

Intertwined
(Prologue)
Ancient love bands



They can be worn by one person as an intriguing piece of jewelry, or the separate bands can be worn by a couple as a unique set of commitment or wedding rings, with each person wearing a piece of the whole.

Mickey had an awkward youth. His mother was French and she had named him Michel. This is a masculine name in France meaning “Who is like God”. That would work OK in France, but not very well in Texas. At first he just said his name was Michel, but the kids started calling him Michelle, an obviously female name. So he changed it to Mickey. Not a good change. Now they called him Mickey Mouse. He endured that up until he turned 15, bulked up, and challenged anyone who teased him. He shortened it to Mick anyway. And that seemed to work better. Mick got a degree in Marine Biology. What was his goal? He just liked to collect sea shells by the sea shore. Never knowing that this degree is fairly useless. What kind of job can he get with that? Animal trainer at Sea World. Effects of global warming on rising sea levels. Sometimes the dream goals are far from reality.

Author's note:

I once entertained pursuing a degree in Marine Biology. My reason was similar to Mick's. Same thing with Geology. Finding gems in the desert. Archaeology, discovering the next King Tut sarcophagus. Those dreams usually don't pan out. I went with electronics because I liked the colored resistors and capacitors in our obsolete TV set. Now I buy colorful Indian beads for the same reason.

So that is how Mick ended up on a sea trawler searching for lost treasures.

They had discovered a sunken ship. Not quite like the Titanic find, but enough of an interest to investigate. Mick was operating the remote underwater camera drone and had seen something shiny inside the wreck. The structure was too tight for him to fit in between the steel rails left intact. He used the mini probe to enter the small space. As he got closer, he could see a ring caught between the splintered wood. Using the grabber tool, he managed to grasp it and pull it out. This looked like a worthy prize.

Back on the surface ship, he and his female assistant Tandy (also his girlfriend), examined it. This looks like it could be 300 years old. They encased it in a glass protective box. It appears to be half of an intertwined band.



Down at the wreck still left inside the small space was a purse looking amazingly intact. Maybe he will return tomorrow and try to retrieve it.

Tired from the days work, he retired early and fell quickly asleep. He was awakened by a panicky crew member. Tandy has gotten herself trapped in the wreck. What are you talking about? No one is supposed to be in the water this time of night. Shirley tried to stop her, but she said she wanted to surprise you when you work up. She had gone after the purse.

Mick looked at the video feed and saw that she was indeed trapped. She only had 15 minutes of air left. Call the coast guard. I will try to free her. When he got to the air tanks, all were out of oxygen. Why are these tanks empty? We were going to refill them for tomorrow's dive, but didn't have time.

Mick didn't hesitate. He donned his wet suit and mask. What are you going to do? I need to free her before her air runs out. No one has done a free dive that deep before. You are going on a suicide mission. Lower the hauling

hook right now, he commanded. Not to be deterred, Mick jumped into the water before anyone could stop him. Down down he swam. He reached Tandy and saw how she was trapped. He secured the hauling hook and rope around a beam over her position and jerked on the rope to signal the surface vessel. The apparatus did its job and lifted the beam off. Now she was free. She grabbed Mick and started to rise. Before she reached the surface, he passed out from lack of oxygen. At the surface, they performed CPR and he temporarily recovered, then went into a deep coma. His brain realized he needed some recovery time. Oxygen deprivation had put him in a coma.

While in his deep coma, his spirit rose up and wandered out to somewhere back in time. His present body was still in a coma in some hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, but his spirit had entered another form and connected.

Everything we call reality is composed of tiny particles of energy. When two particles meet, one will spin clockwise, the other counter clockwise. If you separated those two particles to the obsidian of the universe and to the obsidian of time and alter one, the other will alter instantaneously rendering communications across space and time. Modern science calls this “entanglement” and is the basis of quantum computers.

“The obsidian of the universe” is the ultimate tool for universal truth, a supreme protector connected to cosmic energy, and a guide for understanding one's place in the grand scheme of existence.

Author's note:

I don't understand what I just wrote, but it sounded good.

The next thing Mick knew, he woke up in India thinking he had just dozed off, not remembering his former existence. Now a British Colonel at the Colonial Compound in India.

Intertwined
(Chapter 1)

Talia was the handmaiden to the queen. The Queen's husband Samrat was murdered by his brother Ashoka. Talia helped the queen escape otherwise she would have been killed too for she was carrying the real heir to the throne. Her uncle vowed to find her and end her life.

Mick had heard of the usurping of the throne and his superiors had ordered him to find the Queen and escort her to safety. Mick was an English Colonel in charge of building roads. His knowledge of the area and understanding of the local people made him the ideal selection for this task. This was an opportunity to make headway among the tribes that had been resisting England's presence in their country.

British Indian Army 1914-1947



The two women had found temporary safety in a hamlet not far from the palace. The local people believed in the queen and rallied against the false king. Mick found the two women and mistakenly thought Talia was the Queen. Talia did not reveal the real truth. She thought using herself as a decoy would make the Queen safer.

Mick could hardly miss Talia's obvious beauty and there seemed to be mutual attraction from her.

Talia in the past

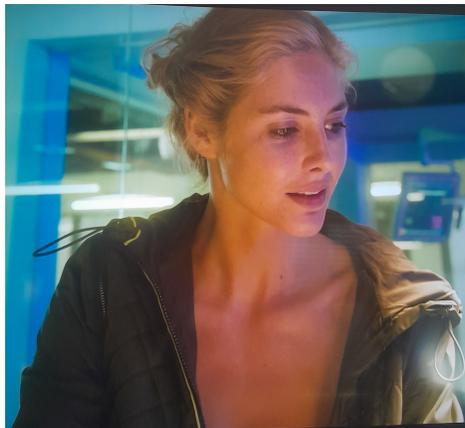


Mick as Colonel Travis



Meanwhile, Mick's present body was still in a coma in a Texas hospital connected to life support machines. Tandy was his constant companion talking to him and praying for his recovery.

Tandy in the present



Askhoka's men had gone out after the Queen. They had enlisted some of the local warriors to aid them. An ambush had been set up to capture and kill the Queen. The English soldiers, although outnumbered, were much better equipped than the tribal warriors. Mick had prepared for an attack just like this. He had stationed some of his own troops at strategic places along the route. When the battle ensued, many of the warriors were cut down in the first fray. Still, they managed to set fire to the carriage carrying the Queen. It looked like Mick's plan for safety had failed.

When the battle ended, the remnants of the tribesmen fled for their lives. Most thinking that their task had ended in success. Witnesses saw the Queen and Talia emerge from a hay covered cart at the back of the convoy. Mick's savvy had saved them both.

Many times along the route, Talia and Mick found themselves together. Usually late at night around the campfire. Coincidence or planned? Not sure. They had the opportunity to get to know each other. Talia told him that her people did not like the English. Mick told her he didn't much like them either. He was actually a Scotsman. His father had been killed in a battle with the English. Why are you here helping them? I am saving money and some day will venture to America. Do you have a girlfriend or wife waiting there? What women would wait this long for a beau? I have been here for 5 years already. How about you? I know that you are not the Queen. What gave you that impression? The way you act around her, no Queen would appear as a servant. That is what I have observed. Don't worry, I won't give away your secret.

Talia felt safe around Mick. Besides his handsome features, feeling safe is more important to a woman than looks.

Author's note:

Gee, I sound like I really understand woman. Not so. It is just something a woman told me. To me, they are still a mystery no man will ever fathom.

Mick's task was to bring the Queen to Calcutta. When Ashoka found out that his first attempt to kill the Queen had failed, he doubled down and hired more ruthless men. The leader of the group determined the most probable route for the caravan to take. They had cut off Mick's intended escape route. What are we going to do now? We have no choice other than to skirt around them. We have to cut through the "Dragon's Gorge". What is that? Not an easy route for sure. We will have to abandon the animals and transport on foot until we reach an old abandoned fort. First we have to traverse a dangerous climb. I am hoping the rope lift basket is still there and functional. Otherwise you and the Queen would not be able to ascend the slippery precipice. We can hold up at the abandoned fort and rest until the rest of my troops arrive to

support us. That is good because this difficult travel in putting the Queen's life in danger along with her unborn child.

Talia was getting closer to Mick and it was bothering her. A relationship with an English foreigner was against her family rules. Still passion has a way of ignoring the rules.

Back at the English compound, Mick's friend was ready to mount a support party knowing that another day's delay would put Mick's group at risk. The head commander told him to wait another day. Why? We need more support troops and they will arrive tomorrow or the next day. Thomas knew this was false. Apparently, the commander had other reasons for the delay. He had secretly conspired with Ashoka to insure the Queen didn't arrive in Calcutta. He thought supporting the fake king would bring him riches and establish a solid footing in the region.

Ashoka's henchmen found their trail and arrived at the old fort the next morning. Without the additional support troops, Mick's reduced fighting capacity was in danger of losing it all.

He told Talia to take the Queen and depart for the forested area up on the hills a few miles from the fort. I will come find you when the battle is over.

It wasn't much of a battle. Mick's forces were overrun by too many enemies. He was lucky to escape with his own life. He got wounded, but managed to reach the area where Talia and the Queen were holding up. Talia took over treating him. Where were your support troops? That is a question I will take up if and when we reach the safety of my compound.

The care and treatment he received from Talia didn't feel that of a stranger. There was obvious sexual tension between them. Mick had the foresight to bring two small tents to shield them from the cold. Later that night, his tent flap opened and Talia slipped inside. It was inevitable that at some point they would end up together. It was at that moment when Talia gave Mick half of the promise ring.

This is what it looked like when it was new compared to the half found in the underwater wreck.

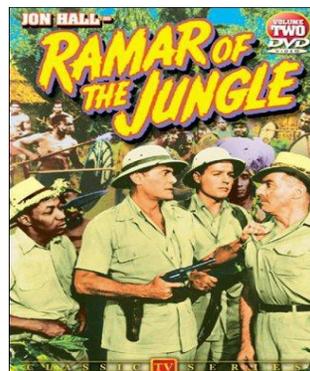


The next morning, Mick saw Thomas leading the troops that were supposed to have arrived the day before. He intercepted them before they reached the fort. What happened? We needed you yesterday. I know, some of your defeated troops managed to get back to the compound and report on what had happened. Mick breathed a sigh of relief knowing that Talia and the Queen were now safe. At the same time he was furious with the commander for getting most of his comrades killed.

When they got to the compound Talia's father and her childhood friend Ramar were waiting for her. Mick's task was complete. The Queen was headed to Calcutta under armed transport. Ashoka would not dare try any more attempts on her life with the British escort troops.

Author's note:

The name Ramar just popped out from my memory. Not really an Indian name, but it sounded like one to me.



This was a TV series aired from 1952 to 1954. The early days of television. This gives you a clue to how old I am. I remember watching some episodes at that time when I was only 5 or 6 years old.

To continue:

Talia told Mick that her father required her to return to their village right away. She didn't get the chance to talk to Mick alone. He watched her depart not knowing if he would ever see her again. Ramar noticed the longing looks those two had as she left. He suspected something had happened. She might have thought Ramar was just a childhood friend, but he was secretly in love with her. Jealousy is a powerful emotion that can lead to dangerous actions.

Intertwined
(Chapter 2)

Ramar talked to Talia's father Kailesh and told him of his suspicions about Mick and Talia. He couldn't believe that his daughter would go against the family traditions. You noticed the ring she usually keeps around her neck now only has one half. Where do you think the other half lies? Kailesh could not deny the facts. You must stamp out this threat. Do what you must, I don't want to hear the details. Talia had been eavesdropping on their conversation. She knew she must warn Mick somehow.

Meanwhile, Mick was having troubles of his own. He had found out, in a round about way, that his commander had been colluding with Ashoka. He confronted him and a fight ensued. During the altercation, Mick had hit the commander and severely injured him. No one else witnessed this. There was no way for Mick to prove his reasons were justified. He knew how the English courts worked. His word would never be taken over a high ranked officer like the commander. His only recourse was to flee. He mounted up, grabbing whatever he could including his stash of money, and took off. He knew the terrain better than any of the other men. It would be hard for them to track him.

Staying in India was no longer an option for him. He needed to leave. Maybe it was time to actually go to America. There were transport freighters

moored in Calcutta. That would be his only chance of escape.

Talia had evaded the watchful eyes of her father and Ramar. She had grabbed a horse and headed back toward the British compound. When she reach it she found out that Mick was in deep trouble. Thomas was the only one she could trust. He told her what had transpired. Where would he go? I think his only hope of not getting hanged is to leave India. Calcutta is the only port close enough. Can you guide me there. I need to see him one last time at least to say goodbye.

Ramar suspected where she had gone. He quickly followed in pursuit. If he couldn't have Talia, then no one could. When he got to the British compound, he learned that Talia had indeed visited. He was told that another soldier accompanied her and headed toward Calcutta.

Mick reached the Calcutta port. He purchased a ticket bound for New York. He regretted not being able to see Talia one last time. The ship was scheduled to depart within the hour. Up on deck, he was looking out at the levee, and was surprised to see Thomas and Talia arrive. He hurried back down the gang plank and ran into her arms. What are you doing here? I couldn't take it not being able to see you one last time. Even if it was just to say goodbye. Why not come with me? We could start a new life in America. You don't know how much I would like that, but I am bound by strong family ties. I just came to warn you. Your life is in danger. Ramar arrived on the scene and upon seeing Talia embraced by Mick, flew into a jealous rage drawing his rapier sword.



Talia tried to shield Mick from the attack, but Ramar shoved her aside and pierced Mick's mid section with the blade. Some crew members had witnessed the attack and ran down the ramp. Ramar grabbed Talia's arm and pulled her away. The crew members carried Mick back up the ramp and into the interior of the ship. Talia's last words to Mick were, "Our rings will bring us back together". Within the hour the ship departed as scheduled.

The ship left without Talia knowing Mick's fate. Did he live or die?

Intertwined
(Epilogue)

Mick did survive the attack, although his fate was still doomed.

On their way to the port of New York, the ship ran into a hurricane. Blown off course it capsized and sank somewhere south of the tip of Florida. This was the same wreck that Tandy and the present day Mick had been exploring.



Tandy had visited Mick in the hospital every day. After two months, his condition had not change. The doctors told her his chance of waking up was

slim. Since you are his designated care giver, it is up to you whether you pull the plug on his life support or not. She knew that Mick would not want to stay alive like this. She owed it to him to release him from this world. Then she remembered what her colleague had told her about space, time, and something he had called the “obsidian of the universe”. She did not know what any of that meant, but it seemed to have some significance and connection with the ring they had found. She went back to their lab and took the ring from the glass case. Returning to the hospital, she put the ring on Mick's finger. Momentarily, his hand twitched. This was the first sign he had shown that he was still in there somewhere. This had encouraged her to wait a little longer before she ended his life. Two weeks went by and nothing had changed. The doctors once again told her his chances of recovery were low. Only 1% of patients ever recover after 45 days. It had been much longer for him.

Despondent, she realized it was time. She would pull the plug the next day. She just couldn't do it at the moment. The next day, while sitting outside on a bench near a fountain close to the hospital, a woman approached her.

Mick in the present



Talia in the present



She placed in her hand the other half of the ring. Who are you? Who I am is not important. You must reconnect this band with the other, then she walked away. Tandy ran back into Mick's room. As she slipped the other half onto Mick's finger the two snapped together as if a strong magnetic force was present.

At first nothing happened. Then Tandy saw the heart monitor increase the pulse rate. Several minutes later, Mick's eyes snapped open. Oh Mick, I thought you were gone from me forever. You silly girl, how could I miss our engagement party.

Two rings forged of pure love fitted together to form one. If separated, they will always reunite, even separated by an ocean or age.

The End