

Deep Fathom Study Guide

Deep Fathom by James Rollins

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Plot Summary

The first solar eclipse of the new millennium starts, and then the ground begins to shake. By nightfall, there is chaos. Bodies are everywhere, the Aleutians are gone, and the living are in stunned disbelief. Fires burn, volcanoes erupt, and tsunami forces inundate the Hawaiian Islands. Air Force One hits turbulence and goes down into the ocean and Jack Kirkland is called to salvage the black boxes. Vice President Nafe uses the accident to escalate tensions with the Chinese, blaming them for the President's death. He wants to escalate tensions until a nuclear response can be justified. When Jack sees the crystal obelisk at the crash site, he is mesmerized but nothing prepares him for the effects it will have on his life and those around him.

Two professors from the University investigate the recently surfaced Dragon's of Okinawa. Neither one is prepared for the sight that greets them and exploring these pyramids is miraculous. The danger soon follows as men shoot at him and try to burn them out of the pyramid. As they make their way through a secret tunnel, Karen Grace and Miyuki Nakano find a star-shaped crystal that has properties they have never seen before. There is writing on the walls and all of it adds up to a mystery they are determined to solve. In the process of trying to decode the language, they discover a request for information on the same subject originating from the Deep Fathom as the crew aboard seeks to understand the writing on the obelisk below. When they join forces, they are met with opposition from CIA special operative David Spangler whose mission is to ensure the Chinese are found at fault for the crash and the crystal is kept secret and in US control. Any opposition to those goals is to be met with lethal force if necessary and David is only too happy to comply. His long-standing resentment for Jack goes back to the Atlantis shuttle crash during which his sister, Jack's fiance and all but Jack on board perished. Despite his best efforts to kill Jack, his revenge goes unsatisfied as he chases Kirkland from one region to another. He finally loses his life as he becomes a deep sea lunch for a giant squid, leaving Jack to save Karen who he realizes he has complicated feelings for and in the process save the world by facing his past and the Spartacus particle beam satellite placed into orbit by Atlantis which contributed to the shuttle's crash.

Time is warped and reversed by their actions and when time returns to normal, they find themselves watching the eclipse from sixteen days earlier. The President is saved and the future is changed.



Chapter 1, Nautilus - Chapter 2, Dragons of Okinawa

Chapter 1, Nautilus - Chapter 2, Dragons of Okinawa Summary

The first solar eclipse of the new millennium starts and then the ground begins to shake. Jack and his crew on Deep Fathom are in the middle of an attempt to salvage the gold that is on the Kochi Maru at the bottom of the ocean. By nightfall, there is chaos. Bodies are everywhere, the Aleutians are gone, and the living are in stunned disbelief. Fires burn, volcanoes erupt and tsunami forces inundate the Hawaiian Islands. The quake opens the ground around the Kochi Maru and she sinks into the lava around it. Air Force One hits turbulence and goes down into the ocean and Jack Kirkland is called in by his former commander General Houston to salvage the black boxes Vice President Nafe uses the accident to escalate tensions with the Chinese, blaming them for the President's death. He wants to escalate tensions until a nuclear response can be justified. When Jack sees the crystal obelisk at the crash site, he is mesmerized but nothing prepares him for the effects it will have on his life and those around him.

Karen Grace and Miyuki Nakano are breaking the law in Naha City, Japan. Martial law is in effect between dusk and dawn and it is half an hour until sunrise. They take the risk to see the Dragons of Okinawa for themselves. A hundred yards from Naha Bay a sailor steps out of the darkness and tells them to halt. Karen and Miyuki claim to be freelancers working for Time magazine. He personally escorts them to the bay, after taking several photos of him. They barely make it in time. They board the small boat, speculating as to the pyramid's possible importance. A hundred meters off the coastline they come into view, and as they near they can see rows of columns, buildings and a statue of a robed woman draped in seaweed. An entire city shows itself.

Chapter 1, Nautilus - Chapter 2, Dragons of Okinawa Analysis

The eclipse does not matter to Jack. He and his crew are looking for the Kochi Maru and Jack has bet everything he owns on it. He has mortgaged his family's farm and his boat on a gamble that he will find the freighter and its cargo of gold bullion. Lisa Cummings has a grant from the National Science Foundation to study the physiological effects of deep sea work. Jack turns off his earpiece for some privacy. When he stumbles on the freighter, he heads for it despite the fact that it sits on the opposite side of a molten rock field that is active and angry. Lisa worries about the seals on the submersible and the increasing heat, but Jack is more concerned about losing everything if he doesn't find what he is looking for. His luck holds. He finds the bullion and grabs two bricks before going back out to tell his staff above what is going on. Lisa



and Charlie are frantic. Increased seismic activity buffets the submersible, giving Jack a ride to the surface that is wild and frightening, but does not unnerve him as much as the call from his former naval commander does. Just the mention of Admiral Mark Houston's name brings back all the memories he has tried so hard to bury. All of that overshadows the reason for Houston's call. Air Force One is down.

Japan declares a state of martial law to reduce the incidents of looting as a result of the earthquakes the previous day. Two women risk arrest for a chance to see what until recently was submerged pyramids discovered in 1991 by a geology professor at the University at Ryukyu. Karen had been skeptical until she has seen the photos. Then, nothing could have kept her away from the rendezvous with the fisherman who promised to take them there at dawn. Rising twenty meters from the sea floor with terraced tops, Karen wonders at the possible connection between them and the ancient Mayans or Polynesians. They discuss the ramifications these pyramids might have on the history of the region. Karen even suggests that perhaps they are part of the lost continent of Mu. Her great grandfather had originally written an entire series of books on the subject before being discredited and here was her opportunity to clear his reputation. Wild goose chases run in her family. Her father had left his young family to chase dreams of oil in Alaska, never to return and Karen's adventurous spirit is rewarded when they arrive to find not only the two pyramids, but what looks to be an entire community rising up out of the water as a result of the earthquakes. She is stunned and in awe.



Chapter 3, The Wreckage - Chapter 4, Blame

Chapter 3, The Wreckage - Chapter 4, Blame Summary

Jack heads for Air Force One. It has been twelve years since his last contact with a life he thought he had left behind. Lisa offers Jack a cup of tea, suggesting he try to get some sleep, but he wants to know how the tests on the gold pan out. Charlie Mollier is below with geologist Kendall McMillan, the accountant for Chase Manhattan Bank. He tells Charlie the gold Jack brought up is riddled with impurities, and is not worth what they'd hoped. Charlie is angry and looks for Jack but Lisa tells them to leave Jack alone or else. In his cabin, Jack falls into a Halcyon-induced sleep and dreams of Jennifer. Three hours pass before he wakes. They are at the rendezvous point and he is surprised by the degree of response considering the remote location. Admiral Houston is due to arrive from the Gibraltar the following day and the Fathom is on standby, waiting for instructions. A piece of debris floats to the surface and with binoculars Jack can make out the presidential seal on the back of an airline seat. It rolls and he notices the arm attached.

Flown in from Turkey, David Spangler is back early from a mission in Iraq. He and his team wait for orders at the White House. His boss, CIA Director Nicolas Ruzickov is inside with Vice President Lawrence Nafe. Nafe's secretary sends David in and he snaps to attention in front of Nafe and Ruzickov. Vice President Nafe goes over David's resume that includes missions that he and his team have successfully completed. He tells David they have another mission and David agrees without hearing the details. Nafe hands Ruzickov an envelope who passes it to David. His mission is simple. David must go to the crash site and find evidence that the Chinese are responsible whether they are or not. He is told that Jack Kirkland is there and promises himself he will avenge his sister's death, telling his bosses that his loyalty is assured.

Chapter 3, The Wreckage - Chapter 4, Blame Analysis

Jack wants nothing more than his privacy and to be left alone. He knows neither of those things is likely to happen today. He knows his duty, but still resents it to a degree since the shuttle accident. Using his settlement from General Dynamics, he purchased the Fathom, and spent his life savings turning her into a salvage rig. Since then, he had come to feel as though the team of scientists aboard were his family. Lisa approaches him, knowing that his past will not let him rest and gives him a cup of tea laced with Halcyon. He and Lisa have shared a certain amount of intimacy and she tells him that it is time to let the past go, but it just is not that easy for him. He even turned down the Medal of Honor at the time and is still so guilt-ridden that it invades his sleep. This is the worst Lisa has ever seen him and she is worried. She has long come to accept that she and Jack will never get past the physical relationship they briefly explored. Emotionally,



Jack simply is not capable although she certainly had tried to help him. She would have liked nothing more than to have gotten a lot more serious with him, but instead, settles for the friendship that inevitably evolved out of their brief tryst. Jack dreams again of Jennifer. He relives his anxious proposal, her acceptance, and then the accident that changes his life forever, taking her from him, and killing all aboard the Atlantis except for him. He wakes up in a sweat. He opens his safe and holds the glove that is all he has left of Jennifer and can still feel her hand in it. Whispering another apology, his thoughts are interrupted by a knock on the door and he is irritated that this moment of privacy is disturbed even if it is because they have arrived. On deck, Jack can see the waters are teeming with crafts of all kinds. A piece of debris surfaces and when he sees the arm attached, he gets a sick feeling as it all strikes too close to home. He is trembling and pale when he tells them that they should never have come and that no good will come of it.

David's missions all have one thing in common, which is subterfuge. Each mission is carried out to look like something else. He and his Omega teammates have worked around the world, staging scenes to suit the story they want to tell and David feels a deep sense of pride at the list of accomplishments. This mission will be no different. The Vice President wants David to go to the crash site of Air Force One and find him evidence that the Chinese are responsible, regardless of the truth. An added benefit is the fact that the man he holds responsible for his sister's death will also be there. David is only too happy to be of assistance. He has long wanted to get even with the man who not only took his place on the Atlantis mission, but managed to get his sister killed in the process. The hatred he feels for Kirkland is deep-rooted. The mission briefing is given by Nafe to David's boss Ruzickov and then to David himself, giving the Vice President the ability to deny having given David on the mission himself. As a politician, it is important to think about covering up long before it becomes necessary so that when investigations occur, you have no unforeseen issues to cope with.



Chapter 5, Serpent's Heart - Chapter 6, Sounding the Depths

Chapter 5, Serpent's Heart - Chapter 6, Sounding the Depths Summary

The next morning, Karen is at the dock early looking for a boat rental and spends an entire month's pay to get back to the pyramids. Miyuki checks with the artificial intelligence program called Gabriel, opens a file remotely calling it Dragon, and asks Gabriel to back up her digital video files to that location. As they get closer, a trio of dark-skinned men poles by them. They climb out of the boat onto the first pyramid and at the top, Karen finds an opening just large enough to shimmy into. She finds herself in a space the size of a half bath with an altar on one side that has a carved snake winding around the edge. It has eyes like rubies and a representation of stone feathers around a fanged head. It reminds her of Quetzalcoatl, the feathered snake god that the Mayas worship. She is about to suggest Miyuki join her when a shot rings out, followed by a scream.

Jack is summoned to the USS Gibraltar and for the first time in twelve years, he sets foot on a military vessel. He is told to follow Commander Julia Knudson below for a private meeting with Rear Admiral Houston but refuses to follow without further details, explaining that his participation is limited to the loan of his submersible. Admiral Houston joins him on deck and a personal invitation to join him Jack accepts without hesitation. After the briefing, Jack straps into the Nautilus and descends to the wreckage. Six hundred meters below, a signal pings, guiding him to the black boxes. Charlie is concerned when he sees the topography riddled with lava pillars, but Jack promises to be vigilant. Despite that, he almost hits a column on his way down. As he gets closer, he loses his compass so Lisa talks him in. As soon as he sees the Eagle, he forgets the problems the submersible is having with lights and compass. No matter how he circles the debris, the compass remains pointing inward to the middle. A large pillar near the center seems to be glowing and the radio reception from topside is garbled. He examines the pillar closer, and it appears to be made of some kind of crystal with an aquamarine color. He records what he sees and dumps it all to a DVD, returning to the debris field to complete his mission. When he moves away, his communication comes back and Lisa is angry, thinking he has been ignoring her. He tries to explain it, and tells Lisa and Charlie he recorded everything. His search continues with a prayer that includes 'Rest in Peace, Mr. President.'



Chapter 5, Serpent's Heart - Chapter 6, Sounding the Depths Analysis

Despite complaints, Miyuki stays with Karen when she refuses to return to the University, even though she insists her only concern is Gabriel and things that are in the present. She has concerns about piracy but Karen has a pistol for protection and is more concerned looters will damage the Dragons or they will sink again before she has an opportunity to study them. She does not even want to voice the thought out loud, but she wonders if this is the evidence that will vindicate her father and his claims of the existence of Mu. Miyuki checks with Gabriel and Karen gets a bit unnerved when he answers her questions directly, more human than machine in so many ways. Since her breakup with her fiancé Hiroshi Takata, Miyuki sees Gabriel as more than just work. He is her friend, her lifeline, and her one steady male companion. The only one of his kind, he refers to himself as the ghost in the machine. He is Miyuki's lifeline to the world and constant companion. She does not go anywhere without a connection to him. Inside the pyramid, the altar and carving make Karen wonder if what they are seeing is some part of the Mayas ancient culture.

Jack cannot help a feeling of warmth towards his old friend and mentor, who pumps him for information about his life now, chastising him for his lack of contact. He confesses his promise made to Ethel before she died to look after him and tells Jack with some emotion that he intends to carry out that promise. Jack insists that his life is fine and he likes his life just the way it is. Houston lets the matter drop, despite knowing that Jack is a long way from fine and is avoiding life, not participating in it. At the same time, he understands that despite the amount of time that has passed, Jack much like himself is still hurting and not ready to let go of the guilt and responsibility he feels for Jen's death, for the crash of the Atlantis, and the loss of her crew. Jack is much more cautious with this dive after the close call on the previous one even promising to pay close attention to any warnings from Charlie regarding seismic activity. When he finds the plane with Lisa's directions, he circles the site, and memories of the Atlantis flood back. Lisa is frightened by the lack of contact that she experiences with Jack while he is examining the obelisk. All she wants is for him to grab the boxes and get topside. After the scare with his the day before, she is only too aware of how much his friendship means to her.



Chapter 7, Ancient Footprints - Chapter 8, Endgame

Chapter 7, Ancient Footprints - Chapter 8, Endgame Summary

Miyuki crawls in with Karen to avoid the gunplay. A voice shouts out and even in another language it is obvious to Karen he is insisting they show themselves. They hide to one side but Kerosene is poured into the tunnel. They look for another way out and manage to open a tunnel entrance by pushing the face of the snake to its tail. Outside, the men impatiently throw in a lit bottle of kerosene. Karen and Miyuki climb into the tunnel and the platform goes up and closes the access behind them. The stones fit together so well that Karen can hardly feel the seams. Wading through water up to their knees, Karen sees a palm sized crystal star on display. There are lines of symbols carved into the stonewalls, and Miyuki records them with her camera. The crystal star is cemented into place, and as Karen tries to work it loose, an explosion comes from the entrance of the tunnel and the tunnel begins to fill with water. Karen tries to keep her equipment dry as Miyuki half swims to keep up. She sees a staircase and they climb out of the water. At the top, one stone seems warmer than the rest. A depression that is the same size as the crystal she took fits it but nothing happens until Miyuki shuts off her penlight. Then the block with the crystal begins to sink into the floor. A side tunnel opens and Karen grabs the crystal again on the way out. The inner block closes behind them and they crawl out to a voice that tells them not to move. With relief, they see it is the police, and note the other summit is a smoldering ruin. After receiving the distress call from Gabriel, they show up in time to chase the others off and then guard the remaining pyramid.

Jack is running out of air but determined to find the last black box. He finally sees it and also the gift given to the President by the Chinese Premier. He grabs both and rises to the surface. Admiral Houston is waiting for him aboard the Fathom and Jack puts the recorded DVD in his pocket on the way to the surface. He sees Charlie when he surfaces with one of the investigators who immediately works to reclaim the boxes from the pincers. When he has them free, David slugs Jack on the jaw as his way of saying hello. Charlie steps in, but Jack stops him. David tells him the punch is for Jen, but that it is not over. Later, Jack and Mark lounge on the Fathom. Lisa shows Jack the discrepancy of a little over five minutes on the recording. Jack tells her how he felt when he found the pillar of crystal and Lisa is angry that he did not tell her from the start. He apologizes and they check with Charlie for any progress with the DVD Jack recorded. Rewinding what they have been watching, Jack sees the crystal and the video feed picks up inscriptions on the side of the crystal of figures, animals, shapes, and icon-like images. Each symbol is carved in and filled with a metallic compound. George and Charlie want Jack to go back down for more information. Robert comes to say the black box information has been transmitted and Admiral Houston looks pale. Jack reads the transcription and cannot make any more sense of it than Houston or the others. The



First Officer's last words are that 'the sky is opening up' after all radar readings are lost and land is sighted where it should not be. Houston tells him someone has to go back down and Jack agrees.

Chapter 7, Ancient Footprints - Chapter 8, Endgame Analysis

Miyuki is terrified so she crawls in with Karen, giving her the gun and pulling her bag in after her. Karen has never fired at a human target, but will shoot if forced to and is shocked when Kerosene is poured into the entrance. Miyuki shows resourcefulness as she accesses Gabriel to transmit their co-ordinates via GPS. When one of the men lights a match, he sounds regretful, but it does not stop him. Miyuki encourages Karen to look for another way out, shocking her out of her fearful stupor, and she manages to find a tunnel. Afraid, they head inside, each of them carrying their own version of a security blanket. Miyuki has her laptop and its connection to Gabriel and Karen has her pistol. The walls in the tunnel are so perfect that Miyuki thinks a lava tube has been incorporated into it and Karen appreciates the construction despite their dire situation. When their pursuers use dynamite to gain access to them, water floods in at an alarming rate, and fearful, they hurry forward. Karen is torn between her desire to record the amazing symbols going around the chamber they pass, knowing that they might never gain access again, and ensuring that they survive themselves.

Jack only wants to have to be in this graveyard once. He is surprised that Houston is waiting for him above. Even though he has tried to distance himself from the Navy and all it stands for, he still welcomes the praise that comes from his former commander. Without understanding why, his instincts tell him to conceal the DVD he recorded knowing that investigators will confiscate it if they know it exists. At the surface, when Jack offers to help the investigator Jack is stunned as David reveals himself. Jack does not even blame him for the fist in the jaw that follows. David will never forgive him for Jen's death and Jack understands. He cannot forgive himself either. Admiral Houston comments on Jack's meeting with Spangler, and that their reunion solved nothing. Houston admits that there's something about Spangler he does not like. Jack is surprised to hear the negative feedback from Houston who warns him to watch himself around both David and his boss at the CIA, Nicolas Ruzickov. Jack still second-guesses the details of the Atlantis accident. Houston reminds him that hindsight is always 20/20 telling him that he has to let go what was obviously an accident. Charlie and George show Jack what they have discovered on the video feed and want him to go back down for more information but Jack is more than just a little reluctant. He still remembers how he felt around the crystal, and added to the fact that he is vividly reminded of the shuttle accident as he pokes around the Air One grave site, Jack is just a bit more than unmanned by the whole experience and cannot put it all behind him fast enough. He has been running from the whole incident since it happened, and isn't ready to face it all now. Charlie tries to offer plausible explanations for the electronic malfunctions but the reservations Jack feels have more to do with the crawling feeling his skin had as he hovered in front of it. Lisa sees Jack's discomfort and how attempts to explain it



technically fall flat. Jack is reluctant to put into words how he felt as he was in front of the obelisk but all of that changes when information from the black boxes is sent over and Jack sees the look on Houston's face when he comes out of the radio room. The transcription convinces Jack to go down again and get to the bottom of what caused this crash.

Karen thinks that they have gone from one Dragon to another under the water. They decide to continue before their pursuers realize where they are coming up, and Karen passes the heavy bag to Miyuki. The crystal seems to have taken on more weight than is possible. They estimate it weighs close to ten kilos by itself. Karen and Miyuki are relieved to find that it is police waiting for them outside the second pyramid and not the same men who were after them but Karen still has a feeling that the danger is just beginning for them.



Chapter 9, Pieces of the Puzzle

Chapter 9, Pieces of the Puzzle Summary

Miyuki tries to identify the crystal and trace its origins while Karen works on the hieroglyphics. Miyuki suggests giving it to Gabriel who has a decoding program and Gabriel has already decoded a portion of the first line. Karen believes there is a correlation to Rapa Nui on Easter Island. The natives there had found artifacts with an unknown language on them and referred to them as 'rongorongo.' Gabriel decodes six symbols he believes refers to a date going back twelve thousand years. Karen questions if maybe the date refers to a myth even though the constellations represented are amazingly accurate. Miyuki knows that with more information, Gabriel can clear it up but this is not what she wants to show Karen. Miyuki has been working on what is behind the abnormally dense mass. She completes simple measurements, and then attempts displacement measurements, but the numbers keep changing. The electronic scale measures it at 14.325 kilos. Incredible, but still more amazing is that when Miyuki opens the door to the scale, the star fractures the light in the room, and the scale reads 8.89 kilos. Then Miyuki uses a flashlight, and shining it at the crystal, shows Karen that once again the weight changes, despite no physical changes. Now it weighs only 2.99 kilos. The stronger the light around it, the less it weighs. Karen is the first to admit that no crystal on earth behaves this way.

The salvage is becoming more and more routine. Forty sections of the plane have been brought to the surface, specifically targeted by the NTSB from the video feed of the first dive. Four bodies have been recovered but none are that of the President. The graveyard is now almost half cleared. Jack remembers Charlie's request to try to get a piece of the obelisk for him so he reaches out with a pincer and latches on, feels a jolt and lets go again to hear Lisa's voice yelling in his ear. He has been off line for forty minutes. Comparing time with her, he notes that he is thirty-eight minutes slow. Lisa wants him to come up and Houston agrees, telling Jack his day is over right now. Suddenly Robert comes on and tells Jack they are seeing movement below and something big is coming his way. Based on speed and proximity, Robert recommends he plays dead, shut off all sensors and electronics and hope he cannot be seen. It does not work. A giant squid hones in on him and plays with his submersible. Robert finally lures it away and Jack hurries to the surface before it returns.

Chapter 9, Pieces of the Puzzle Analysis

Karen is excited. Miyuki has news but will not disclose it over the phone. She is even more excited when Karen tells her that she thinks she may have identified the language that the symbols are written in as Gabriel has already decoded one section and with a greater sampling to work from, he will be able to decode the rest. When Miyuki explains the discrepancy of weight versus light, Karen is amazed and confused. Nothing like this is supposed to exist. Neither of them can explain what should not be possible, and up



until now has not been. There is no crystal on earth that has these properties, and they can't even begin to speculate as to its origin or significance.

Jack goes down to the site again, and over the next three days, and load after load is hauled up. Jack remembers Charlie's request to bring back a piece of the obelisk and since he has not felt any more of those strange feelings that he is beginning to wonder if he imagined them the first time. He uses the pincers to grab onto the crystal, and feels like his whole body is turned into a tuning fork. Suddenly he cannot tell up from down. His ears are ringing and somewhere way in the distance, he can barely hear garbled conversation. Surprise makes him gasp and he uses his foot to drive himself away from the object only to find that he has lost almost forty minutes of time. However, the entire event could not have taken more than two minutes of time as he understands it. Both Lisa and Houston want him to surface immediately, but he convinces them that he's fine now, and the reading they are monitoring back that up. The Nautilus seems fine now too, all communications restored. He wants to bring up the last load since the cables are already down. They reluctantly agree but before Jack can finish, a huge squid approaches and takes a liking to the submersible. It latches on, scaring Jack deeply as he considers the possibilities. Rather than continue to play dead while the squid continues as the aggressor, Jack decides to take his fate into his hands. He makes an aggressive charge, injuring the squid by grabbing it with one of the submarine pincers, and then takes himself to the surface very aware of how the outcome could have been much different. Something about the squid and Air Force One going down bothers him but he just can't quite put his finger on it.



Chapter 10, Thunder

Chapter 10, Thunder Summary

Spangler checks with his crew and confirms there are no suspicions that his man tampered with the black box before the NTSB examined it. In the hangar space, pieces of Air Force One are laid out in quadrants, each one overseen by his men in offices from above. NTSB investigator Ed Weintraub discovers that the one damaged black box is magnetized. David gets a call from Ruzickov telling him to proceed to stage two and he assembles his team. Using Chinese timers and detonators from the black market, they replace the original jade bust with a replica that has an explosive inside. Ed Weintraub shows up before they can finish so David rearranges his plans. He smothers Weintraub and places his body beside the bust. The explosion is set to go off at midnight.

On the Fathom, George searches for a clue to the origin of the script. He discovers that hundreds of ships in this area are listed as lost without a trace. In 1968, there are 521 boats that are missing, while in 1970, there are 435 missing boats and in 1972, 471 boats are lost. He heard the term Dragon's Triangle before but never gave it much thought until now. Marking the disappearances, he maps an exact triangle, in the middle of which is Air Force One. Jack and Houston discuss the details of Jack's dive. He confesses the truth about the crystal and the strange writing, voicing his opinion that it may have something to do with the crash. Houston is skeptical but then George comes up and shows them his map showing the wrecks and the location of the crystal. Just as they are absorbing the new information, an explosion sounds on deck of the USS Gibraltar.

Karen and Miyuki download twenty-five known artifacts of "rongorongo" for Gabriel to use in comparisons and he finds a starfish symbol that is almost identical. They instruct him to widen the search as the alarm in Miyuki's office goes off. Karen worries about the crystal locked in her safe. When they get there, they discover two of the men who accosted them at the pyramid. Karen uses her gun to force their surrender and realizes a man is missing just as he comes in, firing a shot from his rifle at them. One of the men tells the others that Karen and Miyuki do not know what they have anyway and it is a curse upon them all as he encourages them to back out of the room carefully and leave.

Chapter 10, Thunder Analysis

As usual, Spangler's subterfuge goes off without a hitch just like the rest of his missions. While he and his team plant the evidence that points to the Chinese as being responsible, Nick is planting seeds of dissension against the Chinese on his end. Weintraub comes in during the planting of the bomb, and like so many times before, the operation becomes fluid and must change to suit the events. To cover their involvement, his body is placed beside the false bust of explosives. They even place a partial circuit in his hands. Aboard the Fathom, George searches for clues to the script and discovers



the area is as hot as the Bermuda Triangle. The amount of boats that have disappeared is staggering, and as he maps them he begins to see a familiar pattern. In the middle of the triangle is Air Force One and the term Dragon's Triangle takes on new meaning. Jack tells Houston about the crystal and the strange things that happen to him when he is around it. Mark chastises him for keeping the information back, accusing him of still trying to get one up on the Navy, but is not sure that there is a connection between the crystal and the crash. When George shows them the map it is harder to deny. The explosion on the Gibraltar stops them from discussing it further. Jack's feeling that things will only get worse is not decreasing.

When the men from the pyramids break into Miyuki's office, Karen does not think about her safety for a minute. All she can think about is the fact that the crystal is in the safe, and at risk. They are only just beginning to understand it and she knows whoever set off the alarm is looking for the crystal artifact. She hurries back with her gun in her hand and takes them by surprise. They lay down their weapons but it is not out of fear. The leader stares Karen down, showing an unnerving calm. When the third man takes Karen and Miyuki by surprise, he still does not move. Karen does not want to have to hurt anyone, but it is not beyond her either. The first man never puts his hands down and in fact makes the decision that they should leave. Karen allows them to go, feeling that it is easier than trying to hold the three of them until the building's guards arrive. As they back out slowly, the calm one tells the others that Karen and Miyuki do not know what they have or how to use it, thinking that they do not understand the language, but Miyuki does and translates as soon as they leave which of course only adds to the mystery.



Chapter 11, Exiled - Chapter 12, A Line In The Sand

Chapter 11, Exiled - Chapter 12, A Line In The Sand Summary

Gabriel searches for references to rongorongo, finding the query George sent out. Karen suggests they contact him. Mark Houston learns the explosive is Chinese, originating from the jade bust. The Gibraltar is sent to the Philippine Sea and the recovery of Air Force One is passed to David who summarily dismisses Jack, escorts him from the Gibraltar and back to the Fathom where he is given a small parting gift. Jack calls a meeting to plan their next move, but his staff feels too much of this doesn't make sense. While evidence on board the Gibraltar points to the Chinese, it seems too contrived. A message from Karen and Miyuki comes in explaining that they have a crystal, but refuse to talk more until they are face to face. Jack gives in.

Lawrence Nafe is pleased with the progress of his plan. True to his word, Nicolas Ruzickov orchestrated each stage with skillful manipulation, stopping just short of a declaration of war. Nicolas asks to see him, and shows him some anomalies regarding the crash site. He and the Head of the Office of Emergency Services enter and explain the basics of tectonics to him before telling him that the quakes originated from a place in the ocean that exactly coincides with Air Force One's crash. Nafe is not ready to change his game plan now, but Nicolas wants him to know all of the details before the news announcement in the morning blaming the Chinese officially. Nafe does not want to hear it. He is looking for things that help his political not scientific agenda, even though Nick speculates that whatever caused the magnetism and the crash could be a source of power. Nafe does however authorize the continued exploration and research into the area providing it stays confidential.

David stands on the bow of the Maggie Chouest and considers his next assignment. Now that the Chinese are firmly planted in the minds of Americans as the bad guys, David's new task is to oversee the project into this unknown power source related to the earth quakes of nine days ago. His man Rolfe approaches and asks about Jack and his gift but David wants to make sure they are well away before his gift is 'unwrapped.'

Chapter 11, Exiled - Chapter 12, A Line In The Sand Analysis

Gabriel makes the connection between their crystal and the query sent out by George regarding the script on the crystal below. Houston's focus has changed. He cannot speculate as to the crystal and it's possible importance when he has to deal with the explosion on board and the death of an NTSB investigator. The connection to the



Chinese is made quickly, as David knew it would be, and Houston gets new orders to drop everything and take the Gibraltar to the Philippine Sea. He holds a briefing announcing the reassignment of the Gibraltar and the transfer of the investigation to David. David is only too happy to have the authority and autonomy to get rid of Jack and his submersible. He orders Jack off the Gibraltar immediately and has him escorted back to the Fathom with orders to leave the area immediately or face arrest. It is a slap in the face for Jack, and he can't do anything but swallow his embarrassment and his anger and leave. As Jack is dropped off at the Fathom, David's men give him a box. Jack can only assume it's another insult of some variety and puts it in his pocket. He and his crew make the Fathom ready to leave, securing the submersible and get out of the area before meeting to decide their next move. The gold bars and the small amount paid to them by the Navy for their services will cover the expenses and running costs they incurred to find the Kochi Maru, but now that she is gone forever, they have to find a new source of income, and fast. Jack's crew isn't as ready to let go. They argue that something about the whole setup smells, including the Chinese connection, reminding Jack that the government had already begun releasing that possible connection before the explosion which made no sense at all. Jack cannot get them to concentrate and it only gets worse when the cryptic message from Karen and Miyuki arrives by way of Gabriel. Finally, Jack gives in, knowing that they won't let it go unless he meets with Karen. The representative from the bank, Kendall McMillan is not amused and voices his opinion that the bank will not be pleased with Jack's decision.

Nafe is happy. Nick has managed to seed the beginnings of suspicion towards China and his press conference in the morning will be the crowning touch. He plans to issue an ultimatum to the Chinese to produce those responsible. Since that is impossible, Nafe is effectively declaring a state of war between the two countries. In power for less than a week, he has already put in motion a plan that he believes will look after the communists once and for all. He is not too impressed with the information given to him by Nick regarding the magnetic connection and the possibility of a new and untapped power source from the crystal but to cover all of his bases, he agrees to let Nick arrange for investigation into the crystal and its properties. The only condition he has is that the entire operation continues to appear as a salvage operation and remain confidential. David has no trouble with that. He stands on the deck of the Maggie Chouest and thinks about his first dive to the crystal that will happen the following morning. Rolfe interrupts his thoughts to ask him what his plans are regarding his gift to Jack. After waiting for a decade to exact his revenge, David is sure that he can wait three more days.



Chapter 13, Trade Secrets

Chapter 13, Trade Secrets Summary

Before Nafe has a chance to formally accuse the Chinese of anything, he receives word that they have invaded Taiwan. By the time he reaches the Situation Room, Taiwan has already conceded defeat. Their government is demanding that the US leave their waters. Nafe responds by seeking a declaration of war from Congress.

Jack arrives in Okinawa and increased security scans him on his way through the airport. The wand beeps on the pocket holding David's 'gift.' Told to open it, he does and has to think quick when he see the wiring circuit inside. He makes the excuse that it's circuitry for an important repair for Professor Nakano and the wrapping is a joke between them. The guard knows Miyuki and lets him through. Karen meets him and offers him accommodations. On the way, she picks up the crystal and shows him its strange properties. It appears to be a miniature of the obelisk he encountered. Jack presents her with forty pages of inscriptions taken from the obelisk. She explains the significance to him. He asks her about the origin of her crystal and she gives him a toned down version. When they meet Miyuki, the box from David falls out of his pocket. Miyuki tells Jack it's just a cheap Chinese circuit and Jack realizes that David is behind it all and wanted him to know.

David is in the prototype of the Navy's called Perseus. He is becoming comfortable with the controls and is on schedule to complete the underwater base and get it manned. With just days to complete, he is pushing everyone at full speed despite occasional defiance. As he returns after his shift, Lieutenant Rolfe tells him that his secondary objective has changed. Jack has left the area and the bomb on his ship cannot be activated. Worse still is the information that the wiring is so inferior that it is not likely to last until his return. David decides that either way, they will blow the ship with Jack or without him. Meanwhile, Gabriel learns from previous glyph comparisons, and manages to catalog the remainder. He learns that there is a site referred to in hidden text that points to the ruins of Nan Madol off the Islands of Micronesia in the South Pacific.

Chapter 13, Trade Secrets Analysis

The Chinese invade Taiwan and Taiwan concedes. With an island already a disaster area after the quakes, the Taiwanese are in no position to mount a defensive posture, and instead rescind their independence and accept Chinese hegemony. Nafe is incensed that with less than two weeks in office he is losing Taiwan to the communists. He will not accept it and demands war. It is in fact what he has wanted all along. It just gives him the opportunity to mount an all out attack on communism. This is something his predecessor wouldn't have the courage to do.



Jack arrives in Okinawa and it is immediately apparent that the invasion has made everyone nervous. Karen meets him after he manages to talk his way through customs with David's 'gift.' She offers to put him up at her place and he accepts. When David, Miyuki and Karen all manage to get together at the University, David asks her to help him identify the box from David. Miyuki tells him it is a simple Chinese circuit, and she doesn't understand the significance of the ramifications of that knowledge and why it puts Jack into an emotional tailspin. He realizes just how involved in this David is, and questions everything now. He is sure that his staff is right and the Chinese have nothing to do with the accident of Air Force One. Their reclamation of Taiwan is only done as a response to the posturing by Nafe and to give themselves an advantage from a military perspective should Nafe be stupid enough to continue along his current path of aggression. David's gift of the circuitry is his way of rubbing Jack's face in the extent of his involvement, and the fact that Jack can't do anything about it. The exchange of information with Karen and Miyuki is almost forgotten in the flash of anger he feels. Miyuki and Karen are both very excited however. The glyphs written down from the obelisk that Jack encountered are so detailed that Miyuki and Karen both believe Gabriel will be able to decipher enough now to decode the language. The implications of that are mind numbing to both of them.

David is focused and his skill as a leader is limited to bullying and calling his boss to bully further if necessary to get complete if unhappy cooperation. It is a leadership style that does not gain many loyalties and inspires much animosity among scientists and crew alike. Knowing that even the best operations require fluidity, he adjusts quickly when he hears that Jack is not aboard his boat. In fact, he gains a certain perverse pleasure from the thought that he can cause Kirkland more pain by blowing up his crew without him on board.

Jack works closely with Miyuki and Karen, analyzing the glyphs and comparing them to the others already cataloged in the rongorongo language. He finds himself attracted to Karen in a way that soon has him seeing her without overlaying Jennifer's qualities. There is strength in her that he admires and respects and it is tempered with humor and a quick wit. The attraction has him thinking more like a man than he has in some time, and when it appears that they will have a day to kill before Miyuki and Gabriel have anything new, he suggests that Karen make good on her offer to show him the pyramids and surrounding ruins.



Chapter 14, On The Run

Chapter 14, On The Run Summary

David watches as a wall is anchored to Neptune's base. He approaches the crystal, sees the writing and is furious that Jack didn't disclose this feature. They trace phone calls from the Fathom, and learn that it was Karen who contacted Kirkland. Jeffreys hacks into their email account to find out why, thereby confirming Jack's knowledge of the script. When David hears Karen has a crystal, he assumes it is part of theirs and the mission is compromised. He calls Ruzickov who tells him to bring Karen into the project to silence her and gain control of the crystal, and shut Kirkland up however he can. David hangs up and asks to have the detonation transmitter brought to him. Aboard the Deep Fathom, Charlie is making dinner. Elvis whines softly and as the crew gets together for lunch, they realize he's been bugging all of them. They follow him up to the communications room and inside he presses his nose to a drawer until Charlie sees a red LED light.

Karen takes Jack to the pyramids explaining how an earth-altering event likely sank the section of the continent they are looking at, just like the Aleutian chain disappeared. Jack wonders if the obelisk once was on dry land. They spend the day searching the ruins and as they are getting ready to leave, a jet goes over, taking out the blockade around Taiwan. The next blast shakes the walls and rocks from the blast go through their hull. Karen sees the conning tower of a Chinese sub. They are about to swim away when a man stands in the doorway leveling a pistol. Karen recognizes him as one of the three who attacked her and Miyuki, but he tells them the Chinese are coming, it is not safe and takes them to a Sampan where two others wait. He explains they are there to protect, introducing himself as Mwahu, son of Waupau, and the leader of the trio. They are taken back to Nahu Bay, where soldiers tell them the island is being evacuated and residents are being taken to bunkers for safety. The University has been cleared but Miyuki is waiting for them, having already gone to Karen's apartment and packed their belongings. Her cousin will fly them off the island. She asks him to take them to the ruins of Nan Madol. She also tells Jack to call Charlie, which he does immediately asking that he meet them at Nan Madol. Then Charlie tells him about the bomb. He tells them to abandon the Fathom but as they are talking, the LED blinks faster. Charlie barely conveys that before the connection is lost. Gregor Handel reports to David that the Fathom is gone. Having broken into their communications, David listens to the last phone call and revels in the fact that Jack knew his crew was gone. Nafe is wakened in the middle of the night to word from Ruzickov that the Chinese have invaded Taiwan and the US.

Chapter 14, On The Run Analysis

David is angry. He cannot believe that Jack did not disclose the writing on the obelisk and wonders what else Kirkland could be hiding. Needing to know what is going on, he



heads for the surface telling his crew to find out what the Fathom has been up to. When David learns that Jack did know about the writing on the crystal and is indeed investigating it, he calls Nick Ruzickov immediately. It is obvious to them both that there is a really good possibility that their operation has been compromised and Nick authorizes him to do whatever it takes to silence them. He makes it clear that he is counting on David not to disappoint him and David knows that means he has the authority to go to any lengths to accomplish his goal. His first task after getting off the phone is to send for the detonator. On board the Fathom, Elvis roams from crew member to crew member, whining and trying to get their attention. He knows there is a problem, but he cannot get anyone to listen. Finally, they humor him and realize that his problem is much deeper than just missing Jack. He leads them right to the explosives in the communications room.

Jack rents a boat and he and Karen go to the pyramids. He is almost as amazed by them as he is by her. She is remarkable and intelligent and he is drawn to her. He realizes that he would have paid a great deal just for the opportunity of spending more private time with her. Before they have a chance to leave the ruins, their boat is destroyed during a hail of weapon fire as the Chinese attack Taiwan. Although obviously frightened, Karen keeps her composure and Jack is more impressed by her manner and bearing as time goes on. It shows itself again when one of the tattooed men who shot at them previously once again comes up behind them. Despite the danger, she is willing and ready to do whatever she has to in order to help them out of the dangerous situation they are in. Jack realizes she is no shrinking violet. The men tell Jack and Karen that their intention is not to harm but to protect. It is their teaching that they protect the world and keep the stone villages from being disturbed. The latter being the most important task, under threat that a curse will come to pass if not upheld. Karen asks him if he can read the symbols inside the pyramids, and he admits to some knowledge, but when Karen writes a rendition of them on paper, Mwahu becomes agitated, claiming it is forbidden. They all go back to the University together, Karen hoping Mwahu will help them to decipher the writing. Jack puts his arm around her in a gesture that feels so natural he did not really think about it. She leans into him, enjoying the security she feels. A guard is relieved to see Karen as Miyuki had refused to leave until she returned. She has already arranged private transportation and to Karen's surprise is taking them to Nan Madol. Jack returns Charlie's call only to discover the details of the bomb on board and to hear the explosion caused by it. He fears the worst, believing that many, if not all are dead. David celebrates the execution of a perfect mission with Champagne.

Ruzickov wakes Nafe in the middle of the night to tell him of the Chinese attack on Taiwan. Nafe is concerned with who fired the first shot, but Ruzickov claims ignorance. Nafe wants to be sure that the entire Congress supports his upcoming declaration of war. He does not want another episode like Vietnam on his hands.



Chapter 15, Pohnpei

Chapter 15, Pohnpei Summary

A private Lear jet takes Karen, Jack, Mwahu and Miyuki to the South Pacific. A search helicopter is dispatched to the Fathom, and Jack waits for word. The Fathom is gone, and Karen matches Jack's anger, telling him that killing Spangler will not help. The only way to avenge his friends is to expose Spangler, and she assures him she will help. Spangler is loading a helicopter and preparing for a trip to Pohnpei as well but first oversees Neptune base as the water is evacuated. Jack and company get into a jeep and head for the ruins. Mwahu has been there several times with his father and Karen tells Jack about the place. The entire city is constructed on top of a coral reef with canals and an extensive tunnel system connecting the islets and is often referred to as the Venice of the Pacific. They paddle in fiberglass canoes through the ruins with Mwahu leading the way. They enter the forbidden city and Mwahu leads them to the tomb of Horon-ko. A star is carved on the surface obscurely and Karen pulls out the crystal. As sunlight hits the crystal a seam opens and the basalt becomes as light as Styrofoam. Inside a platinum coffin, there are the remains of the body still clutching a book bound in platinum. To Mwahu's horror, she takes it out and the bones turn to dust just as the first bullet strikes the rock beside them.

Ferdinand Cortez goes down to the Neptune, enjoying the success of completion. Lieutenant Brentley is waiting near the crystal to take a sample. Cortez watches on the feed as he does and it flickers, audio goes off and on, and Brentley backs away with a sample in the pincers. The crew cheers briefly but a sea quake begins and the lights go out. Ferdinand looks out a porthole and sees the pillars vibrate as a crack opens in the seabed floor and zigzags to Neptune. There is no time to get out. As suddenly as it started, it stops. The crack ends within a yard of Neptune's legs.

Mark Houston is on the Gibraltar headed from Guam to Okinawa to help bolster their defenses. Answering a call from the Pentagon, Houston learns that they are officially at war with China and their new destination is Taiwan.

Chapter 15, Pohnpei Analysis

In the elegance of a Lear, they fly to the South Pacific's Pohnpei airport and Miyuki is awed by its beauty. Jack cannot get his mind away from the Fathom, waiting for word on the fate of his friends. When word came, it was not good. The debris had been easy to find. Jack is beyond angry. He is murderous. Karen tries to diffuse him but soon realizes that is not likely to happen and sits quietly with him. Karen can see that he bears a great deal of guilt. She tries to tell him that it is good that he was not there. If Spangler was behind it, he is now the only one who knows the truth, but Jack does not believe the knowledge is worth the cost. He sees it as another disaster, just like Atlantis that was his fault. The truth is no longer relevant. The depth of the pain in his face cuts through her



and she resists the urge to take him in her arms and comfort him, knowing that it would not help. She promises to help him bring Spangler to justice and he takes her hand, kissing it, and thanking her in a gesture that Karen recognizes is uncharacteristic for him. They head for Nan Madol and even Jack has to admit that the mystery surrounding how it was built is engaging. They follow Mwahu to the tomb of Horon-ko, and Mwahu approaches it with reverence. He is horrified when Karen reaches in to remove the book from the skeletal remains and when they turn to dust, he bursts into tears, sure now that they are all doomed. It is a sacrilege he is ashamed to have been a part of. The bullet that follows seems to confirm that.

Cortez is thrilled to have completed the undersea research station, finally fulfilling the dream he and his wife shared. His only disappointment is that she is no longer alive to share the glory of it with him. He evacuates the water and is among the group of scientists who go down to occupy and work from within. Spangler has finally left and Cortez feels himself relaxing for the first time since his arrival. When Lieutenant Brentley takes a sample of the crystal and the ground begins to shake, so does his confidence and for a brief and horrible moment, he believes they are all going to die. However, the shaking stops and the research station is remarkably undamaged.

Houston cannot believe they are being sent to Okinawa. He offers to stay on board, knowing that cooler heads will be necessary to keep peace, and still thinks that it makes more sense to just give the island to the Chinese. In his mind, it amounts to little more than a small change in government, but answering for the President's death is another story. When word comes that war has been declared on the Chinese, he is stunned.



Chapter 16, Cat and Mouse

Chapter 16, Cat and Mouse Summary

It is clear the gunfire is intended only to keep them pinned down, but Jack uses the crystal to move the lid of the crypt and use it as a shield. They manage to escape through a tunnel. Mwahu guides them through a crevice that leads to a drainage channel which connects to one of the canals. A jet ski patrols close and Mwahu directs them down the waterway telling them more tunnels will take them to shore. They swim and hide, until they reach the opening to the tunnel, but Jack is forced to deal with one of the soldiers on the jet ski. Taking his rifle and radio headpiece, he tells the group to continue without him, while he distracts the soldiers. They use the crystal star again to move the boulder that sits in front of the tunnel and then closes it behind them. He heads away on the jet ski as dusk descends, remembering the superstition Mwahu told them about. Death lay among the ruins at night. In the tunnels Kare hears the shots and explosion. They reach the exit and Karen tells them to douse their lights, but not before David sees them. Following Jack's example, Karen takes a light and heads in the opposite direction to buy Miyuki and Mwahu time to get away. David joins the chase and Rolfe radios that there is no sign of Jack's body. David orders them to find Jack and then hears a nearby splash.

Spangler uses night vision from one of the high vantage points in the city, enjoying the advantage darkness gave his team. He watches his men close in and then sees an explosion and Rolfe's voice whispers confirmation that Jack and the jet ski were blown out of the water. Jack, having sent the confirmation of his death, uses the misdirection to escape deeper into the ruins. He climbs a slope, and realizes that he is on Darong Island. He remembers Karen's explanation of the sea tunnel that connected it so fish could enter and realizes it is his only escape. He gets in, taking several breaths and after locating the small tunnel, he prepares himself and begins the swim through the tunnel. The passage twists and turns as he runs out of air under ground, trying not to panic. At the end of his ability, he finally exits reaching upward and his hand breaks surface but his lungs can't wait, and he takes in a lungful of sea water, sinking again. Someone grabs his hair and pulls him up out of the water and he sees Charlie's face. Lisa works on him, and when he regains consciousness, he is stunned to find himself aboard the Deep Fathom. Charlie explains how they found the explosive, and created the ruse allowing them to escape David and his team. Miyuki and Mwahu manage to call police, who chase David and his team from the ruins, but not before they capture Karen. They set explosive charges around the ruins and barely get away in time. David hears the radio conversations with the police and realizes Deep Fathom was not blown up. Angry, he calls the Fathom and tells Jack they can trade Karen for the crystal. Jack agrees to an early morning rendezvous.



Chapter 16, Cat and Mouse Analysis

Mwahu helps them to escape through a series of tunnels and hidden routes. Spangler is thwarted at every turn, angry with himself for consistently underestimated Jack's ability to be resourceful and elude him. More than anything, he wants Jack dead. His professionalism is slipping and he is allowing his personal feelings to interfere with his performance. Jack is forced to kill or be killed, and though briefly remorseful for the life he has to take, he knows that there is no choice but to react now. One thing he will not allow to happen is another disaster because he is not thinking straight. He will not let Karen, Miyuki and Mwahu pay for his inability to respond to a threat that exists solely because of him. He helps them into a tunnel, and briefly allowing a moment of intimacy to surface, he shows Karen his feelings run deep for her despite their short time in each others company. When he hurries in the opposite direction, he hopes to draw the danger away with him. The explosion that follows echoes through the tunnel and Karen is stopped, filled with a combination of guilt for allowing him to take the risk alone, and fear that something has happened to him. Her feelings for him are somehow amplified by the amount of constant danger they have encountered.

Jack has created the ruse himself, blowing up the jet ski and then calling David and pretending to be one of his own men. Telling his nemesis that he is dead, he uses all of his skills to elude him. David is livid. Again Jack escapes him. His need for revenge is so strong that it clouds his judgment again and again. When he hears radio chatter from the police to the Deep Fathom, he is stunned with disbelief. He had been absolutely certain that the Fathom was several Fathoms deep with her crew. In fact, he had celebrated her destruction. To find out she and her crew are here now just adds insult to injury. The only saving grace is the fact that he managed to get Karen. She is showing her strength, angry and defensive, and unwilling to cooperate in any way with Spangler, only making him angrier. Spangler calls Jack and uses his one bargaining chip to draw him close again.



Chapter 17, Change of Course

Chapter 17, Change of Course Summary

Just before sunrise, Jack slips quietly into the water. Both the Fathom and David's boat are there waiting for the sunrise meeting, but a respectable distance away from each other. Swimming carefully, Jack swims to David's boat, drops his gear along with an extra tank for Karen and quietly surfaces. He takes out the one guard on deck and slips inside. He has the electronic key to the door inside, and makes his way to the area he knows Karen will be held from the plans he had supplied to him. When he enters the access code, the door opens but Karen does not look more fearful than happy to see him. In the time it takes his brain to register that, David tells him to put his gun down. Mocking him for being predictable, he thinks he has the upper hand, but in his mind, Jack is counting. The small explosive that he placed on deck as a distraction is due to go off and he needs to keep David busy until it does. When he gets down to one, he moves forward and manages to hit David so that the gun is dislodged. Too late, he realizes the mistake he made and Karen tells him to run. She assures him that David's bosses want her alive and he reluctantly leaves. He manages to get overboard again and sinks to the bottom to get his gear. Just as suspected, it was a trap. Depth charges are released and Jack knocks the top off a tank, hugging it to him to make a faster exit from the area. Every explosion is painful, and the concussion from it is violent.

Spangler takes a severe reprimand from Ruzickov. Three men dead, and a mission failure makes this the first black mark on his record. Ruzickov tells him to bring Karen to the research station immediately. Missiles are being deployed in Okinawa and there is talk of a nuclear response. Decoding the crystal is now a primary objective. David is to bring the crystal to Washington as soon as it can be extracted. Spangler promises results and Ruzickov hangs up. The evacuation helicopter arrives early and Karen is carried off the ship, still largely unconscious after the beating Spangler gives her when Jack escaped. Meanwhile, the Gibraltar has joined a battle group near Okinawa. Both sides are taking heavy losses. The USS Jefferson is hit and sinks, and the Gibraltar takes heavy fire in her rescue attempts. As Houston sends out a prayer to their crew, the Gibraltar takes a hit. Karen sits on the helicopter, planning to thwart Spangler at every opportunity, and alternately thinking about the explosions and Jack, wondering if his escape was successful. Jack is already aboard the Fathom with Miyuki and Mwahu, all cleared by the police who promise to continue looking for Karen. Jack instructs everyone to continue their research. Charlie is to study the crystal, George the patterns of Dragon's Triangle, and Miyuki and Mwahu the inscriptions in the platinum book from Horon-ko's tomb. Somewhere, the answer to the crash of Air Force One is there. Jack's only concern now is to follow David back to the Neptune where he is certain Karen has been taken.



Chapter 17, Change of Course Analysis

Jack is determined to get Karen off David's boat. He tries to plan for every eventuality. He brings a spare air tank, and is in the water early enough so that he can take his time, maneuvering around the pillars and using them to shield him from David's tracking devices. He approaches, using mirrors to check for guard positions, and quietly takes out one to board David's boat. He is surprised to find that all of David's team is paying close attention to the Deep Fathom in the distance. He slips inside, and using the code he managed to get, he opens the door of the locked room he is sure Karen is held in. It is the moment of truth, because if she isn't there, he doesn't know what his next move is. When he opens the door, his relief is immense, but immediately tempered by the look on her face. She looks more horrified than relieved, and it takes just a split second to recognize that he has walked into a trap, but by then David is standing behind him with a gun in his hand. He still thinks he has a chance, hoping that he can keep David close until his distraction explosion goes off on deck, but again he underestimates David who manages to elude him despite his element of surprise. There is no choice. He either has to run, or become a captive and neither is really acceptable, but the former is the only real choice. He goes overboard, and swims down to the gear he secreted below. His plan had been to wait there until the police arrived, but when David and his team throw depth charges out after him, he is forced to flee or die. All the while, he chastises himself for not being better prepared, alternately hoping that Karen is right and that David's superiors want her alive. Still, he hasn't given up. As soon as the police clear them, he sets off for the Dragon's Triangle, knowing that is where David is taking her.

For David, the mission is another disaster. Jack seems to be able to get the better of him each and every time they have any contact, and it is making him more angry that smart. Jack has been beating him ever since he took his place on the Atlantis shuttle mission, and try as he might to get even, he doesn't seem able. He takes all of his anger and frustration over Jack's newest escape down to Karen, beating her unconscious. He blackens her eyes and her face swells. In fact, she is unconscious for so long that when they are ready to transfer to the helicopter to evacuate the area, she is still out cold and has to be carried off. For a brief moment, he second guesses the temper tantrum he let out on her, but then a moan tells him she is still alive and any sympathy he feels is gone that fast.



Chapter 18, Dark Matters

Chapter 18, Dark Matters Summary

Nafe listens to his Joint Chief's report. They are all telling him the same thing. Military bases in Hawaii are slow to respond because of the earthquakes, and they are fighting a battle with one hand tied behind their back. Nafe asks for an educated opinion as to what they should do and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Hickman tells him there is only one option. He recommends a limited nuclear response. Nafe does nothing to discourage the action.

Miyuki, Mwahu and Gabriel translate the crystal and the platinum book Horon-ko was holding. Part of it is the story of their history of how they first found and revered the crystal, and how an eclipse changed everything, bringing with it a flood that sounds remarkably like the story of Noah's Ark. Jack asks George if it helps him but George has made progress of his own. He discovers an eleven year pattern to the disappearances. Jack approaches Charlie to see what progress he had made and Charlie explains his theory that the crystal is actually giving off dark energy. The crystal acts as a superconductor absorbing energy. In the platinum book, the ancients had mentioned lights in the sky that Charlie is guessing could have been aurora borealis. George thinks that the Bermuda and Dragon's Triangles are acting as a positive and negative end of a charge creating a massive electromagnetic field that even drives the earth's magma flow. The ancients dig free a sliver and expose it to direct sunlight causing it to convert the solar radiation into dark energy and thereby whipping up the earth's magma core and causing the tectonic disruption that destroyed the continent. More recently, the solar flare hurled ionized gas to the earth causing a geomagnetic storm causing the pillar to react violently again. Then George tells them that an even larger coronal mass ejection, which is the largest ever recorded that occurred three days ago. It is due to hit earth the following afternoon.

David puts Karen on a submersible and sends her down to the Neptune station. After hearing the government's plan to use explosives to get the crystal out and she offers to help if they can provide her with an internet connection. Miyuki is working when Gabriel relays a video feed from Karen. He calls Jack and they all listen as Karen brings them up to date. Jack promises he will get her out of there the following day. Karen asks them to send all of the data. David shows up and Karen hides the transfer. David takes her back to her room, where she waits until Dr. Cortez comes back, and then asks if he'll help. When he agrees, they go back to the lab together and call Gabriel again. They collaborate and Cortez agrees to get the information to a colleague. Charlie works on a way to overload the crystal. It cracks in half. Jack promises to contact her when he is on the way and neither side realizes that David and Rolfe have been listening, having heard enough of the conversation to cost Cortez his life as Spangler manipulates events to get him into the docking chamber and then depressurizes it.



Chapter 18, Dark Matters Analysis

Nafe is still manipulating every event he can. His next feat is to plant a nuclear seed in the right minds. Using Nick again, he ensures that the idea is floated and when it comes back to him as a last suggestion, he tries hard not to smile or show his enthusiasm. It is perfect!! Not only does he get to take war to China, but he gets to go nuclear on them, and all with a clean and clear conscience. His last words are a whispered but sanctimonious prayer that God forgive them all but as soon as he is out of their hearing, he is congratulating Nick on another job well done and letting his excitement show.

Lisa asks Jack why he feels compelled to chase David. Why not just lie low and decode the crystal and give it to the New York Times or something? Jack tells her that if they did, Jennifer would be dead before the first edition printed. He does not hear his slip, but Lisa brings it to his attention. He corrects himself, but the feeling is the same. Lisa asks him point blank what Karen means to him, and he tells her he doesn't know, but he would like the chance to find out. Lisa tries not to show her disappointment. She had wanted him to open up to her for so long. Now, he finally opens his heart up a crack, but it is up to someone else. She is still glad that he is opening up to someone and showing signs of recovery of some kind.

Karen is both amazed and resentful at the same time. The government has decided to mine the entire crystal and take it back to Washington for further analysis. Karen is horrified, knowing they may damage the crystal in the process. Taking great risk, she promises to help Cortez decode the language, but tells him she needs internet access, and as soon as she can, she puts a call through to the Fathom using Gabriel. They make plans and exchange information. Karen tells all to Cortez, deciding to trust him after David berates them all for allowing her to be left alone and free in the facility. He agrees to help, signing his own death warrant after David bugs the lab. Jack makes plans to rescue Karen, trying to concentrate on what he has to do, but finding it difficult after seeing her face and knowing what happened to her. He kills Cortez.



Chapter 19, Man o' War

Chapter 19, Man o' War Summary

Houston survives the sinking of the Gibraltar, but dies on the deck of the USS Hickman when they take a direct hit. Jack leaves in the Nautilus, conserving as much power as he can for the long trip. Part of the way there he is ambushed by Spangler in the Navy's Perseus. They battle in and out of the maze of canyons until finally Jack manages to trap David under a rock fall. Karen calls the Fathom asking if they have heard from Cortez, and finding out they haven't, she realizes that something has gone wrong. David's men force themselves aboard the Fathom while evacuation of the Neptune base is being completed. All but Karen and Rolfe are gone. David escapes the trap Jack set for him by ejecting in an emergency escape pod. He only makes it a short distance before the giant squid sees him and mistaking him for food, devours the pod with David inside. His last living action is to activate the fail safe mode, initiating the destruction of the underwater base. Karen hears the call from topside catching the words evacuation and fail safe. Pretending to be compliant, she climbs down the ladder in front of Rolfe, but before he can get to her, she breaks the safety glass and initiates safety procedures in case of flooding and the hatch closes on his, killing him instantly. She calls topside and tells them the station has been damaged, and tells them implosion is imminent.

Finally, safe from that danger, she prays that Jack makes it to her. She goes back to the lab and tries to reach Gabriel but has no luck. Jack has used up all of the power Nautilus has fighting David and is now dead in the water in sight of the Neptune base. He uses the remaining juice to throw stones at the crystal as a form of SOS but then loses consciousness because of the cold and lack of oxygen. David's men leave the Fathom when they find out about the fail safe initiation and Karen finally reaches them. She uses the remote Huey to drag Nautilus to the Neptune, but cannot get him up into the hatch. Fathom patches her through to Jack and she wakes him long enough for him to jettison the sub frame and propel himself into the airlock above. Karen gets him out and revives him, but they have only an hour before the solar flare hits.

Chapter 19, Man o' War Analysis

Jack is nervous as he heads out in the Nautilus but he is determined to rescue Karen. While it is impossible to help Jennifer now, he knows that in a large way, his involvement with Karen played a part in her kidnapping and his ongoing battle with David certainly was responsible for the injuries she sustained at his hands. He knows he cannot fail her and is ever conscious of the amount of energy he uses in his trip to Neptune, conserving along the way to ensure his arrival and their escape. It never occurs to him to be on the lookout for David, and the initial attack takes him completely by surprise. He responds quickly, knowing his life and Karen's hang in the balance. David is operating Perseus, with a few benefits that Jack does not have such as armament which is at the top of the list. His evasion maneuvers take a large amount of



his energy away but there are no alternatives. He hides when he can and runs when it is feasible. Finally, he realizes that his only hope is to take a more aggressive stand against David. Once he reaches that conclusion, everything changes. He has been in his submersible long enough to move confidently and surely in it and manages to put himself into a position of power, burying David in his submersible under a rock fall. What he does not count on is the escape pod. David is laughing as he makes his getaway, telling Jack that he will not be taken down that easily and at first, Jack is more than a little disappointed. With energy waning, he cannot really give chase and as long as David is at large, his freedom and Karen's is threatened. Then Jack sees the squid that he tangled with the last time he was in the area. He tells David he is about to be lunch, but it takes a minute to register. By the time it does, there is little David can do, and it's unlikely that he could have saved himself even if he had seen it immediately. He does not think the squid will actually manage to eat him, but is mistaken. His last act before dying is to key in the fail safe codes that ensure that Neptune will not fall into enemy hands or Jack's.

Karen prays that Jack is still coming as she takes matters into her own hands. She and Rolfe are the last two in Neptune's research station, and she feels certain that he plans to kill her. She remembers Jack's comment that sometimes you have to kill or be killed, and after seeing Cortez's glasses and realizing that they killed him, she hardens herself to what she has to do. Killing Rolfe is easier than it would have been for her even a week ago. Now, alone on the research station, she ensures that none of Rolfe's men will return by declaring an emergency, and prays Jack comes soon. Jack has already run out of energy, and is slowing freezing and running out of air within sight of Neptune. Thankfully, Karen sees him as well and uses the robotics to bring him and Nautilus to the edge of Neptune. She manages to wake him long enough for him to blow his escape pod and send himself into the airlock above. So far, everything is working but time is running out.



Chapter 20, Nick Of Time - Epilogue

Chapter 20, Nick Of Time - Epilogue Summary

Karen updates Jack and Charlie tells them both about the ICBM that David unleashed on them, due to hit one minute after the solar storm. Charlie wants to use the Navy satellite Spartacus, instrumental in the Atlantis accident, to send a particle beam down on the crystal. Sustained for a few minutes, it might destroy the crystal. The satellite will only be in range once and only three minutes before the storm hits, but to fire it accurately, Gabriel needs a GPS lock. The only undamaged one they have is in the Navy suit and Jack has no choice but to act as a living homing device. Standing on the deck of Fathom, Lisa and George can see the fail safe missile's contrail. Karen watches from the porthole as the crystal lights up in a blinding flash of radiance. Lisa stares at the contrail seemingly suspended in space until Robert asks where the ocean is. Deep Fathom seems to be floating on air. They can see the light of the crystal below like a sun. Just as the brightness is reaching a point where it is too much, the intensity drops. He turns to see images of men and women kneeling and even Karen sees them. One kneeling figure looks up as Jack speaks, hearing him. The leader or shaman is clearly talking to him and he asks Gabriel to translate. Suddenly Jack realizes the point in time he is in, remembering the story in the platinum diary. He tells the shaman a time of hardness is coming and he should build great ships as the waters of the sea will claim his homelands. Horon-ko hears him and tells him that he will obey. Inside Neptune, Karen gasps with sudden understanding. Instead of an explosion, the brightness just goes out and the crystal is gone. Jack asks about the ICBM, but Charlie, overjoyed, tells him not to worry. On the deck of Deep Fathom, the crew watches the approaching eclipse. Time worldwide has rewound by sixteen days leaving only their small pocket in the present. They are the only ones who know what really happened. The earthquake never happens. The crystal is gone, and the eclipse passes harmlessly. Only David and Rolfe remain dead as they are in the circle of time that stays present. The rest of the world simply does not know. Karen helps Jack out of his suit, and then activates the upper layer of Neptune, and acting as a lifeboat, it begins its journey to the surface.

Back on board Deep Fathom, they celebrate. Karen throws the remaining crystal into the ocean, recognizing they are not ready for its power. Kendall McMillan earns a permanent spot on the Deep Fathom's crew when he reminds them that the Kochi Maru will still be safe and sound on the bottom of the ocean with its cargo of gold and world wide. Life is somehow brighter to most people, although they do not really understand why.

Chapter 20, Nick Of Time - Epilogue Analysis

When Jack is conscious, and no longer thinking that Karen is an angel and a figment of his imagination, she brings him up to date. They contact Deep Fathom, and are told that David's crew received word of the fail safe and left. They are still trying to determine



what the fail safe is, and at the same time figure out how to destroy the crystal before the solar flare hits earth. Charlie has a plan but to put it in play they will have to use Spartacus. Just naming the particle beam accelerator turns his knees to jelly. It is almost incomprehensible to him that again he would have to deal with the very piece of machinery that cost the lives of all aboard Atlantis - Jennifer included. Now, he finds himself with strong feelings for another woman for the first time since the accident, and fate puts Spartacus at the heart of his survival. It is almost too much to deal with. Worse still is discovering that the GPS on board Nautilus is so damaged from his fight with David that it can't be used as a location beacon for Spartacus. The only GPS they have is in the suit he is wearing. With sudden clarity, he knows he is the only hope the world has, and must put himself directly in the path of Spartacus and the beam that it sends to earth. Somehow, it seems right. He has often felt that he should have died on Atlantis as well, and now finally fate will even the score and take him to Jennifer. With a calm that borders on serene, he stands at the foot of the crystal, feeling the electrical charge of the water around him and waiting for Gabriel to initiate the beam.

Standing on the deck of Deep Fathom, George calms Lisa as they watch the fail safe missile make its way toward them. One way or another it seems that they are doomed, but George's calm demeanor beside her helps. She is looking up and does not notice the lack of water under them until Robert brings it to their attention. Deep Fathom is hanging in the air and the light from below is bright. They can see Jack. The beam hits the crystal and lights the air around him with intensity. Jack is amazed when he sees the people praying and thinks it is in his mind at first, but Karen confirms it. Native people are praying, more coming all the time. He can hear one of them speaking and when Gabriel translates for him he realizes that he is in a time warp and looking at Horon-ko. This is the event that was written about in his diary. Suddenly he knows what his duty is, and begins warning Horon-ko of the upcoming events. He tells him to build a large boat and to save his people from the coming disaster. Horon-ko acknowledges and agrees to comply just as they vanish from sight, the crystal along with them. On Deep Fathom, Lisa and George see the missile stop, and then disappear. Amazingly, they have changed the events of the past sixteen days, and are on the cusp of the eclipse again. This time, without any crystal, the disaster of Air Force One is averted and the President lives. So do all those who went to war with China and the crew is amazed to realize that everything seems to have reset. The only ones who are not brought back are David and Rolfe who's proximity to the crystal kept them in the same time with Deep Fathom and its crew. Karen and Jack no longer deny how they feel about each other. Life is too short, but it is not over.

The celebrating begins as they comprehend the scope of their accomplishment. It only amplifies when Kendall McMillan reminds them that without the earthquake, the Kochi Maru still sits on the bottom of the ocean, and they know where. The rest of the world faces the day with a brighter step, although they don't know why.



Characters

Jack Kirkland

Jack is the Captain of Deep Fathom, a ship leased for exploration. He and his crew are working on deep sea explorations. Jack is a private man. It has not always been that way. When he proposed to his girlfriend, he could not have been happier or more in love with her and life. When the space shuttle they were on came apart on reentry and he was the sole survivor, his life imploded. A strong and resourceful ex-Navy man, he would happily trade his life now to save the lives of his former crew and undo the accident that changed everything. Now, a shell of his former self, he lives on his boat and avoids as much of life as he can. His relationships lack depth and he meets physical needs without any heart or soul attached and for the most part he prefers a more solo emotional existence. He is afraid on one hand to commit himself again and on the other hand, he feels that it would be a betrayal to the woman he loved and lost. His muscled and tanned chest has scars from old burns that run from his nipple to just above his navel but his scars are as much internal as external.

Just when it seems that he will never be able to move past the disaster of the Atlantis shuttle mission, he meets Dr. Karen Grace. Karen is a Canadian citizen who is studying the evolution of ancient Micronesian cultures at the University in Okinawa. At first, she remind him so much of Jennifer Spangler, the woman who would have been his wife that he has trouble not overlapping them in his mind and comparing every little thing about them. Slowly, as he spends more time in her company, this changes and the memory of Jennifer pushes back a little more to give him the room to open his heart. When he does, his life changes again.

Now Jack is faced with losing the second woman he falls for. When Karen becomes the target of his nemesis, the man who would have been his brother-in-law in another life, Jack is faced with two choices. The safe route would have him running again avoiding the inevitable confrontation with David Spangler. The safe route would involve police and perhaps media to bring the whole mess to the light of day but the safe route would leave Karen to fend for herself in the clutches of a man who has been looking for a way to exact revenge on Jack for years. Jack realizes he is done running. He cannot leave her to her own devices and when Dr. Lisa Cummings realizes Jack has fallen for Karen, she supports him rather than give in to her sadness that it wasn't her that broke through and opened his heart to love again. Mustering every talent he has, and facing his fears straight on, he prevails and in the process, heals a wound that has been raw for much too long.

Karen Grace

Karen has been on the Island of Okinawa for three years, having come from British Columbia, Canada to study at Ryukyu University and complete her doctorate. She is



working towards her thesis on Micronesian cultures, looking for clues as to the migration patterns and origins of the early Polynesian people. Karen comes from a history of relatives who thrived in exploration, and she is no different. Capable and adventurous, when she learns about the pyramids that had risen to the surface after the recent earthquake, she sees it as a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn about the history of what was once considered more myth than truth. Skeptical at first, when confronted with photos of the terraced tops rising out of the water, she was hooked and had to know if there was a connection between the Mayans who were the people speculated to have built them and the Polynesians. Either way, she is unable to pass up the opportunity to explore them first hand. Her best friend and fellow University doctor, Miyuki Nakano, feels the same way.

Karen's great grandfather, Colonel Churchward had claimed to have found a set of Mayan tablets that spoke of a lost continent similar to Atlantis in the early 1900's and named the lost continent Mu. He wrote a whole series of books and essays before being discredited. No one believed him. Years later, Karen's father had left his young family to chase a dream of fortune in Alaska, never to be seen again. Karen always thought she inherited her wanderlust from them and her interest in the Micronesian cultures from her great grandfather. Rather than settle down and have children like her sister, she avoided relationships and turned to her studies instead. Then she meets Jack Kirkland. Suddenly, she cannot stop thinking about him. Even though she denies the obvious connection, it is plain to see and Miyuki teases her about it.

Karen has blond hair, cropped short, and green eyes. She is confident and intelligent and carries herself with a stern stride and an energy that almost makes her glow. She smells vaguely of jasmine and blushes easily, a fact which Jack delights in. She becomes so entangled in the mystery surrounding these pyramids and their origin that when it becomes dangerous, she is determined to persevere. Karen is not a shrinking violet. She is smart enough to avoid panic and think her way through the danger that seems to find her again and again, and trusting Jack to be a man of his word, she is instrumental in turning around what could have been a global catastrophe. Instead, risking her life several times over, she is rewarded and wins the heart of the man who sees all that she is.

David Spangler

David Spangler is a man whose life is filled with resentment and anger. Beginning with his replacement on the Atlantis shuttle mission by Jack when the powers who made those decision opted not to risk two family members, David learns to resent Jack. When his sister Jennifer is killed on that fated shuttle mission meant to launch the satellite Spartacus, David nurtures that resentment into hatred. Consumed by it, he bides his time, always looking for a way to get even. David is tall, broad shouldered and has a muscular frame. He has blond hair cropped close and is well tanned.

He and his Omega team work for CIA Director Nicolas Ruzickov. His missions are to accomplish what governments are unable to. Their specialty is to go into areas covertly



and create scenarios that support whatever story their government is trying to sell. David and his team are very effective. They are never seen and always successful. When Air Force One goes down with the President on board, David is called home early with his team. His new mission, given to him by vice president Nafe, is to make this unfortunate accident look as though it is a deliberate piece of sabotage, cleverly perpetrated by the Chinese even though there is absolutely no evidence to that effect. As always, David has no trouble with his objective. The fact that one of the salvage specialists already on site is Jack Kirkland is just an added benefit. On the government's behalf, he goes to the site and has no trouble making it appear as though the Chinese are directly responsible. The presence of Jack Kirkland however is the one facet of this operation that threatens its completion. Jack and his team are not convinced that the Chinese are responsible, and the deeper they dig, the further from the truth that scenario appears. David has so much trouble containing the situation that he is finally given the one instruction he has always dreamed of. Remove the obstacle any way necessary. It is an order he follows with great relish, planting a bomb on Jack's boat. Once again however, Jack and his crew manage to undermine his efforts. With the help of Jack's dog Elvis, they find the explosive and stage their own demise while Jack is in Okinawa with Karen and Miyuki comparing notes on their findings. Believing his crew is dead, Jack is devastated, and looking for revenge himself. David almost manages to kill him twice more, but each time fate or friend intervenes, making David look increasingly bad to his superiors. He guarantees them satisfaction once he kidnaps Karen but Jack gets the upper hand once more, and David loses his life in an escape pod that a giant squid mistakes as a food source.

Lawrence Nafe

Lawrence Nafe is the Vice President who assumes control when Air Force One goes down after a combination of solar eclipse and earth quake. Nafe is a former Yale student and an idealist who is well known for his open opposition to the President's coddling demeanor with the Chinese, preferring a hard line stance. He is also an opportunist, and when the President is killed, he sees it as an opportunity to bring about the kind of future he has always envisioned, which is one without communists. Using the accident as his starting point, Nafe begins by creating the illusion that the President's plane was brought down deliberately by the Chinese. This gives him the right to retaliate with the full force of the government behind him. The Chinese get wind of his accusations even before he makes them, and knowing where they will lead, China takes Okinawa back from Taiwan. Taiwan gives in easily, but Nafe is incensed. In his mind, it merely supports his beliefs that the Chinese can not be trusted. Using the CIA, he manipulates every opportunity he can, and manages to gain approval for a limited but decisive strike against the blockade at Okinawa. Sending in his own troops, still reeling from the earthquake and only able to respond in a limited manner, they are outgunned by the Chinese, and begin to lose warships.

Instead of seeing this as a sign to evacuate, Nafe once again enlists the CIA to plant a seed for a limited nuclear strike. Nafe is a man of little if any conscience, who has soft features with thick lips and just a hint of a double chin. Cow eyes and a bulging



belly that hangs over his belt do nothing to complement his hair, which is the color of dung, thinning and obviously from a bottle which finish his appearance. His double dealing and covert maneuvers will be his undoing in the end as a shift in time changes everything, undoing all of his progress and ensuring he never sees the White House as the country's Chief.

Miyuki Nakano

Miyuki is currently on leave from a Japanese professorship at the University. The petite teacher has worked for two years at a Palo Alto Internet firm where she has picked up English as a second language, and seldom leaves her computer lab at Ryukyu University. She has ebony hair, a rich complexion, and is rarely seen in anything other than a starched and pressed lab coat. The first woman to be nominated for the Nobel Prize, Miyuki has had accolades from around the world for her work in computer science for her creation of the artificial intelligence she calls Gabriel. Gabriel is a fully functioning interactive 'ghost in the machine.' His interaction with his surroundings is often unnerving to those who have their questions directly answered by him, or are engaged in conversation by him.

For Miyuki however, Gabriel is better than the real thing. Once engaged to Hiroshi Takata, a fellow professor, he had broken it off and transferred to Kobe when her success caused him professional jealousy. Since then, Gabriel had become her constant and only male companion and for the time being she has happily traded a warm body for an intelligent mind. She is a curious and incredibly intelligent woman with a deep and loyal connection to her friends. Her best friend is Karen Grace and more than once Miyuki finds herself exposed to danger or is put in harm's way as a result of her friendship, but never backs down or out. She is steadfastly loyal and fiercely protective.

Dr. Lisa Cummings

Lisa works with Jack on Deep Fathom. The UCLA doctor does not look like a medical researcher, but more like she belongs on a beach on the arm of a muscled surfer. Her government grant enabled the lease of the Nautilus 2000. Her aim is to study the effects of deep sea work on the human physiology. She has long blond hair that has been bleached by the sun almost white and is deeply tanned.

Lisa has been with Jack for many years, and spent a few years in and out of his bed, hoping to be the one that opened his heart again. When she realizes that this is not going to happen, she backs away in the name of self-preservation, but they remain friends and coworkers, and she always on the side of his best interests both mentally and physically. Falling in love with Karen is not something she expected from Jack. She had harbored deep hopes that by remaining constant contact with him, when the time came that he began to heal, it would be with her at his side. When she realizes that this is not the case, she is hurt and disappointed, but at the same time glad that her friend is



coming out of a long stretch of self-recrimination and guilt. She harbors no resentment and instead is instrumental in helping to save Karen from David's clutches.

Elvis

This is a German shepherd Jack rescued as a pup after his mother abandoned it. Jack nursed it back to health nine years previously and it had lived aboard Deep Fathom with him ever since, never knowing a life on shore.

Kendall McMillan

Aboard Deep Fathom for only two months now, Kendall is the accountant for Chase Manhattan Bank and assigned to keep an eye on their investment. He has not yet relaxed into life aboard, still wearing Sperry deck shoes, khaki slacks, and a shirt that buttons up to his neck. He is middle aged with red hair that is neatly trimmed and combed.

Jennifer Spangler

This individual is a mission specialist aboard shuttle Atlantis who loses her life. She is also Jack's fiancée.

George Klein

In his sixties, George smokes a thick pipe but looks nothing like an older Harvard professor. He has wispy white hair and reminds Jack of Jacques Cousteau. An extremely intelligent man, George is the one who makes the connections between the Bermuda and the Dragon Triangle. He discovers the link between the crystal and the cyclical disappearances of many ships and is able to come up with a solution that saves the planet from the secondary coronal ejection ultimately saving them all.

Charlie Mollier

Charlie, a Jamaican born geologist, works aboard the Deep Fathom with Jack. He has a dual doctorate in geology and geophysics, and could have taught in any University, but prefers to be out in the world exploring and doing his own research. He has been with Jack on the Fathom for seven years.

Robert Bonaczek

Marine Biologist on Deep Fathom with Jack. Only twenty years of age, he is the youngest crew member aboard. He is also the most serious, dour and seldom smiling.



At the age of eighteen, he graduated with a master's degree in marine sciences and had been on Deep Fathom since, working on his doctorate. He has thin blond hair that already appears to be balding.

Nicolas Ruzickov

CIA Director Ruzickov is a former student of Yale and friend of the Vice President. He is a former marine, with gray hair and pushing sixty years of age. Lithe and wiry-framed, he has hard blue eyes that are for the most part unreadable.

Mark Houston

Formerly a Captain in Jack's day, Mark Houston is now a Rear Admiral but his blue eyes are as frosty and keen as always. He stands taller than Jack's six foot three inches, and has always been more than a commanding officer to Jack. He was his friend and mentor, and when Jack's mother died when he was three, Mark and his wife Ethel had taken him in and raised him. She died thirteen years earlier, having succumbed to ovarian cancer. Mark still misses her and honors his promise to her to watch out for Jack

Edwin Weintraub

Lead investigator for the NTSB, Edwin is responsible for gathering information from the black boxes and determining the reason for the crash. He has oily skin and his black hair sticks out in all directions. He wears thick glasses that make his eyes appear to swim and absorbs himself in his work and his frame can be described as portly.

William Wellington

Chief of Staff to acting President Nafe, Bill is a man who knows how to stand his ground. He comes from a rich Georgian family and as a rule he is the epitome of charm and gentility.

Mwahu, son of Waupau

Mwahu is the leader of the trio of men who first chase Karen and Miyuki from the temple pyramids, and then ransack the office at the university. He has a tattoo of the same snake on his arm as is represented in the pyramid. He is also a descendant of Horonko, the Great ancestor who protected his people. Mwahu is one of the men chosen by the elders to protect the pyramids, and at first does so with great zeal, but when it becomes obvious that Karen and Jack are not there to hurt their ancient site, he is tasked with helping to protect them instead. He helps them elude the Chinese when the



first invasion force arrives and later helps Karen, Jack and Miyuki to decode the writing from the temple pyramids and from the platinum covered diary in Horon-ko's tomb.

Horon-ko

This individual is the great ancestor to the men who protect the stone city with pyramids who went to the lost city of Nan Madol to die because his home city was gone. He originated from Katua Peidi or the city where the builders of Nan Madol lived. Horon-ko is buried with a diary that explains the history of the crystal and how it affected their entire tribe. When Jack saves the earth from devastation by acting as a GPS signal for the crystal's destruction, time is warped to such a degree that he has a conversation with Horon-ko and in sudden flash of understanding realizes that he is the messenger referred to in Horon-ko's diary.

Rau-ren

This individual is the elder who tells Mwahu and his two friends that they must help Karen and Jack escape the Chinese and get out of the ruins.

Lieutenant Hank Jeffreys

This individual is part of David's Omega team and communications officer. An expert, he is able to hack into almost any system.

Professor Ferdinand Cortez

This individual is the Mexican leader of the research group, Cortez is a paunchy man with dedication to his work. He is a geophysicist who runs a tight operation. Recruited by David Spangler to oversee the production and construction of the undersea research station dubbed Neptune, Dr Cortez finishes the dream that he and his wife lived for. He manages to get the research station up and running and works out of it until Spangler kills him for plotting against him when it becomes obvious that he is a lunatic with control issues.

Lieutenant Ken Rolfe

This individual is one of the members of David's Omega team and his second in command. Loyal to a fault, Rolfe will follow the orders of his commander regardless of how insane they are. David leans on him heavily knowing that he can trust him to do his bidding explicitly.



Lieutenant Brentley

Alternate pilot for the Perseus, Brentley attempts to collect a sample from the top of the crystal obelisk after Spangler is gone.

Lieutenant Gregor Handel

One of David Spangler's Omega team, Gregor is the electronics expert. Handel sabotages the Air Force One's flight recorder in such a way as to ensure no sign of tampering remained. Instead, it would point to a single malfunction.



Objects/Places

Deep Fathom

This is Jack's boat and an eighty-foot ship originally built as a research ship for the Woods Hole Institute in 1973. Jack converts it into a salvage vessel.

Nautilus 2000

This is Jack's new mini sub and a one-man submersible.

Kochi Maru

Translated to the 'Spring Wind', this is a Japanese freighter that sank in WWII.

Ryukyu

This is the university where Miyuki Nakano has her computer lab and Karen is studying for her doctorate on the outskirts of Naha.

Dragons of Okinawa

This is a pair of pyramids discovered submerged in 1991 off the Island of Okinawa by geology professor Kimura Masaaki and compared to the ancient ruins belonging to the Mayan in Central America.

Spartacus

This is a satellite test model outfitted with a particle beam cannon that shuttle Atlantis tried to launch.

Atlantis

This is a space shuttle that crashed killing all aboard but Jack.

Deep Drone

This is the navy's remotely operated deep sea robot.



Rongorongo

This is the name given by the natives at Rapa Nui to the hieroglyphics found on hundreds of wooden tablets, staffs, and skulls discovered originating from before they arrived on the island in 400 A.D.

Dragon's Triangle

This is the name given to the area of the earth directly opposite to the Bermuda Triangle and bearing the same properties of magnetism and disappearances.

Maggie Chouest

This the Navy's salvage ship, which is painted bright red and two hundred feet long with a crew of thirty. It is the ship that David is left on when the Gibraltar is reassigned.

Perseus

This is the Navy's new prototype submersible.

Kwajalein Atoll

This is the site where Deep Fathom waits for Jack while he meets with Karen and Miyuki in Okinawa.

Nan Madol

This is the location of ruins in the South Pacific covering eleven square miles of coastline which include megalithic ruins of canals and basalt buildings of unknown origin. It is mysterious because there are rocks weighing fifty tons that are stacked forty feet high and no one can figure out how they did it.

Sampan

This is an Oriental fishing vessel, which is long and narrow and able to glide quietly through the water.



Pohnpei Island

This is a South Pacific Island destination of Karen, Miyuki and Jack after the Chinese invade Taiwan. Roughly thirteen miles across, it is circled by coral reefs that create an island of mangrove swamps and lagoons.

Neptune

This is the name of the underwater base established by Spangler and his crew on the site where Air Force One went down and the obelisk is located. This consists of four thousand square feet of space encompassed in three doughnut like rings stacked on each other is the complex.

Omega Team

This is the covert team led by David Spangler that serves the wishes of the US Government, accomplishing missions that require delicacy and subversion. David's team has never failed and has always managed to misdirect as ordered, ensuring their existence remains unknown.

Black Priority

This is the designation allowing for lethal force to be used by Omega team. It is their highest designation.

Katua Peidi

This is the home of the original builders of Nan Madol, according to myth, and home of the teacher, Horon-ko.

Argus

These are the researchers on the two-man submersible.

Nan Dowas

This is Nan Madol's central castle.

Pahn Kadira

This is the forbidden city of Nan Madol.



Themes

Love Heals Even The Deepest Wounds

Jack has been on his own for years. After the Atlantis shuttle accident, and the loss of his fiancée Jennifer Spangler, Jack blames himself. He closes himself off from anything that might involve his heart, letting no one in and allowing none of himself to the surface. His guilt and remorse as the single survivor of that accident is almost more than he can bear. The survivors' guilt he deals with keeps him isolated from all of the people who care about him. Instead, he prefers his own company and tries to make a clean break of his life, leaving behind everything that reminds him of his previous life. He even mortgages the family farm in an effort to finance his continuing salvage operation. When he is called to aid in the recovery of the Presidents plane, he doesn't want to go, but can't think of a graceful way out of it. He loses sleep just thinking about it and suffers such anxiety that one of his crew, Dr. Lisa Cummings, drugs his tea so that he is able to sleep. Even diving to the wreck turns Jack upside down emotionally. The only distraction is the crystal obelisk that he videos for his crew. He sees the debris field and is sharply reminded of another wreck, losing himself in those memories. He is grateful when he finally finds the black boxes and brings them and the President's jade bust to the surface, thinking his portion of this is over, but then General Houston asks a favor of him. Will he help them further?

He makes many trips down to the sea bed, helping to recover a great deal of the plane and in the process learns more anomalies surrounding the crystal. When the language on the surface of the obelisk put him in touch with Professors Karen Grace and Miyuki Nakano, his whole world changes. Although in the beginning he still finds himself comparing her to Jennifer, as he has done with all women to date, she soon emerges as a separate entity in his mind. He sees and appreciates her strength of character, intelligence, quick wit, and sense of humor. Before long, he realizes that he looks forward to seeing her, to spending time with her, and to getting to know her better. As a result, he becomes stronger and fights to free himself from the bonds of the past. His feelings for Karen deepen with their shared experiences and adventures, and although he has not admitted it to her yet, he has to himself. When Karen is taken by David Spangler, Jack stops running. He faces his deepest fears and failures. In the end, he faces the very thing that led to the accident of Atlantis, and puts himself in the direct path of danger in the one hope that exists to save mankind. At this time, he is not fearful or regretful except his one regret that he did not have the opportunity to get to know Karen better and further explore his feelings for her. When he gets the opportunity to do so, he reaches forward to her and his future without fear.

Disasters and Human Nature

In world history, there are multiple events that can be referred to as disasters. From events of nature like Hurricane Katrina and its devastating effect on New Orleans to



more man-made disasters like the attacks on the World Trade Center, there are occasions throughout history where human beings have an opportunity to rise to the challenge. This is when our very mettle is tested, and we either bond together and rise up as a group to conquer the forces that oppose us, or we dissolve into a form of madness born of desperation and a feeling of hopelessness. Of course, there is one other response. That is the small group of people that see a disaster as an opportunity to advance their own causes, usually to the detriment of all others around them. In *Deep Fathom*, the disaster strikes shortly after the first eclipse of the new millennium. Earthquakes shake the world, sinking some land masses and bringing others to the surface that have not seen dry land in many years. The multiple disasters bring out multiple responses as would be the case should such an event have occurred in our time now.

The first response by many was disbelief, followed by a numbness and the desire to gather with others where they could bond in times of crisis giving strength to the survivors. People immediately began looking for other people. The second group followed the first fairly closely. They were the opportunists. They looted stores, escaped from confinement, killed those in their way and generally sought to take advantage of the chaos. In that group, Vice President Nafe would also belong. His first response is not to aid his fellow man. It is not to respond to the crisis. His first response is to send in a team of specialists to plant enough evidence on the wreckage of Air Force One that no other conclusion than the Chinese were responsible could result. He wanted to immediately take control of his political windfall, and force the communists to their knees, and he did not care what he had to do in order to make it happen. With malice of forethought, he ordered evidence planted, and rumors spread until it was possible to escalate the situation to include limited nuclear warfare. The third group is the group that gathers together to rebuild, to fix, to aid and to survive. In this group, Jack Kirkland faces his fears and lends aid at the crash site. Karen Grace, and Miyuki Nakano lend their expertise to uncover the truth about the crystals despite the danger it puts them in and together with Mwahu son of Waupau and the crew from *Deep Fathom*, they learn the truth about the disaster. They realize a larger danger looms and struggle against all odds to find a solution and implement it to save the world from certain annihilation. It is a heroic effort that includes life threatening dangers and sacrifice, and yet this group perseveres. The world is saved and in a strange quirk the damages done by others are undone. It is this undying spirit and courage that truly defines the human condition and makes us able to survive even the worst situations imaginable.

Politics vs Peace

After the crash of Air Force One and the death of the President, Vice President Nafe assumes his duties of office. A hard liner, Nafe wants to use the earthquake and crash of Air Force One as a way to eradicate communism and take a hard stand against the Chinese. The President had just met with the Chinese President and received a jade bust as a gift. It was part of their attempt to put together a peace accord and President Bishop believes though it may take finesse, it is possible. China has a nuclear arsenal and is trying to convince the United States that the reintegration of Taiwan to China



would benefit all. China is without the ability to use the new technologies they have, and instead are still more an agrarian state. As such, they are not ready for nuclear proliferation and having witnessed the very same mistake made in the Soviet Union, they will be unlikely to repeat it. Instead, it would make more sense for them to bolster their own technological infrastructure. President Bishop is sensitive to these issues, and realizes that neither country wants the relationship to sour further or finance a new Cold War. As such, the Presidents are meeting to find common ground. The summit is only half way through when they break for the viewing of the eclipse and the subsequent earthquake changes everything. President Bishop is whisked away to Air Force One, and tragically the plane goes down killing all aboard.

Vice President Nafe steps in to take the reins and his political outlook is much different. He believes that his President coddled the Chinese, and that communists require a hard line to maintain peace. He begins by finding a covert way to blame the crash of Air Force One on the Chinese. By doing so, he gains support from the country and from his own staff when an escalation of aggression continues. Using the director of the CIA, Nafe seeds the media with rumors of the Chinese involvement so that when Omega team manages to plant the supporting evidence, the public is ready for revenge. Next, for his plan to bear fruit, he needs to find a way to include a nuclear response. Again, the CIA helps to seed the idea that a limited strike would be sufficient. Everything goes exactly as planned and the Vice President congratulates his director of the CIA for his part in this plan to rid the country of the evils of communism. Instead however, all he truly manages to do is inflame the situation and put the Chinese on the defensive.



Style

Point of View

In *Deep Fathom*, the author uses a first-person perspective, switching between the main characters as the plot calls for it. The narrative is reliable, as is proven by the emotional growth of its main characters, Jack and Karen. While they are the center of the story, there are several sub plots with secondary characters who are also written from the first person perspective. These characters also follow a pattern of emotional progression but tending more to the negative than positive growth. They are driven by greed, power, and revenge, and the chapters alternate between good and evil, sometimes within the chapters themselves. The author does a reliable job of blending the battle of good versus evil, adequately showing both sides, and giving each side enough power to make it possible that either side could win.

The dialogue is sprinkled evenly throughout, with enough regularity to give each of the major characters a voice and bring them reliably to life. Although the story of the battle of good versus evil has been told in many ways, this story has a unique appeal, given the addition of the end of days plot.

Setting

Deep Fathom is set in a number of places that range worldwide. It begins on the ocean aboard the salvage vessel *Deep Fathom* where the search for the *Kochi Maru*. Shortly after discovering and losing their salvage, they are pulled into service to aid in the recovery of Air Force One from its watery grave where surprises await in an area called Dragon's Triangle. On the island of Okinawa, two university professors hire a boat to explore the newly arisen pyramids called the Dragon's of Okinawa located near the Island of Yonaguni. The White House makes an appearance as the protagonists work towards advancing their own ends but most of the story revolves around the crash site of Air Force One which is northwest of Enewak Atoll in the Central Pacific and the Ryukyu University in Okinawa in the beginning. Towards the middle of the novel, there is a brief trip taken by several main characters to the Island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia where the ruins of Nan Madol are explored and escaped from. Afterward, a return to the Enewak Atoll where Neptune base has been established and manned.

What little travel is done other than that is minimal. There are a few instances where the story is set underwater either in submersibles or in tunnels and passageways used as escape routes. The final setting is the Dragon's Triangle where Jack must face his own mortality and make the choice to sacrifice himself to preserve humanity.



Language and Meaning

Deep Fathom has many twists and turns in the plot and touches the lives of a diverse group of people. There are the salvage crew of scientists and former navy personnel who are called in to help the Navy recover their commander in chief. This brings a political twist in, where the workings of the CIA and covert operations are discussed, planned and executed. There are also university professors studying the languages of ancient cultures and exploring ruins. The language of rongorongo is decrypted by an artificial intelligence named Gabriel who is as much a character as any of the others in this story. Amongst all of this is a war, political maneuvering, and a good helping of revenge thrown into the plot. This is supported by dialogue and descriptions of bombs, nuclear strikes and missiles. Underwater battles occur during which two submersibles try to eliminate each other, supported by descriptions of the sea bed in an area where it had been active. Pillars and canyons provide hiding places and ambush sites as the two characters fight for their lives, but the escaping pod from one is mistaken for food by a giant squid.

The ending is a culmination of satellite technology and use of an experimental particle beam accelerator and global positioning technology mixed with the Neptune sea lab and its features. A novel that blends nature and science, history and politics.

Structure

Deep Fathom is a novel written in twenty chapters most of which is between fifteen and thirty five pages in length. The story alternates between four groups of people, beginning with Jack Kirkland and his crew on the Deep Fathom. From there, the reader is introduced to Karen and Miyuki, and the background of the pyramids is given. The other two groups are the government with Vice President Nafe who is spoiling for war and the CIA director who is only too happy to support his ideas, and David Spangler and his Omega team who are the instruments wielded by the government to give the situation plausibility. It is a multilayered story where each group seems to have their own objectives but are intertwined in an ever closing spiral of intrigue and suspense.

Jack Kirkland tries to live his own life. A failed mission on the Atlantis space shuttle where all but him are killed sours him for continuing his naval career. Instead, he puts himself and a crew on the Deep Fathom as a salvage team. He is drawn back into the military world when Air Force One goes down, and his is the only submersible close enough to help. It is a request that he cannot refuse, despite the memories it drags to the surface. The Vice President would like to use this set of circumstances to further his own political ideals. He sees it as his opportunity to ride the world of communism and in particular, the Chinese. The plot is further complicated by two professors who are seeking the origin of the builders of pyramids that have found their way to the surface after the recent earthquake, and the path they follow puts them directly in line with Jack and his crew. To further complicate the issues, a large crystalline obelisk has been found at the crash site. Its properties are like nothing seen on earth before. Symbols on

the item are decoded with help from an artificial intelligence and suddenly, everything about how the world evolved is in question.

While there are many sub plots, twists, and turns, Deep Fathom is well assembled and easy to follow. It has surprises from beginning to end, making it a read that is hard to put down, and the parallels to life and government are frighteningly well written. Though it has a doomsday twist, the hero saves the day, and gets the girl.



Quotes

"Earthquakes and eruptions have been rattling the entire Pacific, coast to coast" (Chapter 1, pg. 40.)

"It would unite so many disparate theories-even explain the mystery of the lost continent of Mu" (Chapter 2, pg. 53.)

"The entire Pacific Rim is trying to recover from a day of horrible disasters, and you two are arguing over pennies and percentages" (Chapter 3, pg. 62.)

"With the Chinese blamed for the assassination of the President, there will be a public outcry for retribution" (Chapter 4, pg. 78.)

"Though my mainframe birthed him, Gabriel lives within the framework of the Internet now" (Chapter 5, pg. 83.)

"I'll show you when I get topside, but right now I still have my mission to accomplish" (Chapter 6, pg. 108.)

"We'll haul the Nautilus out and give her a thorough going over before we consider the Navy's request" (Chapter 7, pg. 116.)

"(The deep ocean seabed) That's where the Earth's history and future are written" (Chapter 8, pg. 134.)

"According to the astronomical map - twelve thousand years ago." (Chapter 9, pg. 156.)

"It seemed many of these so-called news reports are using the transcript as fodder to support claims of an attack upon Air Force One" (Chapter 10, pg. 176.)

"It is conjectured that similar devices (hidden bombs) were probably planted throughout the original ten foot high sculpture" (Chapter 11, pg. 203.)

"They're dismantling the sea lab for shipment" (Chapter 12, pg. 222.)



"Their air (the Chinese) and naval forces have made a strike against Taiwan" (Chapter 13, pg. 225.)

"That pillar radiate a strong magnetic signature, creating glitches and communication problems" (Chapter 13, pg. 241.)

"Elder Rau-ren says you cannot put poison back into snake's fangs once it bites" (Chapter 14, pg. 276.)

"It's been compared to the great wall of China" (Chapter 15, pg. 293.)

"Though my bosses may want you alive to pick your brain, that doesn't mean we can't hurt you in ways that you never imagined" (Chapter 16, pg. 340.)

"You couldn't stand a commoner like me beating a purebred Aryan stud like yourself, could you?" (Chapter 17, pg. 349.)

"A god of light stepped from the pillar and ordered us to build great ships - to gather our flocks and our people" (Chapter 18, pg. 366.)

"I have your woman trapped at the sea base, and your ship's impounded-show yourself and I'll let the others live" (Chapter 19, pg. 407.)

"Gather your flocks and fill the ships' bellies with food from the fields" (Chapter 20, pg.



Topics for Discussion

Karen is so excited that she does not want to return to the University. Instead, she is willing to spend a month's wages to hire a boat to return to the pyramids. What is so important about them? Why is she worried about waiting to return?

Jack cannot forgive himself enough to have any semblance of a normal life. Why?

What is unique about the qualities of the star-shaped crystal that Karen and Miyuki find in the tunnel between the pyramids? What purpose does it immediately serve?

Why does the Navy want Jack and his crew? Who recommends him and what are his reasons for doing so on the surface? What are his underlying reasons?

What is David Spangler's mission? Why is it important that it be kept clandestine and what experiences do he and Omega team have that qualify them to complete this one?

What does NTSB investigator Ed Weintraub discover about the flight recorders from Air Force One? How is his finding significant?

What is the phenomenon of Dragon's Triangle similar to? Why?

Who is Horon-ko and what is his connection to the crystal?

Who helps Karen, Miyuki, and Jack to decode the language found in the temples and on the crystal?

What is the connection between the crystal and the coronal ejections from the sun? Why is it important?

How does David Spangler die? Why does he stay dead when time reverses?

What single revelation earns Kendall McMillan a permanent position on Deep Fathom?

What object does Jack have to face in order to destroy the crystal and save the earth?

How does Dr. Cortez die and why?

How far back in time does the destruction of the crystal take the crew of Deep Fathom?