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## Charon's Landing



*Par Jack Du Brul  
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**Par Jack Du Brul : Charon's Landing** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charon's Landing:

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**Description :** Description du produitYears ago, a secret Soviet plan was created to destroy the Alaskan oil pipeline. Now, those plans have been stolen by the brilliant and treacherous ex-KGB agent Ivan Kerikov. Joining forces with a powerful Arab oil minister, Charon's Landing is about to be unleashed at last. But they didn't count on the one man who possesses the determination and daring to stop them cold. They didn't count on Philip Mercer.

Prsentation de l'diteurYears ago, a secret Soviet plan was created to destroy the Alaskan oil pipeline. Now, those plans have been stolen by the brilliant and treacherous ex-KGB agent Ivan Kerikov. Joining forces with a powerful Arab oil minister, Charon's Landing is about to be unleashed at last. But they didn't count on

the one man who possesses the determination and daring to stop them cold. They didn't count on Philip Mercer. From Publishers Weekly Fresh from a caper involving an artificial volcano (Vulcan's Forge), geologist/mining consultant Philip Mercer finds himself imperiled by greedy Arabs, a nasty ex-KGB agent and ecoterrorists. The U.S. president's convoluted plan to end American dependence on foreign oil by opening up Alaska's oil fields sets off a lethal chain of events and international espionage. A scheme involving the United Arab Emirates government and ex-KGB agent Ivan Kerikov results in the Planetary Environment Action League (PEAL) wrecking the Alaskan pipeline. The action barrels from Alaska to Los Angeles, the Middle East to Washington, running up an appalling casualty list from land and sea misadventures. Mercer, whose "smile was a challenge no woman could resist," finds himself involved with Aggie Johnston, oil heiress and PEAL activist. After some dim repartee (and her kidnapping by Arabs), the couple team up to foil their shared enemies. The writing spans the predictable (a bad guy is "handsome in a cruel way") and unclear ("His shoes were heavy and strident") to historically incorrect ("the Fascist Revolution that swept in Hitler, Tito and Mussolini"). Despite Du Brul's ambitions for his dashing hero, Mercer ("I'll marry the first woman who leaves the seat up for me") is no James Bond. But with one of Mercer's most violent, vengeful enemies remaining at large at the novel's close, Mercer is sure to make Bond-like, bloody and action-packed appearances in future Du Brul titles. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. Kirkus sA follow-up to the highly praised Vulcan's Forge (1998), again featuring engineer and geological consultant Philip Mercer, a Bond clone with a sybarite's taste for the good things in life and Derringer strapped to his testicles. Intelligent writing is always a pleasure: readers will enjoy Du Brul's descriptions of geological mining practices and his thoughtful consideration of the question as to whether or not the rewards of new mining practices make concurrent damage to the planet worth the heavy cost. There are no easy answers, as Mercer makes clear when helping to inflict lasting damage on Arctic wildlife in return for the US gaining an oil supply fully independent of the Middle East. Even so, he falls for environmentalist Aggie Johnston, whose father, Max, is a bad guy in league with nasty, super-fat Arab Hassan bin-Rufti, who plans to take over the United Arab Emirate while the US is diverted into protecting its second Trans-Alaska Pipeline and mopping up the oil spill from a supertanker taken over by terrorists a ship that, if its sunk in Puget Sound will perhaps sink the US President's new environmental program as well. Massive resistance to said program is underway already, with saboteurs and environmentalists gathering at Anchorage and Valdez, and threatening letters being sent to oil companies. Among other foul labors, the terrorists attempt to assassinate Mercer, two of his Alaskan fishing buddies are killed, and a third compatriot, the inventor of a new tunnel-boring drill, has his life ended by pain-loving Arabs who feed his cat into a sink grinder. Guiding all bad deeds from somewhere in the deep background is psychotic archvillain Ivan Kerikov, who, of course, lives to fight again in forthcoming Mercer adventures. A densely detailed and well-paced thinking-man's melodrama. -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.