

# **Men of Men Study Guide**

## **Men of Men by Wilbur Smith**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">Men of Men Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Section 1, Pages 1 - 48.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Section 2, Pages 48 - 96.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Section 3, Pages 96 - 151.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Section 4, Pages 151 - 202.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Section 5, Pages 202 - 239.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Section 6, Pages 239 - 287.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Section 7, Pages 287 - 345.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Section 8, Pages 345 - 399.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Section 9, Pages 399 - 445.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Section 10, Pages 445 - 500.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Section 11, Pages 500 - 551.....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">Section 12, Pages 551 - 599.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Section 13, Pages 599 - 652.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>
<a href="#">Section 14, Pages 652 - 703.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">35</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">41</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">44</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">46</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">48</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">50</a>



## Plot Summary

Men of Men by Wilbur Smith is a story of greed, exploration, adventure and love. It is a gripping saga that follows the lives of the Ballantyne men and Zouga Ballantyne's unrelenting desire to make the wilds of northern Africa his home. In his pursuit of enough of a stake to enable him to settle, he loses his wife and almost loses his sons. He purchases two mines but gambles them away leaving the family penniless, but in the true spirit of adventure and determination, both sons find their own way to make their mark on the land. Ralph becomes successful operating the first and only reliable transport company in northern Africa, and Jordan becomes the right hand man to Cecil Rhodes, whose vision will earn millions and unite the many small holdings that make up the concessions of the wilderness. Sadly, both also carry the gene from their father that spurs them to win at all and any costs, without concern for consequence. In their own ways, each of the Ballantyne men will contribute heavily to the slaughter and dissolution of the Matabele tribe, chasing them almost into extinction. In the pursuit of gold, diamonds and then land, slowly a few strong men lead the charge, each with their own agendas.

Zouga falls in love with the woman he believes is married to his longtime friend Mungo St. John, but when he finds out their marriage is a lie, he reveals his feelings even as he helps to save Mungo's life. Mungo lives to continue on his path of deceit and treachery, all to advance his own personal coffers, and when he falls in love with Zouga's sister Robyn, he even conspires to free her from her husband Clinton by sending him to his death at the hands of the Matabele. The Matabele are willing to share most everything they have, but when the greed of the white men threatens their very lives and livelihoods, they strike back. In the bloody battle that ensues, the Matabele are seriously outgunned, and many die in defense of their king. Their loyalty is commendable, King Lobengula takes their deaths hard. Forced from his land, he flees with the remaining members of his tribe, but still the white men will not leave him be. They take everything King Lobengula holds dear, force him off his land, and hunt him down - determined to take him in. They will not succeed. Lobengula dies the king that he lived and his brother Gandang will take up leadership of the remaining tribe members until the call to take up arms against the white man comes again.



## Section 1, Pages 1 - 48

### Section 1, Pages 1 - 48 Summary

Men of Men by Wilbur Smith is a story of greed, exploration, adventure and love. It is a gripping saga that follows the lives of the Ballantyne men and Zouga Ballantyne's unrelenting desire to make the wilds of northern Africa his home. In his pursuit of enough of a stake to enable him to settle, he loses his wife and almost loses his sons. He purchases two mines but gambles them away leaving the family penniless, but in the true spirit of adventure and determination, both sons find their own way to make their mark on the land. Ralph becomes successful operating the first and only reliable transport company in northern Africa, and Jordan becomes the right hand man to Cecil Rhodes, whose vision will earn millions and unite the many small holdings that make up the concessions of the wilderness. Sadly, both also carry the gene from their father that spurs them to win at all and any costs, without concern for consequence. In their own ways, each of the Ballantyne men will contribute heavily to the slaughter and dissolution of the Matabele tribe, chasing them almost into extinction. In the pursuit of gold, diamonds and then land, slowly a few strong men lead the charge, each with their own agendas.

Zouga Ballantyne is an African born man in search of his fortune. After having left his wife Aletta alone several times with their two sons while he crossed the wilds and oceans in search of their fortune, she finally tires of waiting and insists that she and their boys accompany him on the next trip. Aletta cries when she sees the squalor of Colesberg kopje and begs Zouga to take her and the boys home, but he is determined to succeed this time, and sells their cart and oxen stranding them there with nothing but their tent and meager supplies. He uses most of the money, along with some that Aletta had squirreled away to buy two diamond claims though he knows nothing of the process. Shortly thereafter, Aletta dies of typhoid fever and he buries her.

### Section 1, Pages 1 - 48 Analysis

Zouga is a determined man who believes his fortune lies in Africa. He makes money to stake himself on his ventures by hunting and selling ivory tusks, by searching for gold, and by proceeds from a book he wrote detailing his adventurous life in the process. He fears nothing and will try anything. His wife is an important part of his life, and her death hits him hard. His eldest son Ralph takes after him, strong and competitive, while his youngest Jordan is much like his mother - soft and delicate but with resolve.



## Section 2, Pages 48 - 96

### Section 2, Pages 48 - 96 Summary

Zouga and Jan take turns day and night nursing the boys back to health, but the recovery is slow. The claims sit idle until finally the boys are well enough. Then Zouga goes down into his claim to have a serious look. He strikes up a conversation with a man he met in the shanty that serves as a bar and exchanges information with him. Zouga learns about diamond mining, and Neville Pickering delves into the mind that wrote "Hunter's Odyssey." Having no one to work the claims with him, he first tries to raise the rates paid to entice other workers, but is quickly told that there is a limit and he is not to go above it. Instead, he must find fresh workers, and to do so is not so easy. He takes Jan and the boys and finally manages to surround a group of Matabele natives. Having traveled the continent, he knows the language and quickly gains their trust, offering them employment. They accept, their three year contract earning them each a firearm. The Matabele have no prior experience with tools of any kind and even have to be shown how they are held, but they learn quickly and in no time are working with enthusiasm.

Ralph and Jordan attend classes with the only teacher in the area, and Jordan is relentlessly teased, rescued at one point by the Digger Committees' boss himself, Mr. Cecil Rhodes. The resources are beginning to dwindle, and Ralph, having turned sixteen, recognizes the need for the extra pair of hands and quits school to apply himself to the digging full time. Zouga argues, but only half heartedly, before recognizing the man his son is becoming.

### Section 2, Pages 48 - 96 Analysis

Zouga has chased the dream of wealth for so long, and now that he finally has two diamond claims in his name, they are meaningless beside the health of his family. It is a difficult realization. When both boys are finally well enough, Zouga is ready to make up for lost time, but his methods draw the attention of the Digger's Committee. He is told in no uncertain terms that he will have to play by the rules. Zouga is discouraged but not easily beaten. Without wasting any more time, he loads up his boys and goes looking for new recruits. It is his prior knowledge and experience with the Matabele tribe that enable him to entice a group of natives back to the camp with him. Knowing their mentality, fierce pride and work ethic goes back to their roots, he makes a game out of the work. He immediately divides the group into three smaller groups and gives each group a name. From then on, they compete against each other.



## Section 3, Pages 96 - 151

### Section 3, Pages 96 - 151 Summary

Diamond fever grips one and all at Colesberg when for three days in a row the finds are plentiful. The digging is furious, each seeking the spot that will make them wealthy. Even the sudden deluge of rain does not discourage them, despite the new dangers. Already claims being dug at different rates of speed leave treacherous, deep holes scattered throughout the hillside. Now, rivers of water create fissures that make the entire mass unstable. In a frenzy men are lined up, trying to push their carts through the slurry of hillside debris. When the one in front tips, an argument ensues between Ralph and the owner, and Zouga tries to yell, fearful, knowing suddenly that it is all giving way. Finally Ralph hears him and begins to run. He saves not only himself but the man he argued with, and then hours are spent digging out first live men and then the bodies that remain. Afterward, Zouga tells his Matabele that they must rescue as much equipment as possible before it is stolen or buried. Without complaint, Bazo, the leader of the group drops into the fissure and begins to pass up the tools and gear. When it is all topside, he leans against the mud, too tired to move. Water drizzles down and he drinks some of it before noticing a rock in the mud. It is not as colorful as some they have turned into Zouga, but he digs it out anyway, and climbs out.

Later, Bazo is approached by Hendrick Naaiman who tells him that if he is secreting any of the stones he finds instead of giving them to Zouga, he will pay more for them. Bazo arranges to meet him, shows him the stone, and greed shines in Naaiman's eyes. He offers Bazo five hundred coins for the rock, but Bazo feels guilty about keeping it from Zouga. He wants to think about it. Again greed plays a large part as he discusses it with the others who are in favor of keeping it from Zouga, but Bazo has another idea. Carefully he positions the stone and splits it into many smaller shards. These will now each be worth a coin from Zouga instead of one coin for the larger single stone. When he approaches Zouga with it, and Zouga realizes that Bazo split a stone that likely weighed ninety-six carats whole, he almost kills Bazo in frustration. It is the stone he was waiting to find.

### Section 3, Pages 96 - 151 Analysis

Greed affects all who find themselves at the diamond mines eventually. When several finds are made three days in a row, a feeding frenzy of sorts is created, and men work with renewed energy despite the rain. They are lined up on the ridge with their carts full of rock when the whole hillside begins to slide. Arguing amongst themselves because the lead cart has slipped off the track in the mud, they don't notice at first, but below Zouga does, and yells to Ralph to run. Finally he hears and helps the man he was arguing with escape as well. Many men are pulled out alive in the first hour, but six men die, buried in the mud and debris. The Digger's Committee shuts it all down, and at first there are calls for blood - Ralph's for being in the middle of the argument, but Zouga



helps them realize the issue is not to find blame but to figure out how to safely extract the diamonds.

At the same time, greed invades even the Matabele. While ensuring all of their equipment is extracted from the hole before leaving, Bazo finds a stone that while not shiny seems to be of the character his boss seeks. Instead of turning it in to Zouga, he puts it in his pouch. Later, he is approached by a snake named Hendrick Naaiman who offers him five hundred times the amount he is likely to get from Zouga and in a moment's weakness, Bazo asks for time to consider the offer. The next evening in their tent, the others feel the pull of money and try to convince Bazo to deal behind Zouga's back, but Bazo knows that is wrong. Instead, still trying to gain as much money as he can, he splits the diamond into splinters, reasoning that one stone buys him one coin while many stones buys him much more. When Zouga realizes what Bazo has done, and understands that the original stone was likely ninety-six carats or more, he is ready to kill Bazo on the spot.



## Section 4, Pages 151 - 202

### Section 4, Pages 151 - 202 Summary

Zouga's operating capital is low, so he finally agrees to meet with the nameless man that Jan Cheroot says requests to meet with him. He goes to an empty house on the flats where there is little chance he can take cover. Nervous, he dismounts on the far side of his horse and vaults through a window, cautiously looking around. A voice behind him asks him to drop his pistol. He does, and finds himself in the company of Hendrick Naaiman. Naaiman offers him a lucrative partnership involving I.D.B. diamonds. He wants Zouga to salt his trays with diamonds brought to him each week by Naaiman, and they would split the profits down the middle. Attractive as the offer may be, Zouga knows that I.D.B.'s are the scourge of the mining community. They struggle, and Zouga wins, tying Naaiman to his saddle and stuffing his mouth with his own pouch of illegal diamonds. He returns to the Digger's Committee, announces his gift to them, and then it becomes clear that the whole situation is a setup to test his loyalty and honesty. Angry, he walks away, barely containing himself.

Ralph is maturing, and participating in the only sport left since the town had been renamed Kimberley and placed under the care and control of British civilization and cock fighting had been outlawed. Now, the sport of choice is baboon spider fights. As large as a dinner plate, these poisonous spiders are unpredictable and fearless. Once a week, behind Lil's Saloon, most of the camp gathers to see the spectacle of these large spiders and bet on the outcome. Inkosikazi or the queen as she is named by Bazo, already has quite a reputation, so this time Ralph fights her as new blood, giving her the name Salome so that no one will recognize her and the odds on her will be better. Only Barry Lennox realizes the truth, and betting heavily on her, promises Ralph if she wins the good fortune will trickle down to him. Salome does win, though it costs her two legs in the process and in reward Barry buys Ralph a turn with Lil that will take his virginity.

### Section 4, Pages 151 - 202 Analysis

Bazo gives Ralph a Matabele name, honoring the fact that he stood up for Bazo when Zouga was ready to kill him for shattering the diamond find of a lifetime. The name given is Henshaw, for Hawk. It is a mark of respect given rarely and high praise. His father was Bakela or the Fist, and now he would be known as Henshaw, or the Hawk. This honor from Bazo, or the Axe, is one he tells Ralph he will not forget.

The Digger's Committee already knows Zouga Ballantyne to be an honest and straight forward man but still resort to using a slick and questionable Hendrick Naaiman in an attempt to catch him in a moment of weakness. Zouga is running out of money and goes as far as meeting with Naaiman in a remote location before coming to his senses and allowing his outrage for illegal diamond buyers to surface. He takes Naaiman trussed up back to the Digger's Committee who applaud his morality and give away the



fact that Naaiman acted as their agent in this matter. Zouga is understandably upset and is barely able to leave without expressing himself more thoroughly. The Digger's Committee is worried that they might have ruined their chances of him joining but agree to give him time to cool down.

Ralph is coming into adulthood, and participating in the gambling that is done with baboon spiders. He has a spider that has won many fights, and even lost a leg in one, but after keeping it out of the ring for several weeks, he hopes to pass her off as a new participant and garner better odds. It works on all the participants with the exception of Barry Lennox. At first Ralph promises to come clean immediately and withdraw her, but Barry has other ideas. He bets heavily on the old favorite, telling Ralph if she wins he will also be rewarded. Ralph is rather surprised to find that his reward is the taking of his virginity by Diamond Lil who runs the canteen and pleases men on the side. Barry has no trouble convincing her to take the young Ralph to her room and bring him into manhood.



## Section 5, Pages 202 - 239

### Section 5, Pages 202 - 239 Summary

Ralph's indoctrination into manhood is short but exquisite. Afterward Lil tells him to come anytime he has ten guineas to spare, and he leaves feeling like a man. The only surprise is how long it takes to get back to Zouga, but his response is predictable. A gentleman through and through, he is livid that his son has associated himself with such trash. Ralph, still feeling his manhood, warns Zouga he is prepared to defend himself to Jordan's horror who watches the entire event. Ralph soon learns how Zouga came to be named the fist, Bakela, by the Matabele and once on the ground and no longer feeling the urge to fight, Zouga calls for Jan Cheroot to take him to the doctors for stitches and mercury pills to guard against clap. The incident so horrifies Jordan that he is convinced his penis is evil. He is in the kitchen ready to cut it off at the root when Ralph comes in. Ralph thinks he's doing something entirely different. Around the same time, Jordan, who is reading much American Native lore comes to believe that an old stone statue with a falcon on the top Zouga found in the bush during one of his adventures is really the goddess Panes and somehow contains the spirit of his mother. He prays to it frequently. The baboon spider, Inkosikazi, is killed in a Sunday bout, and mourned by all who bet heavily on her, including Ralph who will not be able to visit Lil now as often as he hoped.

The Matabele come and go. Kamuza has been gone almost three years when he makes his return as the king's man, wearing the headring and garnering the respect that comes with it. He meets with the Matabele, telling them that things are changing and that the king now requires them to give the stones they find to him to fund upcoming skirmishes and defend against encroaching white man. The Matabele have divided loyalties, but they have been taught since birth to obey their king until death. He also tells them of the stone falcon prophesy. The falcons with fly afar and no peace shall come until they are returned.

Ralph sees Mrs. St. John, wife of General Mungo St. John for the first time, and it is love at first sight, and also the last time he will visit Lil, suddenly ashamed of the time he spent there.

### Section 5, Pages 202 - 239 Analysis

Losing his virginity to Lil is an outrage to Zouga who has tried from the beginning to instill in his boys that they are gentlemen first. He can't believe that his eldest would put himself where so many have been before, and with what he feels is a pig at best. His disgust at the whole incident overwhelms his common sense as he gives Ralph the first real beating of his life. Jordan is profoundly affected on two levels. Zouga makes him watch, part in an effort to prevent him from following in his brother's footsteps, and part to put the fear in him that if he did, this would be his reward. It works. Jordan is so



horrified and so disgusted with what he believes is the source of the problem, his growing manhood, that he slips into the kitchen with the intention of removing it with the carving knife Zouga uses on roasts. Had Ralph not walked in on him at the moment he did, Jordan likely would have severed his own member, but the embarrassment of being caught with it in his hand and being mistaken for playing with himself cures him of trying again. At the same time, he has been reading much Native American folklore and becomes convinced that Zouga's stone sculpture contains the spirit of his mother in the form of the goddess Panes. He prays to her, invoking all his loss and leaving offerings at the statues' feet that are taken away by mice almost as soon as he leaves.

The contract held between the mine owners and the Matabele is not always completed. Sometimes, homesick or fed up, they leave and the contract is considered ended. Such is the case with Kamuza, who to everyone's surprise returns three years later as a king's man. He tells them of recent prophecies, reciting the stories of old by heart as the Matabele have no written language. The prophecies include the stone falcon, which originally was one of many that adorned the grave of a former king and its taking now represents the beginning of a time of war for the Matabele. His instruction to the rest to secrete the best diamond finds to be given to the king are met with mixed reactions. The king means more to the Matabele than Zouga/Bakela ever will despite Zouga's friendship with the king, but the risk and possible punishment strikes fear into all of them. Still, because he is the king, his word will be obeyed.

Ralph sees Mrs. St. John for the first time and is besotted with her from the very beginning. She is led in on a new style of buggy driving two Palamino's of almost equal beauty. He holds the horses for her and barely hears her introduction to Rhodes as the wife of Mungo St. John, devastated by the knowledge he will never have her, but still so taken by her that he will not visit Lil again.



## Section 6, Pages 239 - 287

### Section 6, Pages 239 - 287 Summary

Jordan is growing into a man now, well read, and an excellent chef. Zouga entertains, holding a regular Sunday luncheon, and Jordan prepares exquisite meals. At one such luncheon, Mr. Rhodes is a guest and Jordan wants it to be perfect. He elicits Ralph's help to serve who is unwilling until he realizes the St. John's will also be attending. Zouga is perturbed by the presence of a woman he considers garish, but the reason soon becomes clear as Rhodes caters to her. When she mentions the streets are not paved with diamonds as she has heard, he sends a man out to return with an assorted bucket, and pours them out on the table. Jordan, one of the best sorters in camp, shows which ones are best and why. Finding a particularly beautiful gem he holds it out and to his surprise, Rhodes gives it to Mrs. St. John. His strategy is to gain favor with her husband and use his money to further finance his intention of owning all the claims. Mungo St. John is in Kimberley mostly because of his association with Zouga, having met years earlier when Zouga had been traveling with his sister Robyn. Robyn discovers Mungo is transporting slaves from Africa and ensures his interception and arrest by the Royal Navy. Zouga and Mungo correspond irregularly afterward, and hearing of the diamonds, Mungo has been lured to Kimberly. Rhodes launches into great detail about the operations at the mine, but it is Zouga who first mentions the "blue," referring to the hard bedrock under the yellow gravel they mine, and already reached by one mine devaluing all others. It makes Zouga sorry he hadn't accepted Rhodes' offer of five thousand pounds for the two claims six months previously.

Louise St. John wants to participate in an event called "rough rides" held by the Kimberly Sporting Club of which Zouga is Chairman, Rough rides are a combination of riding and shooting, but Zouga informs her women are not permitted to participate. She uses the local paper to throw down a gauntlet to Zouga personally who takes up the challenge, but only after Rhodes sweetens the pot by offering him five thousand pounds if he wins. If he loses, Rhodes gets the titles to both mines, the soapstone sculpture he covets, and Zouga leaves with nothing. Zouga almost wins, but Louise fakes him out, pretending to have fallen. When he circles back to see if she's okay, she leaps on her horse and finishes. Zouga is devastated as is Jordan for his attachment to the sculpture has grown over the years.

### Section 6, Pages 239 - 287 Analysis

Zouga allows his vanity and chauvinism to cost him everything. At first he refuses to ride against Louise but changes his mind when Rhodes offers him the same five thousand pounds again if he wins. Since Ralph struck the blue on one face, Zouga is eager to unload the mines now, but even so isn't dishonest in his approach to Rhodes. When asked about the blue being found, he says nothing instead of lying, only deepening the trust Rhodes has in him. The bet Rhodes makes with him will solve his problems, as



Zouga is convinced he will win. He believes he has every advantage. He has a horse bred to deal with the difficult terrain and trained to ignore rifle shot; he is allowed to choose the course, and he sincerely believes that she will not have the skill necessary. He is wrong. Not only is she a skilled and capable horse woman, she is in every way as cunning as he is. The horse is so well trained that with a barely noticeable touch of her foot he goes down and stays down like a wounded horse would. Chivalrous to the end, he races back to her aid, believing her to be badly injured, but when he reaches her, she jumps up having regained the advantage as her horse is much faster in the straight stretches. She wins, although for her the race was only for the sum of one shilling and bragging rights. For Zouga, it is the loss of everything he owns.

Jordan is even more devastated. For him, the loss of the soapstone sculpture represents the loss of his mother all over again. For years he has prayed to and idolized it, truly believing it's every nuance is representative of the goddess Panes. Every gust of wind is her response to his pleas and every shortcoming, her displeasure.



## Section 7, Pages 287 - 345

### Section 7, Pages 287 - 345 Summary

Jordan takes the sculpture to Rhodes, who offers him a job at which he jumps. Unloading the statue, a wind billows the canvas tarp scaring the horse Pickering sits on. He goes backwards over the saddle, and the mare runs with him caught up in the stirrup. Jordan races after, but Pickering's neck is broken and he dies.

Louise comes to Zouga in the night, waking him. Mungo is injured, caught in a sting set up by Naaiman. Mungo, planning to rob Naaiman of his illegal diamonds, is unaware Naaiman is an agent for the government and is shot twice. Louise confesses Mungo is broke and they are not married, so Zouga finally admits his feelings for her. She promises to return before leaving with Mungo secreted in Zouga's wagon. Zouga waits for Ralph, loaded and ready to go, and confesses he has lost everything. Ralph is angry and won't join him, instead waking Bazo to ask if he will guide him to Matabeleland. Bazo agrees, and Ralph approaches Diamond Lily for a loan. Lily wants twenty percent interest and fifty percent of profits made from trade goods Ralph takes along. Ralph agrees. Sensing inexperience, the oxen are uncooperative until a small Zulu man, Isazi, steps forward with advice. The little man sorts out the team so quickly that he invites him to join them. The man agrees, and his young son leads the oxen on foot. Bazo meets with Kamuza who trades kilts with him, giving him one with thirty diamonds secreted in pouches for Lobengula. Ralph thinks about Zouga, who comes to give Ralph his blessing, his horse, Tom, and his book of notes - his prized possessions and Ralph is overcome with emotion. A six hundred mile journey, they walk by night and hunt by day, reaching the border of Matabeleland, the Shashi river in fifty days. Ralph sees why his father loves this land. He takes out the book from his father and again looks up the locations of fifteen caches of ivory tusks Zouga writes of, and the exact location of Zimbabwe with his suspicions more gold exists there. He sleeps and wakes to see warriors. Bazo gets up and greets his father, Gandang warmly. Gandang dismisses the warriors and he and Bazo leave shortly after, saying nothing to Ralph or Isazi. Bazo returns at dawn to tell Ralph Gandang summons him. Ralph goes, discusses the goods he brought for trade, and Gandang is very interested in the rifles. He agrees to let Ralph continue on to see King Lobengula at GuBulawayo, but Bazo stays behind to rejoin his tribe after giving Ralph instructions as to his behavior and leaving him with a company of warriors.

### Section 7, Pages 287 - 345 Analysis

Jordan is so attached to the statue his father lost in the race with Louise that when Rhodes offers him a job and the opportunity to stay near it, he accepts without question. Ralph returns after the last day of work, unaware until Zouga confesses he has lost everything. They argue angrily and Ralph announces he will not go with Zouga. They part shouting angry words back and forth, but Zouga can't leave things that way. He



follows Ralph out of town and as they stop for the night, he approaches, offering Ralph his few remaining possessions of any value. He gives him his horse Tom, the horse he loves, and his book of notes made on his many treks which includes maps he copies from Tom Harkness - a treasure no value can be placed on, and his last gift to Ralph was the only thing Ralph ever wanted...his blessings. Zouga has little left now. He had already given his best oxen and wagon to Louise when Mungo was shot, and now he would leave Kimberley much as he arrived - with nothing. Jan Cheroot is not so attached to material things and still travels with him.

Ralph, Bazo, Isazi and his son travel fifty days to reach the outer edges of Matabeleland. When they do, they are greeted by Gandang and his many warriors first. Bazo is delighted to see his father, although both restrain themselves from showing such emotions. Gandang meets with Ralph, and assesses him, speaking first of his ancestors known to them - mostly for the benefit of the warriors. Gandang knew both Zouga or Bakela and his father Tshedi who had been a friend to both King Lobengula and Mzilikazi before that. His connection to these two men grants him entrance to Matabeleland, and permission to carry on to see the King. Gandang's only interest is in the guns Ralph brought for trade. After their meeting, Bazo tells Ralph he will not continue with him, but spends an hour discussing his behavior and etiquette with great care. He reminds Ralph that an act as simple as digging a hole will convince the warriors that he sees gold instead and he will be killed. He will also be slain if he has intimate contact with any female he comes across, or kills a hippopotamus, or travels at night for only magicians and sorcerers do that. There are many rules and nuances that must be observed if Ralph is to survive the journey and the contact afterward with King Lobengula.



## Section 8, Pages 345 - 399

### Section 8, Pages 345 - 399 Summary

Ralph, Isazi and the warriors continue to Lobengula's camp, stopping on the way to see the Codrington family who have lived near Lobengula for years. Robyn is the only doctor for many miles. Ralph is stunned that his Aunt Robyn has children and falls for his oldest cousin Salina as soon as he meets her. His Uncle Clinton is a minister and is the former Royal Naval officer who had arrested Mungo St. John for transporting slaves years before.

Lobengula, son of Mzilikazi, speaks with his brother Gandang, and learns of the rifles Ralph has to trade. He announces Henshaw, son of Bakela is welcome and asks Bazo be brought to him. Bazo offers him the kilt of diamonds, explaining their value, but Lobengula is unimpressed. Lobengula's wives smear him with fat and press the diamonds to his skin and for a time he is adorned in them. He offers Bazo a reward, but all Bazo asks for is a task to prove his depth of duty and love. Impressed, Lobengula sets him to the one task all before him have failed. He asks Bazo to bring him the head a rival, Pemba, who lives in a stronghold on the mountain. The king then summons those who wish to see him one at a time, either granting their requests or receiving their gifts. He also sends for Robyn to help him with his gout and indigestion. Robyn gives him a stern warning about his health and pills for his gout. He then consults with her on several issues after which she asks if he will grant Henshaw/Ralph an audience and he agrees.

It takes Bazo some time to figure out how to get to Pemba, but he finally see how the waterfall can be used as a way up in secret. He climbs up at night, and the first person he sees is so lovely she takes his breath away. He takes out the guard and sends the ladder down so the rest can come up. He finds the wizard, Pemba, and takes his head to prove to the king he is dead. Then he discovers that the girl who had so entranced him and saves her, taking her as one of their captives.

### Section 8, Pages 345 - 399 Analysis

When Ralph meets Robyn and Clinton Codrington, he is surprised, and comfortable in their presence. He is also quite taken with the eldest daughter Salina. His mind, however filled with thoughts of her, is still on finding the caches of ivory his father left behind. He needs Lobengula's permission to go through his land unmolested and knows that if he has the good word of Robyn supporting his endeavors, he will have success with the king as well. Ralph has the added advantage of being "brother" to Bazo. Lobengula has other ideas. His only concerns revolve around getting enough guns to meet the white man on their own terms. He has been told by the seers that war is coming - the prophesy, though confusing, makes no secret of the fact that there will be war. The question is just when.



Until then, he gathers everything he can think of. He agrees to Ralph's presence in order to attain the guns he wants and has his own warriors shuttling diamonds from the mines back to him even though he feels they are lacking in beauty compared to the many colored stones found even around his kraal. Robyn/Nomusa is sent for and helps the king by giving him gout pills and warnings about his health, and then the king uses her understanding of the white man to interpret on many issues he cannot grasp alone. She explains the issues to him, and trusting her completely, he then makes his ruling - usually agreeing with her opinion.

Bazo is offered any gift he wants for his contribution of diamonds and his continuing loyalty, but all Bazo asks for is another chance to prove himself to the king. Impressed by his attitude and selflessness, the king sets him to a task that no one else has been able to accomplish as yet. Lobengula wants Bazo to bring him Pemba's head. The wizard Pemba lives on a mountain that is so secure that the guards at the top feel secure enough to stand and holler insults down at Bazo and his warriors. It takes Bazo several days, but he finds a way to distract the wizard's guards, and while they are busy, he emerges from the inside of the waterfall he climbs. It is a daring and dangerous feat, and he almost drowns in the process, but the thought of glory spurs him onward. Once at the top of the falls, he hears footsteps approaching and is stunned by the beauty of the young woman who is there. So taken is he with her that when he kills the guards and lets the ladder down to allow his warriors up, he is careful to protect her from harm and make sure that she is among the hostages taken back to Lobengula.



## Section 9, Pages 399 - 445

### Section 9, Pages 399 - 445 Summary

Marching back to Lobengula, Bazo discovers the girl he saves is Pemba's apprentice. He decides he wants her for his first and most treasured wife, but the laws of the Matabele prohibit him from doing anything with her until he has the king's approval. She begs him to take her immediately, explaining that then she will become useless to a wizard and will not be pursued, but Bazo refuses. She sleeps with him, tends his wounds, cooks his meals, and even carries his belongings, and Tanase has worked her way into his heart by the time they finally return. On the way, they meet Ralph, and building a fire away from the rest, they spend the night catching up, each knowing instinctively that their next meeting may be much different. Bazo recognizes a change in Henshaw, and Ralph admits he has found the woman of his dreams. Bazo suggests he ask for her hand immediately, and Ralph agrees, then teasing Bazo about his feelings for Tanase. When Bazo returns to her for sleep, she warns him not to trust Ralph. Something in a vision makes her fear him. Ralph takes Bazo's advice and returns to Salina and confesses her feelings for him. She turns him away, telling him she doesn't love him that way. Salina doesn't even say goodbye to him, but the other girls walk him part way, and Cathy lingers long enough to kiss him in a manner that has him forgetting all about Salina for now.

Bazo takes Pemba's head to Lobengula and is rewarded heavily including his choice of wives. Arrangements are made for the wedding ceremony, but the night before they hear the sound of many hyenas. Tanase calls out to Bazo, but he can't save her from those who have come to take her and he is devastated.

A rider shows up unannounced at the Codrington mission bearing news from Robyn's father. The woman who brings the news is Louise St. John, and after giving them a letter of introduction from Robyn's father, Louise explains that her husband travels more slowly behind her, and she will escort him in to them, returning by nightfall. Robyn is stunned by the knowledge that she will have to operate on a man she has come to despise - Mungo St. John.

### Section 9, Pages 399 - 445 Analysis

Bazo falls for and then saves the apprentice to Pemba. He allows her to cook for him and lie with him to keep warm at night but will not touch her without permission from the king. She begs him to make love to her and render her useless to the wizards she is sure are coming after her. She has visions, but Bazo doesn't take them seriously. He is sure the king will approve of his accomplishments and allow him to choose a wife. Then he will be able to take her. They run into Ralph part way back to Lobengula's camp, and Bazo sits with him all night talking around a separate fire. When he finally goes back to Tanase, she tells him about another vision. In this one, she sees Ralph should not be



trusted. Bazo expresses his doubt, but she assures him that a "brother" would not watch his death without feeling. She is so convinced that she is terrified, and still Bazo believes no harm will ever come to him as a result of Ralph or his actions.

Bazo returns to Lobengula and as predicted, his king is so pleased that he not only gives Bazo cattle representing great wealth and promotes him, giving him great honor, but also allows him to choose a wife. He immediately selects Tanase, and wedding preparations begin. This procedure can take days as food must be prepared, beer made and guests invited. The evening before the wedding, Bazo contentedly thinks about all he has gained when the wizards come for Tanase. He is the only one with enough nerve to leave his hut when the hyena's begin to cackle in unusual numbers, but her call makes it impossible to ignore. He sees her and goes to her, but when the wizards call her she is unable to resist them, and some force keeps Bazo's feet rooted to the ground. For the first time in his life, Bazo is afraid, and devastated as the wizards take the woman he sought to have as his first and most important wife.

Ralph has been collecting the ivory that his father's books tells him about, convinced that if he makes himself worth something he will be able to take Salina's hand in marriage. Louise St. John rides into the Codrington homestead without warning and delivers several surprises. The first is a letter of introduction from Robyn's father. He asks that Robyn put aside whatever feelings she may have and use her considerable skills to help the man he is sending her. He tells her he has already tried himself several times, but failing eyesight and unsteady hands of age prevent him from being of much use. Along with the letter comes several packages. Unwrapping, she finds supplies that are very difficult for her to attain because of how remotely they live. Chloroform is one that she values above all else, having already had to perform surgeries including C-sections without any anesthetic. Her gratitude is compounded by the books he has sent and the newspapers. Each treasures in their own right that will be read again and again. All of this is dimmed somewhat when Louise returns later with the mystery man Robyn is supposed to help, and Robyn finds herself face to face with her past. Mungo St. John is in bad shape but still able to goad her with his air of self confidence and his uncanny ability to see through her. She immediately recovers herself, knowing that as a doctor and religious woman, she must help him despite her current feelings. It has been years since she saw him and yet still he summons so many feelings in her that she has a hard time hiding them from Clinton as she does her examination. She then does another thing she has never done before. She forbids her girls from talking to him at all. Surprised, they question her decision - another first - and she tells them that he is the devil himself. This does little to dispel the curiosity of the younger twins who later sneak into Robyn's library without permission, and not for the first time, to look at the photo in Dante's inferno to confirm his identity. They do see the similarities in expression, but argue over where he might be hiding his tail and trying to figure out a way they might have an opportunity to see it. Robyn manages to perform the surgery and remove the bullet still festering in his leg and has an opportunity after he is unconscious to more closely examine the man she had arrested. At the same time she remembers how he felt holding her, how he looked and still sees that man in him now, though in slightly tougher shape. Her feelings for him are difficult for her to reconcile, especially as she realizes they are not all negative.



## Section 10, Pages 445 - 500

### Section 10, Pages 445 - 500 Summary

Ten days after surgery, Mungo can get around on a crutch. He finds a place where he can sit and look out over a valley and thinks about life, and finally about Louise, remembering how things were in the beginning. The twins, Lizzie and Vicky, find him and work up the nerve to ask him about his tail. He plays along while they stare at the front of his pants, convinced he holds it there like a frightened dog. Stifling laughter, he tells him he is not able to show them but will tell them a story which pleases them almost equally. It becomes a daily habit for the girls to go and hear about his adventures. He also elicits information from them, including the secret that King Lobengula has diamonds - pots and pots of them.

Jordan has come to greatly respect and revere Cecil Rhodes who begins each day watching the sunrise, full of ideas that Jordan takes down for further use. Rhodes forms the DeBeers diamond company and seeks a logo to represent himself, and Jordan suggests the falcon from the top of the soapstone statue; soon the logo is everywhere. One morning, subdued, Rhodes tells Jordan that despite his age of just thirty, he feels death close and is both anxious and disappointed with the lack of time he has left. He tells Jordan their next task is to square things with his father, so Jordan rides to Zouga's cottage, and manages to convince him Rhodes wants more than just his land concessions. He wants Zouga to play a part in developing and overseeing the expansion of the area much as Zouga himself has so dreamed of doing. Finally convinced, they leave the same night to finalize the agreement, touching the blue stone on the doorstep for good luck on the way out. Rhodes discovered the blue is not the end of the diamonds, and left in the sun, the blue crumbles revealing diamonds trapped inside. After closing his deal with Rhodes, and even coming to admire the man himself, Zouga rides home in a storm to find his cottage in ruins, crushed by one of the large trees around it. Most daunting is the shattered remains of the blue stone he so superstitiously carries about. Looking closer, he finds amidst its ruins a large diamond. The Ballantyne diamond reverses his fortunes immediately.

Jordan takes all of the land concessions Rhodes has managed to accumulate to the Codrington homestead. He brings gifts for everyone, and Salina falls for him, enchanted by his charm, ability in the kitchen and education. Jordan convinces Robyn to talk to Lobengula on his behalf, and add her endorsement to his endeavor. She agrees. Mungo goes to Lobengula who so enjoys his stories that he won't grant him permission to leave, but Mungo has no intentions of leaving yet. He still sees Robyn often, on the pretense of leg pains, knowing it disturbs her. He prepares to steal the king's diamonds. Louise wants nothing to do with him these days, and he manages to carry out his plan, stealing only the most valuable of the diamonds in the king's pots. When the king discovers his loss, he believes evil spirits are responsible, and calls together all his Matabele nation. He calls upon the sisters of sorcery to smell out the evil spirits and after much leaping and twitching they one by one identify those they believe are



responsible for Lobengula's misfortune. No matter who they are, they are immediately put to death. When it is over, more than two hundred are dead and the sun is rising. One morning Louise rides out as usual but doesn't return. She found his stash of diamonds and knew Mungo to be responsible for all of the deaths. What small remaining love she has for him is gone. Her note asks that he not attempt to find or follow her, and she leaves without the king's permission.

## Section 10, Pages 445 - 500 Analysis

Mungo's survival has taught him little, and he immediately begins scheming again. He reflects briefly on his past, resenting Louise at last for holding him back in his eyes. She had over the years on many occasions stopped him from achieving small fortunes because his methods were unsavory or immoral. Finally, he began to see a change in her demeanor towards him. In the beginning, despite the fact that their relationship was consummated by him raping her when she was a young teen, she loved him without condition, following him everywhere. He promised to marry her as soon as his wife would either allow a divorce or died, but when his wife actually did pass on, he hid the information from her, going on as before. Reminiscing ends quickly, and planning begins. He finds himself in the constant company of the twins who can't resist sneaking off to listen to the stories he tells them and he takes full advantage of their youth and indiscretions. He soon learns that Cathy is in love with Ralph, and other comings and goings that the twins observe and gabble to him about. In return, he tells them about princesses with Vicky's eyes, or Lizzie's hair, and has them competing against each other to give him information that he subtly requests. A surprise tidbit comes to him through them one day when they tell him a big secret. King Lobengula has diamonds. He has pots and pots of diamonds. Immediately, Mungo begins to plan.

Jordan greatly admires and respects Cecil Rhodes. He listens and records all the man ruminates on and learns a great deal in the process. Rhodes is however consumed with two things. One is his premonition of his own death, and the other is to complete his vision before he runs out of time. As such, when he makes up his mind in one direction or another, things tend to happen with break neck speed. He tells Jordan that it is time to approach Zouga. Rhodes want the Ballantyne Concession to the land the king promised Zouga. It is a necessary part of his overall plan to develop the area. Zouga has so far resisted all attempts to be bought out, hanging on to the concession as it is all that remains of his dream. Jordan is able to convince him that Rhodes only wants to help Zouga to realize his dream and to make it all a reality with Zouga involved from the beginning. Jordan's enthusiasm is catching, and Zouga can see the possibilities. He agrees to talk to Rhodes, despite the earlier mining misadventure. Soon after taking over the two claims from Zouga, Rhodes had discovered that the blue which everyone thought signified the end was actually the most seeded with diamonds. The blue rock that was so hard actually deteriorated if left out in the sun. The diamonds in that layer were astounding, and Jordan had watched it all come to fruition, and the establishment of De Beers diamond company as its outcome. Zouga and Rhodes manage to reach an understanding, and Zouga even comes to admire the man himself before finally heading home days later. He arrives at his cottage and gets a superstitious shock as he finds a



tree has fallen over top of his home, destroying a large part of it, including the only piece of blue he had taken with him from the mines. His good luck charm was not much good luck. Then, looking closer, he sees the large diamond in the shattered remains of the blue. He finally had the Ballantyne diamond of which he so dreamed.

As soon as the concessions are in Rhodes' possession, he sends Jordan to see King Lobengula by way of the Codrington homestead. Even Cecil knows that Robyn holds great influence with the king, and if Jordan can convince her to intercede on his behalf, the chances of success are much higher. Jordan quickly ingratiates himself with the Codrington's, even capturing the heart of Salina. Even her parents see how smitten she is with him, and they agree that he is a fine young man and do not discourage her. Jordan finally approaches Robyn regarding the king, and she agrees to speak on Jordan's behalf, which is something she seldom does for anyone and refused to do for Mungo. Mungo has his own plans. He petitions the king half heartedly to leave, but tells such wonderful stories about oceans and adventures that Lobengula wants him to stay. Mungo begins making plans to steal the king's diamonds, and this time hides his plans from Louise. She is distant and unresponsive to him anyway, so it is not difficult. He finally manages to take the best of the king's diamonds but is unable to take them all. This is part of what convinces the king later that evil spirits were responsible. A white man, he reasons, would have taken them all. Besides, his guards had not been disturbed, and his Matabele tribe have no interest in diamonds. They hold no value to them. To purge his kingdom of this evil, he calls his entire Matabele nation together and watches and the witches go among them, sniffing out evil spirits. Anyone deemed evil is put to death immediately, resulting in over 200 deaths before dawn.

Louise realizes that Mungo has stolen the king's diamonds and is responsible for the deaths of so many. She can't even look at him, and can't bear to spend another moment in his company with this knowledge, so in a last show of loyalty, instead of turning him in to the king for his crime, she leaves him a note telling him that he shouldn't try to find her, and leaves without the king's consent. All she wants to do now is to go to Kimberley and find Zouga, whom she has been unable to stop thinking about since she helped Mungo to escape.



## Section 11, Pages 500 - 551

### Section 11, Pages 500 - 551 Summary

Two days pass before Jordan is sent to Mungo's camp to tell him the king gives permission for him to go and look for his wife. He also tells Mungo there had been rumors that he was involved in an I.D.B. sting where Hendrik Naaiman was injured. Rhodes defends Mungo against these rumors, and to Mungo's good fortune, Naaiman has been killed in a knife fight. As such, his innocence is presumed. Mungo tries not to show relief. He packs and leaves.

Louise, filled with guilt knows there is no going back. She heads for the Tati river, to follow it south until she finds Khama's people. By the third night she is lost, her mule is lame and her water bottle is empty. She wakes to the mule's fearful noises and smells cat immediately. Before she can think of what to do, the cat is on the mule. Other shapes reveal themselves, and she climbs a sycamore in terror. In the morning, a lion is at the base of the tree, and as it comes up she shoots it, dropping her rifle in the process and breaking it. She leaves it behind, running as far away from the lion's carcass as she can, and then walks for days, getting weaker and weaker.

Zouga and Ralph leave Kimberley, headed for Lobengula at GuBulawayo so they can ratify the consolidated concessions. They hunt as they go, Ralph ever competitive about each opportunity, and come across Bazo and his warriors who tell them Louise is dead. Zouga is numb. He rides to the sycamore tree described by Bazo, and sees the bones and the bits of hair. He scouts in an ever increasing circle and to his surprise sees her tracks leaving the area. He travels as fast as he can and finally finds her, dehydrated and near dead, but still aware enough to recognize him. Meanwhile, Ralph goes to Cathy and they spend a night together expressing the depth of their mutual feelings. He leaves again but promises to return. He gives Isazi's son instructions to take the bullock train to Bushmen wells and wait for them there. Then Ralph and Isazi head carefully for Zimbabwe to take the remaining six statues.

King Lobengula chooses Bazo to go with him to Umlimo where the old magician lives. As promised, Robyn has told the king that Rhodes can be trusted, and that he is a good man. Lobengula asks Bazo to guard his back against treachery while he sees the Umlimo, and he does so, listening to the prophesy as it is given until there is a disturbance. Two attendants in the gloom were having trouble restraining a young girl, and with a start Bazo realizes it is Tanase. At that moment, a vision takes her, and she shudders and contorts calling out about the falcons flying. Lobengula can't believe that someone would defy his command to stay away from Zimbabwe. He sends Bazo and his warriors to find and kill any intruders he comes across. By this time, the statues are loaded, and Isazi gratefully leads them away, while Ralph covers their tracks and makes new ones to lead any who follow off their trail. He is suddenly cornered by warriors, Bazo standing at their head.



## Section 11, Pages 500 - 551 Analysis

When Jordan goes to tell Mungo that the king has given his permission to Mungo to go and find his wife, Mungo doesn't even recognize him as Zouga's son. Jordan tells him who he is and then informs him of the rumors regarding Naaiman and the I.D.B. sting. Mungo immediately protests and proclaims his innocence, asking Jordan to consider why a man of his considerable means would involve himself in such behavior, and Jordan tells him that Rhodes had of course been defending him using the same logic. Mungo bluffs his way through the conversation, until Jordan tells him that Naaiman had been killed, and as such his innocence would be presumed anyway. It is a stroke of luck he can hardly believe, added to the good news that he can leave, he is sure his luck is finally turning. His thoughts are not of finding Louise as he packs his gear to make his escape. All he can think of is getting the diamonds out. It is an ongoing example of the kind of greed that fuels his life at the cost of any and all others - including those who love or loved him, and the reason he is alone. He feels no loyalty to the woman who hauled him out of Kimberley in the middle of the night and tended him for many months until his bullet wounds healed, or who left camp herself rather than reveal what a snake he is. Robyn is on a hillside, wistfully watching him go, with her feelings tightly guarded, and had Mungo been able to use her to his advantage, he would have done so as well, despite the fact that she saved his miserable life. She is not aware that he took the diamonds, or would likely have turned him in to the king. Louise is so filled with guilt over the whole thing that she can't go back, not even to the mission, even if it means her life which it almost does.

Zouga enjoys traveling with Ralph in the beginning. Father and son, on a mission in Africa is something of which he longed dreamed. Ralph is now a man in his own right, and it amuses Zouga to be led by him through the wilderness, but Ralph's overly-competitive nature soon wears on Zouga. At first it is humorous to bet with him as to who can shoot the most, or who can ride the fastest, but Ralph is in constant competition. It never stops, even betting on things to find ways to best his father. Finally, Zouga tries to tell him that he can't afford to bet with him in an effort to get him to stop. Ralph is so intent on this frame of mind that he almost runs headlong into a Matabele warrior party but finally hears Zouga calling him to stop. It is then that Bazo tells them Louise is dead and describes the scene as they found it. Zouga is devastated and needs to see for himself - some part of him unable to believe it unless he has seen it himself. He returns to the sycamore as Bazo describes it and sees the traces of her belongings, along with the bones that remain from the lion she shot. Still unable to reconcile her as dead, he casts circles around the site looking for any evidence that someone left and finds her tracks. He races in that direction, knowing that without mule or water she will not last long. He finds her near death, but she has held on all this time to the thought that she will see Zouga again.

Ralph has gone to the mission to see Cathy and spends the night with her. He makes love to her for the first time, taking her virginity, and promising to return to her as soon as he can. He is on an errand that puts him in the same category as Mungo. All he can think of is getting the soapstone falcons from Zimbabwe. He knows the king has



forbidden entry to this graveyard city, and the punishment is death, but still he can't help himself. It isn't one falcon he wants either - he wants them all. Though Zouga carried out the first falcon in the very early days of his exploration, it is likely now that he would have discouraged his son from this path. Still, Ralph comes by this greed as a birthright. Zouga still puts the dollar before almost all else. Isazi feels how wrong the theft of these stones is and can hardly wait to leave.

At the same time, Bazo is escorting Lobengula to the witches at Umlimo for consultation on the matter of the concession consolidations. While there, Bazo discovers Tanase again and loses her all over again as she now belongs to them. A vision takes her, and she speaks of the falcons flying. Lobengula immediately knows what she is talking about and immediately dispatches Bazo and his warriors to Zimbabwe with the instructions that he is to find the man or men responsible, and then without witness he is to kill them no matter who they are. Bazo is eager to comply, until he finds that Ralph is the man they've been tracking. They surround Ralph, killing his horse Tom to stop him from fleeing. Ralph is restrained, and Bazo questions him regarding the thefts. It is not something he can deny, but he won't reveal the location of the stones either.



## Section 12, Pages 551 - 599

### Section 12, Pages 551 - 599 Summary

Bazo grills Ralph about his part in the removal of the falcons, and Ralph knows better than to deny it. Bazo reminds his warriors that the king ruled there should be no witnesses to the death of whoever was responsible and sends the warriors away with heavy heart. Ralph worries, but Bazo is true to his heart, and merely wounds Ralph, using the blood to splatter himself and his assegai. He helps Ralph dress the wound and tells him to go in peace. Without a horse, Ralph must walk all the way back to where Isazi and his son wait, but when he gets there, they still have the falcons and in Ralph's mind it is all worth it - even the death of Tom. Lobengula is still trying to understand the words of the Umlimo. He sends for Robyn and has her explain the documents that Jordan brought from Rhodes, and with her recommendation, he puts his seal on them. Jordan leaves immediately for the mission, and Salina is overjoyed to see him again. She finally declares her love for him, but Jordan wants only her friendship. She tries to convince him that whatever the other woman has, she can match or better, but Jordan finally confesses there is no other woman. She finally understands and quietly tells him goodbye. She is not around the following morning when he leaves.

Ralph heads back for Lobengula's encampment with rifles, ammunition, liquor, furniture and gold sovereigns for the king. He meets with Bazo along the way who confirms that Lobengula doesn't know who the white man was in the forest that was "killed" or where he was buried. It is a relief, and yet three weeks pass and the king has not granted them audience after they arrive. Finally, Zouga says he will leave and tell Rhodes that the king spurned his gifts. He heads for the mission and Louise rides out to meet him when she sees him coming. They make plans for a double wedding - Louise and Zouga, and Cathy and Ralph. It is a beautiful affair with Clinton presiding and Salina singing at the service. She excuses herself and slips off, and Robyn restrains Cathy from following at first. Finally, Cathy slips away to look for her, and finds her hanging from a rafter in the church.

Cathy blossoms with Ralph. In July of 1890, the British Foreign Secretary approves the occupation of Mashonaland and the representatives of the British South African Company march in. Trees are cut to facilitate the laying of cable for the telegraph, but Lobengula is not happy. He sees the marching army as a threat against them, and tensions mount. A generator is brought along, and the land is lit up as though it were daylight, bringing one of the prophecies to life. Another is of stars shining on the hills, and Gandang sees exactly that when the heliograph is being operated. The prophecy is now complete, and the next thing to happen according to the wizards is war.

The company of soldiers is gradually more unhappy with their situation. The land is not as good where they are as it is with Lobengula's people, and their cattle get thin and unhealthy. Zouga finally tells Rhodes and Jordan that they have to have Matabeleland. There is no other option. Rhodes knew this day was coming and listens to Zouga as he



outlines what would be necessary to accomplish this feat. Rhodes understands, but insists that there has to be an incident to precipitate and justify their attack on Lobengula and his encampment. Their opportunity arises when they catch one of Lobengula's groups stealing their cable for bangles and bracelets. Shots are fired; men are killed, and war is declared by a very disappointed Lobengula. He offers and guarantees the safety of Robyn and her family, believing that her recommendation to him was made in good faith.

## Section 12, Pages 551 - 599 Analysis

Bazo sends his warriors away, reminding them that the king insisted only he witness the death of the one responsible, and then instead of killing Ralph, he honors their friendship. He injures Ralph, using the blood to make it look as though a death occurred. It is the first time he dishonors his king, and he feels immense guilt, but remembering that Ralph stepped between Zouga and himself when he had broken the diamond into many pieces in his own example of greed, he returns the debt and sends Ralph away on foot.

Lobengula ponders the meaning of the prophesy at Umlimo. That the stone falcons are flying is clear to him, but stars seen on a hillside, and night time lit up like day are confusing prophesies, and he can't make sense of it. Finally he sends for Robyn, trusting her to explain the documents Jordan has presented him. Page by page, Robyn explains them, endorsing them and convincing the king that Rhodes is an honorable man. Trusting her, he puts his seal on the documents, and she witnesses them believing that her nephew is acting in the best interest of all involved. Jordan takes the paperwork back to the mission where Salina finally works up the courage to tell him how she feels. She is devastated when he explains that he is only interested in her friendship and that he only has eyes for another. She still thinks there is hope, until Jordan explains that she is not in competition with another woman. That gets through and she says her goodbye to him then, her heart broken. No one is aware of how hurt Salina really is - even when the double wedding ceremony is held in the church and she sings for Zouga and Louise, and Ralph and Cathy as they tie the knot. The only clue to her true feelings is the tear that presents itself at the end of her song, and the fact that she excuses herself afterward, unable to join in the festivities. Cathy wants to follow her, but Robyn tells her not to and suggests they just let her find her way through how she is feeling, but Salina isn't thinking. She hangs herself in the church where Cathy later finds her.

The Umlimo's prophesies come to life one by one. Gandang witnesses the stars on the hillside when he sees communications being transmitted by mirrors and light, and when Ralph manages to get the generator running, the valley they are camped in is lit up like daytime. They know war is imminent, long before the commands are given. It is Zouga himself who starts it by telling Rhodes that they have to have Matabeleland to survive. Lobengula has the best grazing land and access to water. Many of the soldiers are discouraged and ready to leave. The cattle do not thrive on sour veld. The area chosen to camp is lowland and during the rainy season, Zouga knows it will be a mosquito driven swamp, but no one will listen. He tells Rhodes that Matabeleland is the key,



shocking Jordan, but Rhodes is not surprised. He has known for some time that this day is coming. Lobengula has not interfered in any way with the army, however, giving them no reason to barge in and take over. They need an event to start things. The Mashona's have actually provided the catalyst to this incident by stealing the copper wire used to hook up the telegraph. Ralph follows the tracks to their camp, and fines the frightened chief, Mantanka fifty bullocks, but the bullocks actually belong to the king. When the king finds out, he sends Bazo and his warriors to punish the Mashona's who are seen as little more than the king's dogs but makes a point of telling them that no white man is to be harmed. Bazo carries out this instruction, killing all the males in Mashonaland, which has been renamed Rhodesia by the soldiers. True to the king's word, not a single white man is shot, but this is the incident for which they have been waiting. Citing that the Mashona's were under protection of the army, they now have their incident. Warriors are shot, and Lobengula is so angry he refuses the sovereigns that were the agreement. Zougá asks the king to reconsider, telling him his young men are no match for the English, but Lobengula's warriors are as eager to confront them as they are to take over Matabeleland. War is soon upon them.



## Section 13, Pages 599 - 652

### Section 13, Pages 599 - 652 Summary

Though Mungo has been promoted to Dr. Jameson's chief of staff, it still galls Zouga when he sees him in the doctor's office. He even has the temerity to invite Zouga and Louise to dinner as though nothing has happened, which Zouga of course declines. Zouga tells Jameson that Lobengula is waiting for the army to strike, but that some of Lobengula's regiments are on the Zambezi and could not be used because of smallpox in that area. Jameson inquires as to the Codrington family's location, and told they are still at Khami. Jameson pens a note to London that makes the claim that an English woman and her children are in the power of the Matabele and recommends they march immediately. The next part of the plan Jameson asks Mungo to explain. They want Zouga to lead a party of mounted men to the Umlimo and eliminate the witches to unnerve Lobengula and his warriors.

Zouga leads the patrol and along the way is offered the land grants of other soldiers in exchange for whatever gold sovereigns he carries. The men would rather have whiskey and forfeit their land claims. As they get closer, he instructs the men as to their parts, and going through the narrow cliffs, twelve Matabele begin throwing spears down. Zouga fires up, scattering the men on the ledge and urges his group forward. Twenty Matabele greet them inside, and the soldiers have no trouble fending them off. They continue past, but one Matabele is only playing dead, and manages to kill Zouga's horse. As a result, it takes him longer to get to the cavern beyond the village where the Umlimo dwell. He hears terrible noises and finds two of his soldiers making sport of Tanase. He pulls the last off and kicks him in the mouth, splitting his lip before chasing them out. Then he tells Tanase that the spirit is no longer able to use her, and as such, she is free to go. Her virginity gone, she is no further use as a witch. When news of this raid reaches Lobengula and his men, the king knows he will restrain them no longer. He summons the last of his strength and struts out to give them a message of encouragement, sending them out to battle. They eagerly take up the challenge, but when they approach the soldier's laager, Gandang attempts to be the voice of reason, but the other leaders are full of blood lust. They charge the laager. Zouga wakes and sees them coming. He quickly wakes the remainder of the troop and feeds the machine gun for the gunner. Wave after wave of Lobengula's men go down, and only Gandang and his group hold back. In the end, the bodies are piled high, and Lobengula's men have to climb over them to get to the soldiers. It is a brutal and bloody, one-sided battle. Gandang reports this to Lobengula, knowing that cunning strategy is their only hope. Tanase makes her way through the hills until she finds the women and children. Grateful, she hopes for news, but they are as isolated as she has been. No one knows the fate of Bazo, her main concern. Lobengula burns down his camp before leaving with what few of his tribe remain. They go deeper and deeper into the hills, and still the white men follow.



Clinton Codrington is asked to help bring in Lobengula. He is reluctant, but Dr. Jameson reminds him that if he is there, he can ensure that Lobengula is treated with dignity. He agrees. Mungo is leading this retrieval, much to Clinton's dismay. Lobengula thinks the white men chase him for his gold. He instructs Kamuza to take the ten bags of gold sovereigns he has and ask that having killed his regiments and scattered his Matabele tribe to the winds that they now take this last offering and leave him and his people alone.

## Section 13, Pages 599 - 652 Analysis

Mungo St. John's presence is a problem for two men, and both would admit that their hatred for him revolves mainly around women. Clinton knows Mungo's history as a slave trader and as a part of his wife's life as well as does Zouga. Clinton would wish Mungo dead if his religion would allow it. Instead, he avoids the man if he can and tries to keep him at a distance from Robyn. Zouga is in love with Louise, and her history with Mungo galls him. The condition that Zouga found Louise in makes him want Mungo dead also, but reality dictates that he must work with the man instead. It is a difficult situation for both men. Zouga is quite stunned when it is suggested that his sister's location at the Khami mission be used as a reason to finally get permission to attack Lobengula, but he can't fault the idea. It was he, after all, who first voiced the reality that Lobengula's Matabeleland was a necessary conquest. Zouga's former friendship with Mungo is the reason the next request of him is made. Mungo knows about his trip to the Umlimo, and now he wants Zouga to return there and obliterate the entire group of witches and seers to further demoralize Lobengula. Zouga agrees, but not with any relish. He leads the way back, but his heart and stomach are not in this mission. He is revolted when he catches two of his soldiers raping one of the young Umlimo, Tanase. He throws them out and gently he tells Tanase that what the soldiers have done to her has removed her power, and as such any threat she posed. He tells her to go in peace, but Tanase knows there will never be peace now. This is the final act of disrespect and degradation and will not be tolerated. Tanase is right. When Lobengula hears of the slaughter of the Umlimo, he knows his men will be restrained no longer. He gathers them all together, and summoning the last of his strength, he marches out to them in all of his glory - dressed in full regalia. He gives them a speech of encouragement and praises their strength and courage. Then he sends them after the soldiers, and they go with great joy as they are finally able to do something.

The induna's of each group are eager to engage the white men, but only Gandang holds back. He tries to convince the others that their haste will be their downfall, but he is not listened to. Only Gandang holds his men back while the others race towards their death. Wave after wave of brave warriors are killed by the machine gun's fire, and still they attack. While there are not so many soldiers, the machine guns more than tip the scales of force, and when the battle is finally over at daybreak, hundreds of brave men lay dead or dying around the soldiers' laager. The soldiers are full of their victory, but Zouga, having befriended this tribe at one time is not so thrilled with their victory. He also knows that this battle is not over. Lobengula will not lie down and play dead until he actually is killed, and his warriors will fight to the last man for him. Lobengula hears of



the slaughter, and with great sorrow he prepares to leave. He assembles his remaining men and loads what little he can into his wagon. His last act is to burn his village to the ground before leaving. Then they head into the wilderness, and Lobengula asks Gandang often if he thinks the white men will leave him alone now.

Clinton is recruited to go to Lobengula and bring him in. Because this expedition is being led by Mungo, Clinton is at first dead set against it, but Dr. Jameson convinces him by telling him that this way he can be sure that Lobengula is treated with kindness and respect. For that reason only, Clinton agrees to go.



## Section 14, Pages 652 - 703

### Section 14, Pages 652 - 703 Summary

Mungo's group follows Lobengula. Jim Thorn and Will Daniel trail behind, having learned early that those in front would be the first to be ordered into the muck to help free the Maxim carts when they became stuck in the mire. Jim constantly dismounts to relieve bowels that are on fire, and as such they fall behind. On one stop, Kamuza steps out of the bush, telling them he comes in peace. He delivers Lobengula's message and gold, and delighted, the two men realize they are rich. They tell Kamuza that he should worry no more, give him a loaf of moldy bread in exchange for the gold and ride off laughing. Clinton and Mungo have been at odds since leaving, and Mungo takes great pleasure in irritating him any way he can. Now, he calls Clinton forward and tells him and Wilson to cross the swollen river with a dozen men as their advance team. Their instructions are to find Lobengula and bring him back, or fall back if attacked. Clinton knows the truth, and suggests to Mungo quietly that he read a particular passage in the bible. Later, when he does, he sees that Clinton already knew Mungo was sending him to his death to get him out of the way.

The small group of isolated soldiers and Clinton come across one of Lobengula's wagons, and Clinton tries to convince Lobengula to return with him to parley with Rhodes and Dr. Jameson, but the wagon is a trap. They fall back and are soon surrounded. Wilson sends a man back to tell Mungo what has happened and request the aid of a machine gun, but Mungo plays out his hand, insisting he won't risk one of the guns on the ever swelling river. Meanwhile, the isolated group circles their horses and watches while the Matabele warriors pick them off one at a time. Gundang is among them, and can be heard going from man to man and teaching them how to better aim the rifles they are using. Quickly they learn and are more accurate. Clinton refuses to use force against the tribe he has befriended, but tends to the wounded, and thinks about his life. He is unafraid, but knows that his death approaches. He only regrets that he will never see or hold a grandchild, and that Robyn never came to love him the way he loved her.

Lobengula and his remaining men have gone as far as they can. Lobengula sees a cave up high on the cliff and asks that Gandang help him to get there. It is the home of a leopard, but Gandang goes first and quickly removes this threat for his king, and takes him inside. Lobengula tells him it is a fitting place for a king to die and asks one last favor of Gandang. He asks that he ends his painful life as there is nothing left. Gandang can't do that, but has a witchdoctor make a potion that will suffice. Before he drinks it, Gandang kills the witchdoctor so no one will know but Gandang how the king really died. Afterward, he piles his ivory tusks, beer pots and other valuables around him, wraps him in the still green leopards skin and seals the cave forever.

Mungo goes to Robyn himself to tell her of Clinton's death. He takes her in his arms to console her and then takes her to bed, despite her protests and struggling. Later, she



comes to him and insists he marry her to give name to the bastard child he has given her, but at the same time promises to hate him for the rest of her life. Jordan continues to love and serve Rhodes in all ways, and Zouga takes his assembled land claims, and Louise and together they select a place to call home where he will build her a house.

Tanase finally finds Bazo, his wounds healing and gives him a son they call Tungata Zebiwe - the Seeker of that which has been stolen, and she educates him from the beginning about the white men and the injustices done. She and Bazo travel from village to village to spread the word of the newest vision of the Umlimo who will never be silenced. When the cattle lie with their heads to their flanks and the noon sun goes dark with wings, it will be time to rise up again. In the spring of 1886, a geological fault opens that releases the egg masses of countless desert locusts, and in flight their wings block out the sun. Soon after, rindepest strikes the cattle and other ruminants and the disease strikes so fast that their carcasses lay thickly enough to touch each other. The prophesy is fulfilled.

## Section 14, Pages 652 - 703 Analysis

Mungo St. John is predictably without conscience as he sends Clinton with a small group across the rapidly swelling river. He knows that these few men will be unable to subdue or hold back what remains of Lobengula's fighting force, especially when they have no machine gun with them. He is aware that he is sending them to their deaths, and does so without so much as a twinge of guilt. Surprisingly, the action is at first unconscious on his part. He has been a man without moral fiber for so long that it comes naturally to him now. It is Clinton in fact who points out that he sends them to their deaths and has ulterior motives even now. Clinton's last comment to Mungo is that he should refer to a particular passage in the bible and when he does, he finds that the bible makes mention of just such an incident, and he realizes that Clinton had seen his motives clearly before he had even seen them himself. Despite who he is, he has to admire the man.

Gundang is fighting for his brother, and his tribe with all that he has. Having used his common sense earlier, he saved his group from certain death, knowing the opportunity to strike back would present itself. He has remarkable patience as he waits until this small party is in a position to be defeated, and then does so. When he sees that Clinton is among the dead men, he instructs his men to leave the bodies as they are. Brave men should not be mutilated. He returns to Lobengula, and they travel ever farther until finally they can go no further. Lobengula notices a cave and asks Gundang to help him get there. He is ready to die and sees it as a fitting place. He asks Gundang to help him with his death, but Gundang's love and respect for Lobengula is so strong that he is unable to do this one thing. Finally, he sends for the witch doctor, instructing him to make a poison and after the poison is presented to the king, Gundang kills the witch doctor. It would not be fitting for anyone but Gundang to witness the way the king leaves this earth. Lobengula approves, and gratefully drinks all of the liquid, dying shortly afterward. Gundang honors him by surrounding him with tools, riches, and food for his



journey to the afterlife. He even wraps him in the fresh pelt of the leopard whose home they invaded. Then he and his men seal the cave with great care.

Mungo is only too happy to be the one to deliver the news to Robyn that her husband is dead. He wants to console her and hold her while she cries, but not because he sympathizes with her in any way. He is a snake until the very end, taking even this opportunity when Robyn is weak and filled with sorrow to impregnate her. It is just one more thing she will hate him for afterward, but she will insist that he marry her so that their child will not be a bastard.

Zouga knows true happiness with Louise as she shows her obvious love for the land where he is so happy. She goes with him while he looks at the land claims he has assembled, and when she falls in love with the view from one, he promises to build her a house there. Jordan is happy with Rhodes, serving him professionally and personally. He will never marry as Rhodes is the only true love he has ever come to know.

Tanase and Bazo go from one small village to another, spreading the word that the Umlimo is alive and well, and the new prophesy is their responsibility to share. She nurses their son along the way, already educating him on the treachery of their past, and setting him on a course for the future. The prophesy states that cattle will die by the hundreds, so quickly that they lie nose to rear in great numbers, and the noon sun will be blocked by wings. It is a prophesy they will realize, as the cattle are stricken with Rindepest, and a geological fault opens the earth to release an infestation of desert locust. Once again, it is time for the Matabele to rise up, and reclaim their birthright.



# Characters

## Major Zouga Ballantyne

Thick, dark curly hair, beard bleached to pale gold infused with strands of silver. Dark skin everywhere but the scar on his cheek which is white as porcelain would be. Green eyes have creases from the harsh African sun, and his face is lined marking the hardship of life in this unforgiving country. He speaks with a magnetism that has his wife Aletta believing in him all over again regardless of his many ventures and subsequent misfortunes. He has been in Africa ten years already and is a native of the country and named for the Zouga river near where he was born. His wife Aletta and sons Jordan, aged ten and Ralph aged fourteen are with him as he makes his most recent foray into Africa - this time to the diamond mines of Kimberley. Against Aletta's better judgment, he buys two mines and begins working them. Aletta dies soon after, leaving Zouga to raise their sons.

He continues to dig in the mines, ensuring his sons are educated at the same time and indoctrinates them both into mining early. When he loses the mines in a bet to Cecil Rhodes, he does so without much regret. Having reached a layer called the "blue" which is so hard that nothing they have will dig through it, he believes the mines to be a dead end. The bet includes loss of his soapstone falcon taken from Zimbabwe. His youngest son Jordan takes this loss hard as he believes the statue is more than what it seems. Jordan delivers the statue and is offered a job by Rhodes, leaving Zouga to explain the loss of both claims to Ralph. When he does, Ralph is so angry, he refuses to go with Zouga and instead begins his own transport company. Zouga feels badly about the way things have ended, and just after Ralph crosses the Vaal, Zouga catches up with him. He gives him what little treasures he has left, including his horse Tom, his hand written notes and maps from his years of exploration, and most importantly, his blessing. This simple act of unselfishness heals their rift and before long they will work together again, but this time Zouga will work for his son.

## Cecil Rhodes

A man of great vision and ever increasing wealth, Cecil Rhodes is the first man to try to organize the haphazard manner in which the mines at Kimberley are dug. He sees the folly in the method of each man out for himself and slowly buys up all the claims he can thereby ensuring a safer and more organized digging operation. When he buys the claims from men who believe reaching the "blue" is the end, he makes a discovery of monumental import. The "blue" is merely another layer of diamonds. Left in the sun for a year or two, the blue crumbles away revealing a mother lode of diamonds trapped inside. It is just one of many ways Cecil seems to find wealth.

Forward thinking being his strong suit, he employs Jordan as his secretary, and their relationship proves to be beneficial on so many levels. Rhodes begins to purchase land



concessions in an effort to consolidate the north, and one of the few holdouts is Zouga Ballantyne. When Rhodes can go no farther, he sends Jordan to bring his father into his vision, and offer him the means to develop the land on his behalf. This is an offer that Zouga finally can't refuse, and Jordan's obvious respect and admiration of the man helps to make the decision for Zouga. Cecil meets with Zouga and hours later, Zouga is infected with his enthusiasm and ready to charge back into the wilderness.

Cecil himself remains behind the scenes, seldom getting into the trenches himself. He merely orchestrates the ways and means for men of extraordinary intelligence and ambition to come together to make him richer than he already is. His only weakness is for Jordan. Unfortunately, his ambitions also lure men who allow greed to dominate their lives. His association with them diminishes his accomplishments when the Matabele are forced from their land.

## Ralph Ballantyne

Ralph is fourteen years old when his father and mother first get to the diamond fields at Colesburg kopje and well on his way to becoming a man. He can already ride and shoot better than most men and is not afraid to put in a day of labor beside anyone. His green eyes are sharp and clear, and his smile disarming. He works for his father, Zouga, in the mines digging for diamonds part time until he turns of age and then makes the decision to give up school and work the mines full time. Zouga does not object. Working like two men, Ralph inspires the Matabele workers they hire to work even harder than they normally would, befriending their leader Bazo. Ralph becomes a man quickly.

Bazo is like a brother to Ralph, and when the mines are lost in a gamble by Zouga, Ralph asks Bazo to lead him to Matabeleland. Bazo agrees, and Ralph begins what becomes a very lucrative transport company into the forbidden area. His association with Bazo leads him to step between the Matabele and his father when Zouga discovers that Bazo has shattered a large diamond in an effort to get more money from Zouga for it. Ralph earns the Matabele name of Little Hawk or Henshaw for his intervention and for his prowess handling the falcon he and Bazo tame.

In the end, the circle completes itself again, as greed decides the path Ralph walks when he goes to Zimbabwe to remove the remaining soapstone falcons from the city of the dead. King Lobengula sends Bazo to kill whoever is responsible, but once they have privacy, he sets Ralph free. Ralph's transport company then becomes instrumental in bringing supplies for both the telegraph line installed and for the soldiers camped near Lobengula's settlement.

## Jordan Ballantyne

At ten years of age, Jordan can read and write, appreciates poetry, can darn a shirt and even cook simple meals. He has long golden curls that Aletta can't bring herself to cut, giving him even more of an angelic kind of beauty. He has green eyes with dense



eyelashes and lips that are perfectly bowed. His handsome features continue into manhood, giving him a sweet and innocent look.

When Zouga loses the mines to Cecil in a bet, Cecil offers Jordan a job as his secretary; to stay near the soapstone falcon that was part of the bet, Jordan happily agrees. He has come to believe that his mother's spirit is somehow connected to the soapstone statue with the native spirit Panes. Jordan respects Cecil from the very beginning but comes to admire him more and more throughout their association. This feelings deepens and Jordan finds himself so taken with Cecil that he can't bring himself to even look at his cousin Salina when she falls in love with him. In desperation she hangs herself, but Jordan's true love is Cecil, and he goes from the man's secretary to running most of his business affairs and then finally into his bed. He conducts himself with the ultimate discretion, and their relationship is never made public.

## King Lobengula

Brother to Gandang, Lobengula is chosen by the Umlimo as king of Matabele after Mzilikazi is dead. He takes the responsibility to heart and rules with great care, earning the respect of all warriors in Matabeleland. He ensures his tribe is well fed, and he himself is a big man - a sign of greatness in the Matabele tribe. He takes time to understand the ways of white men and realizes that to stay leader of his people he will have to assemble white man's weapons. He has his warriors who work in the mines take the diamonds they find and send them home, and while he doesn't understand their value past the interest they hold for the white man, he knows enough to hold onto them.

He makes all of his decisions from a wagon where he conducts court and relies heavily on Robyn Codrington, not only for her skills as a physician, but for her honesty and knowledge of the English language. It is Robyn who assures him that Cecil Rhodes is an honorable man and it would be a wise decision to accept his proposal to amalgamate the land concessions. While most reasonable in most situations, he is superstitious as well, believing the prophesies of the Umlimo without question even if he doesn't always understand them.

## Bazo

A Matabele warrior, Bazo means Axe translated. He is the eldest son of Gandang and nephew to King Lobengula. Bazo is grandson to Mzilikazi and is clever and quick. He is lean and has narrow hips with muscular shoulders and arms. His teeth are white and even and he wears a short leather kilt. He has long legs and a lithe stride and speaks with an air of authority. He is the leader of the group of Matabele Zouga first finds to recruit to work in the mines with him.

Though raised in an environment where his king is everything, and loyalty to the king is the only thing worth living or dying for, it takes little time in a white man's environment to bring greed into the picture for even this young man. Working in the mines for Zouga,



Bazo and his tribesman are told that for each diamond they "free find" as they work, they will be given a sovereign. This method works quite well at first, but when Bazo finds a large diamond, word gets around quickly, and an illegal diamond buyer offers him much more for it. Conflicted by his loyalties to Zouga, Bazo finally decides on the only course of action he feels is open to him. He smashes the valuable diamond into many smaller chips, reasoning that he will get many sovereigns for them. When Zouga sees the pieces and realizes how large the diamond must have been, he almost kills Bazo, but Ralph steps between them, saving Bazo's life in an act of friendship that Bazo will reward in later years.

When Bazo returns to Matabeleland and Ralph is running his own transport company, he finds out that Ralph is the one who has been stealing the soapstone falcons from Zimbabwe - land of the dead. It is Bazo's responsibility at this point to kill his friend, but remembering their past, he sets him free instead having once again returned to a land where loyalty outweighs greed.

## Isazi

Translated as wise one, Isazi is a true Zulu from the tribe before Mzilikazi, when Chaka ruled. He has a wrinkled face, lined like that of an old man, but his eyes are merry and smiling. He has a woolly cap of hair and a goatee beard that is still without any grey. His teeth are white and even, and he wears a black, polished ring of the induna on his head. His kilt is of wild cat tails, and he wears a threadbare military style tunic stripped of all buttons and insignia. In one pierced ear he carries an ivory snuff box and in the other ear is a snuff spoon to match and a toothpick made of a porcupine quill. He is proud and well acquainted with oxen and their control.

## Mungo St. John

Mungo St. John is pure evil. Called the devil himself by Robyn Codrington, he has a history of doing anything for money regardless of cost to human life or conscience. He is arrested for running slaves - a lucrative prospect at the time - turned in by Robyn when she and her brother Zouga met him, and she realized what he was doing. Louise is Mungo's employee who Mungo rapes, but she grows to love him in some twisted way and allows Mungo to use her as bait to pull scam after scam ever seeking that one big score. He steals from anyone and everyone, loyal to no one.

In an effort to rob Hendrick Naaiman who was posing as an illegal diamond buyer but in reality working for the government, he is shot twice, and Louise is compelled to save him again. He ends up a patient on Robyn's table and to her horror she must save him, but that act of kindness will ruin her life as well. Once healed, Mungo ends up working in a position of authority and is given the task of bringing in Lobengula after once again the greed of white men has killed hundreds of Matabele warriors and now won't rest until King Lobengula is in custody. He takes Robyn's minister husband Clinton with him under the pretense that Clinton can ensure the proper treatment of the king, but instead



sends him to certain death with no support whatsoever. The act is so deliberate that Clinton himself realizes it but can do nothing to avoid it. Later, when word finally returns that Clinton is dead, Mungo insists on delivering the news to Robyn himself. Feigning a desire to comfort her, Mungo takes her to bed and impregnates her in the process. Robyn demands he marry her but promises that the marriage is merely to give her bastard child a name, and that she will hate him for the remainder of her life.

## Louise St. John

Presumed wife of Mungo St. John, friend of Zouga, Louise is a talented horsewoman. She plays the part of Mungo's wife, but Mungo is still married to his first wife who deserted him and returned home with his children. Since then, she has traveled with Mungo from one scam to another, always leaving countries to which they will not be able to return.

Louise begins her association with Mungo as house help to him and his wife, but after he rapes her and deflowers her in the process, she forms a twisted bond with him that will keep her acting on his behalf in scam after scam while her distaste for him grows. The last straw is when Louise realizes that Mungo is the one who stole King Lobengula's diamonds, causing the deaths of several hundred of the Matabele tribe as a result. In her horror, she is still unable to turn him in to his deserved fate and instead leaves the king's camp without his permission, unable to get far enough away fast enough to suit her.

Her mule is killed by wildcats after just a few days, and she is left on foot in the wilds, almost dying of starvation and dehydration before Zouga finds her. In love with her from their first meeting in Kimberley, he nurses her back to health and marries her.

## Robyn Codrington

Sister to Zouga, she is as young looking as her eldest daughter. She was chiefly responsible for delivering Mungo St. John and his clipper, the Huron, into the hands of the British anti-slavery squadron with his cargo of five hundred slaves.. Robyn is a medical missionary who lives with her husband and their children in the African wilderness. Tall and slim, she is flat chested and has hair that is dark brown in color with chestnut and russet tones. Her skin has a youthful appearance and her nose and chin are as forceful in presence as her demeanor can be. She had completed her education at a London hospital by impersonating a man because women were not allowed, receiving her doctorate at the age of twenty one. Afterward, accompanying Zouga to Africa and after they had a falling out, she continued on her own with black tribesmen to find her father. A published author, her novel Africa in my Blood sold almost a quarter of a million copies - three times as many as Zouga's novel had. She published two more afterward and later marries Clinton Codrington.



## Jan Cheroot

Jan is a small Hottentot who is bare footed and gnome like in stature. He is Zouga's friend, teacher and has been his companion for twelve years. Together they have seen and done much and having been together for so long, they know each others moods and mannerisms well.

Jan Cheroot is with Zouga for his entire life, a companion until the end, and they become very close friends. He sees Zouga through the death of his wife, the sickness of his children, countless gains and loses of fortunes, and through it all is Zouga's steadfast and loyal friend. He is always cheerful, ever helpful, and his ability to see the good in any situation is nothing short of a miracle by itself. Zouga's children come to think of him as part of the family as well. After decades of traveling Africa with Zouga, when Zouga buys a house and finally settles, there is a place there for Jan Cheroot as well.



## Objects/Places

### Colesberg Kopje

Site north of the Cape and Table Mountain in Africa where diamonds have been found as big as grapes. It is the place where Zouga Ballantyne buys his first two claims.

### Ballantyne Concession

The title for all the mineral wealth of a large area of African interior about the size of France to which Ballantyne owned for one thousand years, negotiated carefully from a black king of the Matabele named Mzilikazi, after which he named the land Zambezi.

### Devil's Own

The name given to the two "briefies" owned by Jock Danby and the first claims purchased by Zouga Ballantyne at Colesberg kopje.

### I.D.B.

Illegal Diamond Buyers - rogues who prowl the claim towns searching to purchase diamonds that have not been properly procured, stolen or belong to black men who are not legally allowed to own them by law.

### Kimberley

Site of diamond mines where Zouga hopes to find his fortune.

### A Hunter's Odyssey

Book written by Zouga Ballantyne that chronicles his travels through Africa.

### Zimbabwe

Translated as "Graveyard of the Kings," a site where Zouga finds his soapstone statue and gold as well as the site where much later Ralph returns to steal the remaining statues.



## **Shasi River**

Border of the native land of the Matabele.

## **GuBulawayo**

The name given to the kraal once occupied by Mzilikazi and now home to King Lobengula. Once called "Thabas Indunas" or "Hills of the Chiefs," Lobengula renamed it "GuBulawayo" or the "Place of Killing."

## **Khami**

Name given to the mission where the Codringtons lived and raised their children.

## **Bakela**

Matabele name of honor given to Zouga meaning the Fist.

## **Henshaw**

Matabele name given to Ralph by Bazo meaning little hawk.

## **Africa in my Blood**

Title of Robyn Codrington's first book and publishing phenomenon that sold over a quarter of a million copies.

## **Umlimo**

Name given to the oracle, able to see the future, and a valuable asset to King Lobengula.

## **Dreaming Hills of the Matopos**

Home to the Umlimo.

## **The Great Elephant**

Title of respect given to King Lobengula.

## Mashona

A lesser tribe under King Lobengula's rule, referred to as his dogs, to do with as he wishes.



# Themes

## Greed vs Loyalty

Greed is the underlying root of all evil in *Men of Men*. It infects and affects each man differently, but all men are touched by it eventually. The white men come to Africa seeking great fortunes. It begins with gold and graduates to diamonds. They travel the land sacrificing health and family in the slim chance that they will not only survive, but that they will return to civilization as rich men. Seldom do any of them come to the simple truth or heart of the matter. The riches they seek will never be taken out of the ground. They are the ground. The very land itself is a treasure. Even the Matabele warriors are infected with greed after a short time of employment by white men. In an effort to increase the monetary gain of one sovereign for each free found diamond they come across regardless of size, the largest diamond found on Zouga's claim is shattered to create many and increase payment.

Long after the mines have been gamboled away, Zouga realizes that the treasure is the land itself and endeavors to find a piece of it himself where he can settle and make his permanent home. He finally realizes that his fortune has already been found in the gentle and honest ways of the Matabele people and in the love of his second wife Louise. Even warrior Bazo from the Matabele tribe returns to his senses as soon as he is away from the madness and overwhelming greed of the white man. He quickly remembers his loyalty to his king, Lobengula, and to his friend and spiritual brother, Ralph, honoring them both. His return to Matabeleland erases all thoughts of diamonds and sovereigns, reminding him once again of his purpose and true joy in life. He lives to serve his king and to honor his wife Tanase - the one true love of his life.

## Civilization - White men or Tribesmen

White men have long believed they own the rights to establish themselves wherever they set foot. From the very first sailors to have arrived in Africa, settlements established and civilizations begun, white men have tried to assert their dominance over all others. The white men believed that being a "civilized" nation, they were given inalienable rights to all they saw; next came the ivory hunters. Those white men who saw their wallets get fatter, gave absolutely no thought to the fact that in the process they were bringing about the extinction of an entire species. Elephants were slaughtered in such large numbers that between Zouga's generation where elephants were plentiful, to Ralph's generation, just one generation further, elephants were difficult to find and much smaller in stature. White men caused this strictly out of their belief that all they saw belonged to them. Next were the wars over the riches under the land. First was the gold rush and then the diamond mines in Kimberley, where once again white men dominated the scene, making it illegal for natives to even own claims of any sort.



In contrast, tribesmen occupied the continent of Africa for many generations before white men arrived. They lived in communities or kraals, raised cattle that were revered and considered a sign of great wealth, and they took great pride in family and in civil order and obedience to their king. They believed in the spirit world, took signs from nature seriously and never interfered with nature for profit. Animals were only killed for self defense or food. No tribesman would ever consider slaughtering an entire herd of anything in order to take merely one small part for profit - even if it meant that they wouldn't have to work another day in their lives. So the question really is which side is civilized... the white men who plow through resources until they are gone, or the tribesmen who have learned through generations to live in harmony with the land?

## Love vs Loyalty

In several instances in this story, the reader is given a unique insight into the psyche of the human condition. Love plays a role in the relationships of Zouga and his sons who grow up to respect and love him, but whose loyalties change from familial to those they love instead. Ralph's loyalties lie with Bazo when Bazo shatters the larger diamond in an effort to get more money for it from Zouga, and Zouga is ready to kill him for it. At this point, instead of supporting his father, he steps in between to save Bazo. Jordan's loyalties transfer from his father whom he loves until the end without question to Cecil Rhodes who first hires him as his secretary, but who quickly comes to mean much more to Jordan than anyone else. In fact, at Cecil's bequest, Jordan convinces his father to give up land concessions that mean more to Zouga almost than life itself - representing his last chance to claim a life in Africa's north that he loves so much.

Love and loyalty also play complicated roles between Mungo and Louise whose relationship begins with his raping her while she was in his employment, and Mungo's wife sleeping nearby. Her misguided loyalty to him soon developed into a tragic kind of love where Louise follows Mungo from country to country while he scams, lies and cheats his way from one person to the next. Though Louise is certainly aware of his continuing dishonesty, her misguided love for him won't allow her to turn him in or to refuse to help him bilk the next sucker on his list. Her love for him dies once and for all when she discovers Mungo is behind the diamond theft from Lobengula, which subsequently cost the lives of hundreds of tribesmen as the king attempted to rid himself of the evil he believed to be among them, but her loyalty to Mungo still prevents her from turning him in to the king and allowing him to be responsible for his crimes. Instead, she leaves without permission, striking out into the wilderness alone.

In yet another instance, Bazo protects Ralph from the king and saves his life in a show of loyalty, although his love for the king is absolute and he is completely willing to lay down his life for Lobengula. His loyalty and gratitude to Ralph for their past relationship overwhelms his love for his king and the king's direct orders to slay whoever is responsible for desecrating the stone falcons against his direct orders.

# Style

## Point of View

Men of men is written from several perspectives. It begins with Zouga Ballantyne and his family and their struggle to survive as he searches for his fortune. Switching between narrative and first person perspective, Wilbur Smith competently weaves a tale that tells a complicated story from many points of view. Zouga's sons each strike out in their own directions, weaving a story that brings them back to their relationship with their father. The reader also gets an inside look at life in a king's kraal in northern Africa as King Lobengula rules his Matabele tribe. Told through the eyes of Lobengula, Bazo and even at times the Umlimo and later Bazo's wife, Tanase, we are taken on a journey of love and loyalty, obedience and faith, and the dark aspects of such.

The reader also gets an inside look at life from a Missionary's perspective, as some of this tale revolves around the Khami mission and the Codrington family. Their ability to live in harmony with the tribesmen of the area, and even act as advocates and advisers to the king himself gives the reader two uniquely different points of view. One from the white men who merely seek to absorb the land and all of its resources without care or concern for anyone or anything in their path, and the other from the viewpoint of the missionary's family who seek only to find harmony and bring medical care to a wildly untamed land that they have come to love. The two points of view collide with tragic consequences when Zouga Ballantyne on one side with his sons encourages his sister, Robyn Codrington, to be an advocate on their behalf with the King and advise him to sign a treaty that is the beginning of the end for both the king and his Matabele warriors and for the Codrington family unit and their happy mission. The oldest Codrington daughter hangs herself after being rejected romantically by the youngest Ballantyne son, Jordan; Cathy Codrington falls for Ralph Ballantyne and leaves her family home without a backward glance; and Clinton Codrington - minister and loving husband - is sent to a certain death by romantic rival and "devil incarnate," Mungo St. John.

## Setting

Set entirely on the continent of Africa, Men of men begins in the wilderness and takes the reader from the questionable civilization of the Kimberley diamond excavations to northern Africa and the kraal of King Lobengula and his Matabele tribe. Part of the story revolves around the Khami mission run by the Codrington family, and the reader is given a glimpse into the lost city of Zimbabwe. This city, long abandoned by its people is now left to the memory of dead kings and deemed a sacred place; King Lobengula forbids all to enter it. Zouga Ballantyne gives his son Ralph directions to get to the sacred city in his journal, and Ralph defies the king's rule and makes his way there to steal the remaining stone falcons. It is a move that will test loyalties and love, and almost cost Ralph his life.



While Zouga Ballantyne regroups, having lost his two mining claims in a bet, Ralph Ballantyne begins a transport company that is the only reliable transportation between the diamond mines at Kimberley and the deep north of Africa's wilderness. He shuttles soldiers and supplies in to Mount Hampden, near King Lobengula's kraal. It isn't long before the soldiers and their commanders realize that the area they have chosen to camp is in not nearly as lush and livable as GuBulawayo and the king's territory. It is only a matter of time before war between the two groups begins, forcing Lobengula to move his entire remaining Matabele further north, abandoning the Hills of the Indunas. King Lobengula and his tribe camp on the Shangani river in the thick mopani forest and then continue on to the head waters of the Zambezi river where Lobengula's life comes to an end.

## Language and Meaning

Wilbur Smith is masterful in his use of African names and descriptions, successfully weaving a tale that leaves the reader feeling as though a journey to Africa had been taken. From the Matabele names given to Zouga (Bakela - meaning the Fist); Ralph (Henshaw - meaning little Hawk), to the names given to Robyn (Nomusa) or Clinton (Hlopi), or Doctor Jameson (Daketela), he manages to lend an authenticity to the entire saga. The Matabele names and definitions are frequent, but not so much so that the reader is confused or looking for translation. There is just enough of a blend to make the tale one of raw and very real action and drama. Using infrequent phrases in native tongue, Wilbur Smith makes this novel a well-researched and well-written story. Lobengula's inability to pronounce the letter r for example lends him to call Rhodes, Lodzi instead, which further lends to the realism and overall authentic feel. Smith also manages to involve enough history to draw the reader in, using the diamond mines at Kimberley and making references to battles and power struggles that existed. The warriors of Matabeleland carry fighting sticks, and their shields are well described, as is their manner of dress and the way in which they address each other - "I see you, Bakela," for example.

## Structure

Men of men is a saga of just over seven hundred pages. It is divided not in the traditional manner of chapters or sections that are numbered; instead, each section begins like a new paragraph with extra spacing, making the divisions by number of pages rather than by sections or structured chapters. Throughout the novel there are places where divisions could have been made. These include changes in location from Kimberley to Ralph's first transport; the arrival in Matabeleland and discovery of his extended family at the Khami mission; introduction to Lobengula and his kraal; visitation to the Umlimo etc. These divisions, however, were left without separate headings, perhaps in an effort in part by the author to maintain a continuity of flow through the entire story. Either way, the lack of these divisions does not detract from the story itself or confuse the reader by their omission.



## Quotes

"I do not think I can bear the flies and filth for another week." Section 1, Pg 19  
Aletta to Zouga a short time after arriving at Coleberg kopje.

"I'd bet a fiver to a pinch of giraffe dung that you know more about this country than any of us here." Section 2, Pg 52  
Neville Pickering to Zouga after making a deal with him to exchange information for Zouga's tales of his travels.

"Even this awful creature Gladstone has not been able to halt the march of Empire northwards through Africa." Section 3, Pg 133  
C.J. Rhodes to Pickering and others from the Digger's Committee.

"We will probably never speak of it again, you and I, but know you that it will never be forgotten. I shall remember, Henshaw." Section 4 Pg 157  
Bazo to Ralph as he gives him the name Henshaw, meaning Hawk in Matabele. Zouga was the fist, Bakela, and now he was given this name of praise for standing up for Bazo.

"And as you know, Major, my ancestry, the touch of the tarbrush, I think is the polite term, or more succinctly my kaffir blood, precludes me from owning claims." Section 4, Pg 164  
Hendrick to Zouga in an attempt to see if he can be tempted to be dishonest - a mission on behalf of the Digger's Committee to check his loyalty.

"You have wallowed like a pig where a thousand other pigs have wallowed before you, in the foetid cesspool between that scarlet whore's thighs." Section 5, Pg 208  
Zouga to Ralph after he finds out that Ralph was with Diamond Lilly.

"Why do you think they call him Bakela, the Fist?" Section 5, Pg 213  
Jan Cheroot to Ralph after his first physical fight with Zouga.

"So far, Mr Rhodes, you have not mentioned the blue." Section 6, Pg 252  
Mungo St. John to Cecil Rhodes, discussion diamond production at the Kimberley mines.

"For ten years those double-damned squares of dirt ate our souls away - and starved us while they were doing it." Section 6, Pg 286  
Jan Cheroot to Zouga after he lost the mines to Cecil Rhodes.

"I have a stone in my belly, heavy with sorrow at this parting." Section 7, Pg 327  
Bazo to Kamuza as he prepares to leave Kimberley with Ralph.

"Peace is a word that sits as lightly on the tongue as the sunbird sits upon the open flower, and as lightly does it fly." Section 7, Pg 339  
Gandang to Ralph when Ralph first arrives in Matabeleland.



"I crave only that the king should know the depth of my duty and love for him. Set me a task, I pray you, and if it should be fierce and hard and bloody, my heart and my mouth will sing the king's praises for ever." Section 8, Pg 382

Bazo to Lobengula after he gives him the thirty diamonds from Kimberley that he has smuggled out.

"If you give white man a finger, they want the hand..., and having the hand, they desire the arm and then the chest and the heart and the head." Section 11, Pg 537

Gandang to Lobengula as they discuss the proposal from Rhodes to consolidate the land concessions.

"Lobengula, if I leave then the last link between black men and white men is broken. There will be no more talking. It will be war." Section 12, Pg 596

Zouga to Lobengula - the beginning of the end.

"Oh King, my heart is on fire for you. I think of what has happened and how I advised you." Section 13, Pg. 642

Robyn Codrington to Lobengula just before he is forced to leave his home.



## Topics for Discussion

Why did Zouga not yield to Aletta, and what were the consequences of his actions? How might the outcome have been different if he had?

What event changed Jordan's opinion of women forever, and likely shaped his emotional attachments thereafter?

How did Louise's relationship with Mungo begin, and why did she stay afterward? What event finally changes that?

How does Zouga finally lose the mines, and why is he not more unhappy about it? What factors influence his decision to bet?

What does Cecil offer Zouga that finally makes him yield and give up his land concessions?

Who shows up on Robyn's property with a letter from her father, and what is his request? Why is she so reluctant to grant it?

How does Mungo elicit the information he needs to plan his next conquest at Codrington's mission?

What does Jordan ask Robyn to do on his behalf? Why is the outcome of that request so heartbreaking to her?

What are the consequences of Mungo's theft in Lobengula's camp? Why was this the outcome?

What might Lobengula have done to save his people and their land?

What treacherous act does Clinton see in Mungo before he even sees it himself? Why does Clinton still go?

What does Mungo do to Robyn after Clinton dies, and why?