?)

Just whilst I think about it there is a short passage where there seem to be some words missing (or I am just missing the sense of it?) on page 31

This is fucked up.

DOWD

We`re you here for the storm?

HUNT

What the fuck was that?

AMIRI

What the fuck was that?

Extract copied. Makes a little more sense as “were you here for the storm” – but not much? If Hunt and Amiri are reacting to something I don`t see the `something` they are reacting too.

By the way I like Amiri – she is immediately `friendly` in my perception of her. (*probably the rugby link!! Writing this before the World cup final tomorrow morning here. Come on England!*)

Disconnect

I was just looking through again for the first reference to “Senniger”, which I had missed first time, when I discovered the disconnect which led to my (almost) comment.

It comes on page 20 when Dowd apparently wakes up and the calm Admiral – Frank – is now beside himself banging fruitlessly on a door that won`t open. I cannot figure out why Dowd was asleep and what has sent Frank doolally. Is it just a time passing thing that was explained by an earlier flashback that you have cut out?

However I passed that by and was immersed again straight away.

The only other thing that is puzzling me at the moment is why Friesler is focusing so much on here anger with Dowd, when the world seems to be turning upside down – but that will no doubt emerge later.

Your Questions

Can you think of something the US President might do or an act that might provoke the Chinese to act in a reckless or decisive way that leads to war?

Given what we know about Trump, now, it could be anything!! I think the islands China appears to be building in the sea to give it apparent "rights" - this would be enough to destabilise Trump!

Do you have any comment re Commodore Kathryn Freisler?

A woman scorned maybe?

Dowd has just shock-woken in a recompression chamber and had that recompression interrupted. He is in a pretty bad way. Do you feel it makes him appear weak to call out for help?

Nope – perfectly reasonable. He's not a medic, so seeking help from one is quite normal.

6. Scene 11 – First contact with the alien life form. Does this scene engage you? Can you see it as have a strong visual impact?

It could have a strong visual impact if done well – my view of the alien life forms is that they will all be taller and thinner than us. They definitely need to be distinctive in some way.

Dowd states his clear objective. 'It took our people. I'm getting them back.' Are you the reader, sold on that as a valid objective for this character and story?

It's OK (little bit "Captain Kirk - early Star Trek"?) Not sure it fits in with your original wish to get Dowd assuming it might be the Chinese, only to find it was the aliens later as the story unfolds.

...so I sought to sex up the work with more action. Did you find this a more enjoyable read than Draft Two?

Yes, it works

11. Scene 32 we reference Dowd's indigenous heritage. Dowd is Wiradjuri, from the West of NSW. There is an exchange between Dowd and Hunt. They are permanently, playfully aggressive with one another. Hunt makes fun of his mob and references Dowd's handle in the team, Wudji. Dowd points out that, his mob is Wiradjuri and pays it off to Hunt by calling him an 'ignorant white bastard.' There is no hate between these two. It's just play but I am very concerned that given the level of political correctness that dominates current thinking, that people will not be able to relax and enjoy that exchange. Question; upon reading it, are you uncomfortable with the exchange between the men?

I consider myself a strong, lifelong liberal (and Liberal) - It caused me no problems – I got a strong sense they always had each other`s backs as a close-knit team who depend on each other to keep themselves alive. I cannot interpret how it might play in Australia.

12. Scene 38, the last, we reintroduce characters that featured in Draft Two, Heidi, Sammy and Rebecca Kaye. In Draft Two, introducing those three characters confused a lot of readers. They stated that, it was just too many characters to cope with. My objective is to set them up for the first ep after the Pilot. Question; Did it confuse you or take away from the ending? What was your experience?

The ending was a strong enough cliffhanger to await judgement until they are explained.