

In a calm mountainous village in Nepal a devastating earthquake almost destroys a sacred relic that contains the souls of two powerful spirits. To avoid freeing them, the villagers decide to donate the relic to The British Museum in exchange of the promise to guard it closely. But the way to England is long and dangers await...

The Relic's Guardians

Characters:

Tashinan the Relic:

This vase shaped relic is said to contain the imprisoned souls of Baku and Kath, two ancient warriors that became so strong that it's now believed they have the power of gods.

Lt. Colonel Sharon Yates – 29 y.o.

The lieutenant used to be a very prominent asset to the military. She was highly regarded for her training and knowledge in military protocols, weapons, equipments, strategies and vehicles. Though only 23 years old, her vital experience in the military led her to be scouted by mi6 to work as a senior operative. At the age of 28 though she quit because she attributed the failure of a very important mission on herself. Later on an investigation was conducted which concluded she wasn't to blame. Although she felt relieved about that, she decided to work as a freelancer so that she wouldn't have to carry such a huge weight upon her shoulders anymore.

She got this job because she was contacted by her ex boss in the army which incidentally is an old schoolmate of Mr. Worrington.

Alastair – Lekhpokhara Salyan – 27 y.o.

His honorary title is Nepali Champion Salyan and indeed he's Nepali. The "champion" title comes from the actual winning of a traditional nepali competition between the sons of the villages' chiefs. The competition is a series of tests about mental skills and physical prowess and it's disputed in the only neutral place in the country: the stadium of the capital city Kathmandu. The competitors are only 16 y.o. when they enter. Many people believe that the competition nowadays is just no more than a game, little do they know that the winner is offered to become part of a secret organisation that safeguards all illegal activities in the south of Asia.

Mr. Seamus Worrington – 67 y.o.

The keeper of the Asian collection of Relics and artefacts of the British Museum. His work is his life and the collection his child. He's a man of poor social skills but with an immense knowledge in many fields. He's a bookworm and from and rarely he remembers to go home to rest, as he gets lost in archiving and reading books, trying to uncover new mysteries. Ironically Tomb Raider and Indiana Jones, with the exception of the latest one (the aliens were a bit too much for his taste) are among his favourite movies.

Plot:

Mountains: pure and silent, snowy at times, but most of all wild. Lost in these peaks, the small village of Halji in the mountainous Nepal hides and protects a secret power that could potentially harm the world: it's not a weapon though, but an old myth in which almost no one in Nepal believes in anymore. The sacred Relic of Tashinan is said to be a sort of urn that contains the souls of Baku and Rath, two brother warriors that became so thirsty for power they actually transcended the human form and capabilities. This of course is just a superstition and no one has ever witnessed either this diabolic brethren or this fatidic urn.

28-04-08 – Halji Village, Humla District, Nepal:

A 9.2 Richter Magnitude scale earthquake (almost 100 gigatons) shakes the village terribly. Most of the primitive buildings are completely destroyed. The town's temple surprisingly collapses into a huge crater, as it was standing on a cave. Few months have passed after the shock when everyone in the village resumes their previous life. The event left an air of mystery: 3 people disappeared during the catastrophe, and haven't been found since, not even their remains. Meanwhile the High Priest of the Sanctuary had to urgently leave for the capital city without any apparent reasons.

15-09-08 21:37 – British Museum, London, United Kingdom:

Mr. Seamus Worrington, the head keeper of the Asian collection of the museum is being called by a man claiming to be the British Consul for Nepal. The excitement he had at first caused by speaking to such a prestigious man is soon transformed into speechlessness when he apprehends that the Tashinan Relic not only exists, but it's also being donate to the museum itself. Such a discovery could change what we know about Asian history from at least a 1000 years ago. He then learns from the man on the telephone that in exchange for the donation he has to grant three apparently small requests: the first is about the safety of the relic in the museum once it arrives, the second is the promise that the relics is not to be opened for any circumstance and the third is about the security details for the transportation of such precious item. The keeper could feel that the Consul was hiding something important by his tone of voice, which has being confirmed by the phrase: "Be prepared for anything".

The terms also stated that the relic was to be transported secretly and only two persons would allowed to do that job: One British and one Nepali representative. They would meet in three days in the capital Kathmandu and travel from there.

The choice of the representative was really hard. They knew they couldn't choose a public figure, or someone too notorious and certainly they had not to be part of any corps such as military. Someone that could keep the secret. Someone they could really trust. Someone like the ex-Lieutenant Colonel Sharon Yates.

15-09-08 21:53– Unknown location, Dark studio:

At the same moment as the keeper hangs the phone, so does this obscure figure with the face covered by darkness. He ponders for a second and then he lift the phone again.

15-09-08 21:55 – A dark alley somewhere:

A man answers the phone in a street of what appears to be a busy Eastern European city. The man nods twice and then mumbles: "Absolutely everything I want?". After a few seconds: "I'll assemble the team then!" He hangs up.

18-09-08 09:34 – Bag Bazaar Road, Kathmandu, Nepal:

The meeting takes place. Very cold pro forma pleasantries are exchanged between the two of them. The Nepali representative will serve as guide to get to the village. His name is Lekhpokhara Salyan, but since he reckons the name is rather complex for foreigners to pronounce, he tells her he goes by Alastair.

The journey begins. Haljl is so secluded that the only way to reach it is to ride a donkey from the only village in the vicinity with a train station. Not even cars can get there.

Once reached the destination, they were handed this sort of thick-steel polished toolbox containing the Tashinan. The case was hermetically sealed, and two combination locks were secured at the sides of the handle. While leaving to head back again to the train station, the villagers chanted a prayer in their honour so to protect them from the evils of the world during their voyage.

They were to take a train to Europe, since the operation was considered top secret and they obviously couldn't go through customs at any airport in the vicinity. Also they were to avoid carefully China and Russia, since careful inspections usually take place at those country's borders.

Since they were both official figures of two very different countries, both their appearance and their attitudes toward one another were very detached and cold at first. But after crossing the Danube River they could lift all those barriers they created as they falsely felt safer by having reached Europe. Once in Budapest they boarded without any delays the orient express towards Paris.

That's when things started going wrong. 40 minutes after leaving the city, something was starting to feel odd. They realised the train was not heading towards France. It was indeed going in a different direction. Local people start to murmur in Hungarian and look out of the windows in the corridor with a surprised look on their faces. Alastair and Sharon start planning on how to deal with this obvious attempt of hijacking. As they decide that the best temporary solution would be to move into a different coach, the train went into a side track, into an abandoned tunnel and then came to an abrupt stop.

A man would calmly open the door of the wagon and stop in front of them holding a gun aimed in their direction.

The man spoke and stated that if they valued their lives they were to hand him their precious package.

Sharon thought about trying to escape, but then she noticed another armed man was patrolling the outside of the train on her left, and if experience serves her right, there would have been another one on the other side.

She had to comply. But before handing the relic to him, she asked what was going to be of it. The man right before leaving replied that he didn't know. He was just a mercenary. As long as he got paid he wouldn't care. Then he warned them to not try to follow them and left on a jeep previously placed in the vicinity by them.

She had to notify Mr. Worrington over the phone, which almost collapsed to the ground shaken. Despair is rising in the two of them and for a while they thought it would be over. There was no way they would actually catch up with the mercenary. Suddenly Alastair stood up and started running towards the head of the train.

She follows asking for an explanation. He explains that given their current position, the only possible place where they could get easily unnoticed and meet the buyer would be Budapest itself. The idea was that the only way they could catch up with the thieves was to actually use the train to get back. The only problem was that none of them knew how to drive a diesel locomotive. She could pilot blindfolded a boing 747 through skyscrapers, but as far as her knowledge went in the matter of trains she was completely ignorant. They started asking the other passengers if they had any know-how in the matter, however small. Luckily in the next to last coach of the train a very old man said he could be able to guide them into driving it, since he used to be a train engineer.

After a couple of mistakes and with a bit of guesswork they could finally power up the engine to full speed. And a train is much faster than a car.

Once back at Deli Palyaudvar Station they had to take a wild guess on where the exchange would have taken place. It could have been anywhere: a restaurant, a house, a bookshop,... or a park. The biggest in Budapest in fact, City Park. After patrolling the park for at least 15 minutes, they were almost to the point of

giving up, when Sharon noticed that the Varosliget, the oldest historical monument in the park, was undergoing maintenance and was therefore closed to the public. The perfect place. This time they had the element of surprise on their side, but also the big limitation of not being able to use firearms, since they still were not to attract attention.

Once inside they started looking for the felons. They soon realised that the Mercenaries had just arrived when they heard the main door squeaking. Sharon and Alastair already were on the first floor, so they stealthily moved on the side of the big entrance where two lateral balconies were surrounding the hall from above. They finally witnessed the trade between the head mercenary and a man they couldn't recognise at first because of the big scarf he was wearing. The man was also accompanied by what looked to be some sort of modern style ninja, with sword and all, that served as bodyguard.

Big curtains were hanged on the side of the entrance, so Sharon, using her military experience, managed to gesture her partner on the other side of the room that when she signaled it, he was to use them to climb down and push the main door closed as the criminals were leaving.

Then something really unexpected happened: the bodyguard unsheathed his sword and cut the felons' throat split open within just a couple of seconds. This would be a tough enemy to beat. The two of them were about to leave when Sharon finally signals to get on with the plan. The two teams are now face to face. Completely unsurprised the unknown man said he honestly was expecting them sooner. After a bit of talking, the impatient Alastair tried to reach the metal case with the relic and steal it, but that move is countered by the ninja's sword hitting his hand.

Above a fireplace there were two swords hanged on the wall, as it's common to find in old castles. Both the protagonists grabbed them, and the mysterious man also turned his cane into a very sharp weapon. A sword fight begins. The ninja's superior training and the man's obviously rich education decided the fate of the fight. Both cornered, Alastair is asked to hand the case to the man. But instead of doing that he whispers to Sharon: "Close your eyes!". As soon as she did he opened the case containing the vase-shaped relic. Magnificent. But ruined. A quite noticeable crack in the middle suggests that the earthquake managed to damage the object. But it is from that crack that a bright light and a sort of living cloud come out and surround the two swordsmen. The light flashed and in a blink of an eye the two disappeared, leaving behind just their clothes. It was from those that Sharon soon discovered that the man was in fact the head of the British Museum itself. A very wealthy man, very educated, but ignorant in a sort of sense, since he didn't realise that the relics' power were as real as they could possibly be.

23-09-08 14:23 – Waterloo Station, London:

Mr. Worrington is waiting for the 14:29 Eurostar from Paris to arrive with the two heroes onboard. He's accompanied by 2 Police officers as an extra precaution although he knows nothing is going to happen anymore... the journey has ended and so are the dangers.

Finally the train arrives perfectly on time, every passenger gets off with the only exception of them. Panicking he starts looking coach by coach. He stopped right before opening the automatic glass doors of the 8th coach as he noticed them kissing passionately in the middle of the corridor. He decided to leave them alone and wait for them outside the train.