

# **The Leopard Hunts in Darkness Study Guide**

**The Leopard Hunts in Darkness by Wilbur Smith**

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## Plot Summary

The Leopard Hunts in Darkness by Wilbur Smith is a novel of politics, betrayal, love and friendship. In this continuing saga involving two families and their ongoing connections to each other, Wilbur Smith weaves a story where celebrated author Craig Mellow with the help of World Bank connections, returns to his beloved Africa as an agent of the bank, asked only to report on the state of affairs in Zimbabwe. When he arrives, he visits the ranch that was a part of his family for generations and begins an obsession to rebuild it to its former glory. When he seeks the help of his old friend Samson Kumalo from the tribe of the Matabele, who is now a cabinet minister in the constantly evolving government, Craig is met with a terse and unfriendly attitude coupled with an unmistakable invitation to leave the country for good. Stubbornly, Craig finds other avenues in his quest to restore Rholands Ranching Company to its former glory.

With the support of Peter Fungabera, a Mashona tribe member who is also a cabinet minister, Craig gets the financing he needs and begins the project of restoration on the three properties that make up his family's heritage. When poaching is discovered on the more remote property that Craig plans to turn into a tourist destination, he and wildlife federation photographer Sally-Anne Jay seek the culprit and all evidence points to Craig's old friend Samson, now known as Tungata Zebiwe. With Peter's help, and government forces, Tungata is arrested and sent to prison. With mixed feelings, Craig continues to work and his relationship with Sally-Anne progresses to a proposal. Rholands main ranches, King and Queen's Lynn are restocked with prime cattle and the houses restored when tribal fighting breaks out again. Mashona and Matabele in their ongoing battle for supremacy, are armed and the killing reaches Rholand's. Craig and Sally-Anne are poised to flee when they recognize Peter and his army. Relieved, they wait but Peter is anything but friendly. Accused of being traitors to the country, Craig is forced to forfeit his land to save their lives. Peter isn't finished with his treachery. His order is to kill them before they reach the border.

In an unexpected twist, one of Peter's own men turns on him, and drives Craig and Sally-Anne to freedom. They soon discover that Samson was also a victim of Peter's dishonesty and Craig is appalled to realize they helped to jail an innocent man. In the struggle to free him, Peter and Sally-Anne risk their lives but manage to enlist the help of others to liberate the Matabele leader. In their run for freedom they are shot out of the sky, entombed in an underground series of caverns, and must fight their way through enemy Mashona forces, during which they uncover a plot that includes the Russians to overthrow and enslave the population. Full of surprises, the story is one where good wins over evil, and Craig and Sally-Anne are able to return with Samson to Africa and the lives they were building there.



## Section 1: Pages 1 - 24

### Section 1: Pages 1 - 24 Summary

The Leopard Hunts in Darkness by Wilbur Smith is a novel of politics, betrayal, love and friendship. In this continuing saga involving two families and their ongoing connections to each other, Wilbur Smith weaves a story where celebrated author Craig Mellow with the help of World Bank connections, returns to his beloved Africa as an agent of the bank, asked only to report on the state of affairs in Zimbabwe. When he arrives, he visits the ranch that was a part of his family for generations and begins an obsession to rebuild it to its former glory. When he seeks the help of his old friend Samson Kumalo from the tribe of the Matabele, who is now a cabinet minister in the constantly evolving government, Craig is met with a terse and unfriendly attitude coupled with an unmistakable invitation to leave the country for good. Stubbornly, Craig finds other avenues in his quest to restore Rholands Ranching Company to its former glory.

An officer looks on with admiration at the plan that kills almost three hundred elephants. It is poaching genius. The herd of elephants is driven into the deserted minefield at the Zambezi River laid by the now defunct white Rhodesian government as a 'cordon sanitaire' in an attempt to keep the ZIPRA guerrilla forces from entering the territory. The officer flies in by helicopter, and sits napping while the half dead pachyderms screech in agony making no effort to help. Soon, the natives hired to drive them into the field arrive, and he directs them to remove the tusks while the women prepare the fires to smoke what meat is harvested. The Comrade Minister of State arrives on the third morning for inspection, after the tusks are cleaned.

Craig Mellow goes to a meeting in New York with his publisher. His publisher introduces him to Sally-Anne Jay and Craig agrees to look at her portfolio. He is immediately taken back to the country he loves by a portrait of an old elephant bull and must admit to himself that her work is exceptional. One photo after another captures the country and its people in a way he feels unable to. When he gets to the photo depicting the elephant graveyard, bones bleached and left in the minefield, he feels sick. The senior vice president of the World Bank, Henry Pickering joins them, and together he and Ashe pitch an idea for Craig to write a book about Africa with Sally-Anne as his illustrator, but Craig is still consumed with anger and empathy, and lashes out without thinking. Sally-Anne gathers her photos and leaves with Ashe, and Craig and Henry stay to have lunch. Henry climbs into his limousine and Craig returns to his yacht, the Bawu, feeling regret for his outburst.

### Section 1: Pages 1 - 24 Analysis

Africa is under black rule, and the guerrillas now run the country. What was once the great unwashed and impoverished masses now wield the greatest power, and Africa as a whole is suffering for it. The former Comrade Commissar is now the Comrade Minister



of State and he is as ruthless as he was when he led the army of bush fighters to victory. Now, he considers himself to be the greatest ivory poacher of all time, and is proud of it. It is his plan to drive the almost three hundred elephants into the minefield to kill them rather than waste the time or bullets to hunt them the traditional way. He feels no remorse for the deaths of so many as a result of his command, and is proud of the wealth he knows their collective carcasses and tusks will bring. Poverty is an issue now and the copper mines of Zambia who have thousands of laborers to feed will pay two dollars a pound for the protein they need. This need is what drives the greed of the Comrade Minister. He also relishes the four hundred tusks harvested, but he himself has nothing personal to do with any of it until it is harvested, cleaned and ready for his inspection.

Craig Mellow may be considered to be an important and influential writer, but his opinion of himself is much different. Though one of the most influential writers to have come out of Africa, he still doubts his abilities and fears failure. He considers himself to be a failure, and his first book that lauded such praise and made so much money is to him, a sham and a farce. He doesn't believe he came even close to capturing the country he so loves, and is embarrassed by his failure. As such, he seems unable to write the next novel for fear of a repeat failure. This self-image leads him to be bitter, mistrustful and even resentful of others who have managed to accomplish what he has not. When his publisher introduces him to Sally-Anne Jay and shows Craig her work, he recognizes its value immediately. He sees that she has managed to do what he could not. She has effectively captured the feel and the tenure of the true Africa. Her pictures send shock waves through him with their intensity, and because of his own self-image, he is unable to even consider a collaborative effort with Sally-Anne, which is what the publisher is hoping for. Down deep, Craig is so afraid that she will show him for the fraud he feels he is that he lashes out at her and accuses her of riding on his success to make a name for herself. Later, when he leaves the restaurant, he feels like a heel for his behavior, but instead of contacting either his publisher, or Sally-Anne to apologize, he sets himself up with the marina's secretary for an evening of companionship that for Craig is meaningless. He gets no satisfaction from the encounter and is grateful when she finally leaves the next morning.



## Section 2: Pages 24 - 50

### Section 2: Pages 24 - 50 Summary

Craig wakes feeling no sense of peace after his night with the marina's secretary. She makes him breakfast and he is grateful when she finally leaves. He tries to write, but has no success and stumbling across a letter from Janine who had been his friend and companion when he left Africa, he discovers that her criticisms of him are correct. He also realizes how much he misses Africa, and homesickness overwhelms him. He calls Henry Pickering, having promised he would do so if he ever decided to go back, and arranges to meet with him. Henry makes Craig an offer that he can't refuse. He'll return to Africa as 'field investigator' for the World Bank. As such, he will provide Henry with a more accurate accounting of the state of affairs in Zimbabwe. Craig agrees, and is provided with an unlimited Visa, identification, and press cards.

He rents a Volkswagen and is warned that there is little fuel available. He heads for King's Lynn and is dismayed by the sight of dozens of goats grazing the land to death. Sold by Douglas Ballantyne after the war, the land is now occupied by twenty-five families, all who raise goats because cattle are too expensive. The grand house is in disrepair, raided for materials to make the shelters the Matabele occupy now. He talks to herd boys, and to an old man in Sindebele, and then visits Bawu's grave. Then he goes to see Jock Daniels at the estate agency. They share a drink and Craig learns that Rholands Ranching Company is for sale. He makes an offer to pay exactly what his cousin Douglas got for it, and then heads for the most remote of the three properties that make up Rholands - Chizarira. He is warned that rebels still occupy the area, but Craig is not worried.

The memories flood back as he notices signs of even the rarest of endangered species. He decides then and there that he will turn the thousand acre property into a champagne and caviar style tourist destination called Zambezi Waters, and as he thinks about how to convince Henry to help him finance it, he finds himself facing three Matabele warriors armed with AK47's. They stand at the waters edge and discuss whether to kill him or take him hostage. Craig informs them that he is friends with Comrade Minister Tungata Zebwe and is able to prove it with a photograph so tensions ease. They drink and reminisce, and give Craig the Matabele name Kuphela meaning 'for the leg walks on its own'. When Craig leaves, he empties his pack, giving them all he can, and promises to tell Comrade Zebwe that they are still out there, and require leadership. They escort him as far as the Great North Road to ensure he is not ambushed by another of the Matabele patrols.

### Section 2: Pages 24 - 50 Analysis

Craig realizes he is terribly homesick for Africa's sights, sounds and smells, and knows that he has to go home. World Bank's senior vice-president Henry Pickering sees in



Craig an opportunity to get inside information about the state of affairs in Zimbabwe. He offers Craig a lucrative deal and Craig accepts, returning to Africa as their field investigator. When he gets there, he begins to truly understand how much has changed since he left. The country is in a state of division. One side contains the wealth and opulence of the spoils of war. The politicians drive expensive vehicles and live in grand mansions, and eat like royalty. The natives, who were promised great wealth, live in abject poverty. The cost of food has doubled or tripled, making it almost impossible for them to eke out a living of any kind, and most are reduced to raising goats instead of cattle and living hand to mouth. Under the new regime, the people of the country have seen little of the wealth they were promised. Craig has mixed feelings. Part of him is overjoyed to be back in the country he has always considered home, and another part of him is disappointed and disturbed by the state that he finds his family's former holdings in.

Craig has several advantages. To begin with, he is a celebrated author, who made a considerable amount of money with his first book despite his personal feelings about its success. The second advantage is the backing of Henry Pickering, and the unlimited Visa. The status he has been given will open doors for him and ensure that he will not have trouble eating or finding his way around. The third and probably most important advantage he enjoys is his knowledge of the language of Sindebele, the Matabele people, and the current Minister Tungata Zebwe. His former association and friendship with the current minister of state will save him when he goes to investigate the state of the third of the properties that make up the Rholands Ranching Company's holdings. He begins by visiting King's Lynn and while sitting by Bawu's grave, he decides he will try to regain control of the properties that once belonged to his family, and promises his grandfather he will oust the goats from his ranch lands before they turn it into desert land.

Having always been the black sheep of the family, Craig's idea to repurchase Rholands Ranching Company is an ambitious undertaking, but one he believes his grandfather would approve of. It is a decision that makes Craig feel better about himself than he has in years. In fact, it is likely that this single decision gives Craig more self worth than any other in his life to date, and once his mind is made up on the subject, he feels a joy and a peace he hasn't known in many years. He remembers his grandfather's voice, chiding him for again coming home 'with his tail between his legs' and senses that there is a difference this time.



## Section 3: Pages 50 - 76

### Section 3: Pages 50 - 76 Summary

Craig returns to Jock Daniels, makes calls regarding the Rholands Ranching Company property, and makes an appointment to see Minister Tungata. In the days before his appointment, he visits families that were friends in the past, and he is welcomed warmly. He goes back to Jock to find his offer to purchase Rholands has been countered and the owners want half a million - firm. It is exactly as he expected, but the meeting with Tungata does not go as well. He greets the Minister in the Sindebele tradition of respect, but he is not welcomed. Tungata all but throws him out, telling him that he will never approve his application to buy land in Zimbabwe. It is obvious that he has been under state surveillance since he first arrived. Tungata would not even allow him to deliver the message sent by the three men in Chizarira.

He went back to his hotel and wrote a report for Henry Pickering, including his request for financing and his intentions. From there, he sends it out as prearranged through the American Embassy's cultural attaché, Morgan Oxford, and stays long enough to join an evening gathering. There, to his surprise, he sees Sally-Anne and is introduced to General Peter Fungabera. Sally-Anne is cool and unreceptive as the General explains that he is taking her to a rehabilitation camp with him in the morning, and invites Craig to join them to write about the youth there. He agrees, and meets them the next morning, to be flown there in a Cessna on loan to Sally-Anne from the Wildlife Federation. Once there, Craig finally has an opportunity to apologize, and explain his bad behavior, and she softens enough to become friendly. He gets word from Henry Pickering that others including his publisher do not share or support his plans and his financing is refused.

On the way back, they stop at Chizarira and Peter hints that he might be of financial help to Craig, and headed home, they have tea with a mission school teacher, Sarah, who publicly is traditional Matabele - demure and respectful - but given a moment alone with Craig she refers to him as Kuphela and speaks with ferocity against "Fungabera's puppies". Craig is confused. When he returns to his hotel, after dinner with Sally-Anne, the hotel manager regretfully informs him that the military were there and went through his belongings. Disappointed, Craig realizes just how much his old friend Tungata has changed.

### Section 3: Pages 50 - 76 Analysis

Craig is excited about his plans for Chizarira. His offer to purchase Rholands comes back with a counter offer of double, but he is not surprised or disappointed, having allowed for that. Bawu had once told him to plan his expenses and double them to account for reality, and that is what he had done. He carefully puts together a proposal for Henry Pickering. His arrangements with Henry include a safe way to transport





documents through the cultural attaché at the American Embassy. While there, he discovers that Sally-Anne has also returned to Africa, and he is finally afforded an opportunity to apologize to her. He is honest with her about how her pictures made him feel, and told her that she is the reason that he returned to Africa - so filled with homesickness as a result of her photos. He tells her about the fact that her photos made him feel like a one-book fraud and that they felt like a challenge to him that he couldn't live up to. She softens, and that night Craig's writer's block leaves him and he spends most of the night writing in his notebook.

General Fungabera takes both Craig and Sally-Anne on a tour of one of his rehabilitation camps, hoping for good publicity, and while there, Craig gets the news that his request for financing has been refused. His disappointment is immense, and he is less than enthusiastic when the General insists that they fly to Chizarira so that he can see the area Craig describes for himself. They stop at the mission school house on the way back where the school teacher Sarah drops her traditional demure demeanor long enough to give Craig a cryptic message regarding Fungabera and his rehabilitation centers, and even refers to him as Kuphela which tells Craig that she is in touch with the revolutionary Matabele natives he met at Chizarira. Craig doesn't understand the connection. The first time he mentioned their names to Minister Tungata, he'd been told to mind his own business. Now, Sarah was telling him that there was something else going on under the surface he was seeing. He can't quite grasp the subtleties of her comments, and has no chance to follow up with them.

The General sees potential for Chizarira and hints that he might be able to come up with financing for Craig in return for a share of Rholands Ranching Company, and Craig finds himself getting excited about it again. Getting back, Craig discovers that Minister Tungata has really changed, and authorized the close examination of his things. Craig feels violated and knows his friendship with the man has long been forgotten by Tungata.



## Section 4: Pages 76 - 102

### Section 4: Pages 76 - 102 Summary

Craig manages to sublet an apartment and works on his book. The pages come easily now, and he resents distractions. Peter calls him and a meeting between them reveals that he has managed to secure financing arrangements for Craig in the amount of five million dollars. The lawyers explain the paperwork, Craig signs, and after they leave, Peter presents him with the contract between them. Peter wants ten percent of the paid up shares of Rholands. Craig has no choice but to agree. He goes to Sally-Anne to tell her the good news, and they toast his new fortune. Then she tells him that she believes she's discovered the identity of the master poacher. She lays out her reasoning, and when she is done Craig can find no fault with her logic. The poacher can only be Tungata. They meet with Peter, and Sally-Anne tells him, but he wants positive proof before acting against the minister.

Craig sells Bawu, and meets with Ashe who tells him his new novel start is a gem. Excited, Craig takes what few important belongings he has to King's Lynn with great reverence and excitement. He negotiates with the elder who is the acknowledged spokesman for the families living there, Shadrach, and they arrive at a price for all of the goats. He then offers him a job, and puts him in charge of finding men to look after the cattle he is planning to bring in. Shadrach is the right man for the job, a prince and direct descendant of King Lobengula. The people respect him, and he soon has twenty good men. Craig manages to get bales of wire, repairs fences, and then spends three weeks touring cattle stud ranches and spending two million on cattle. The arrival of the first four bulls is such an event that a ministerial party is thrown to greet them as they arrive.

### Section 4: Pages 76 - 102 Analysis

Craig feels so good about himself and life since returning to Africa that the new book flows easily from him. Soon he is writing regularly, and the few who read his beginnings are reduced to emotional tears by his obvious love for the land. Peter surprises him with a surety for five million dollars, and now Craig's dreams are in reach. He can't believe how good all aspects of his life are going. He is surprised to see that even Tungata's name is on the paperwork for Rholands Ranch, despite his assurance to Craig that he would never allow him to purchase land in Africa. He makes lists, and flies back to New York to sell the Bawu. The sale is difficult, but Rholands is in his future so he is sure that his grandfather would approve.

His insights into the politics of Zimbabwe are a fountain of information for Henry Pickering, who already believes that Craig will be his most lucrative agent and asset in the field. Craig finds that he can hardly wait to return to Africa. He takes his most valuable personal possession, the handwritten journals from Zouga Ballantyne that he inherited from Bawu, and goes home to King's Lynn. After negotiated with the senior



native there, he manages to purchase all of the goats and get rid of them. Shadrach is hired to oversee the coming cattle, and he rises to the occasion with pride and dignity. He asserts himself, reminding the men he hires that his bloodline is descended directly from Lobengula and in no time proves himself to Craig. He works hard, and his men respect and follow him.

He spends two million on the best breeding stock and expectant cows he can find, and staggers their delivery dates. He has fixed fences, and even Peter is impressed with his progress. Sally-Anne sees the place for the first time, flying in to discuss her input into Zambezi Waters, and immediately loves the place as well. Craig knows then that they will become much closer, when she is ready.

Craig is constantly amazed by how much pull and influence Peter has, from getting him all the fencing he needs when no one else can to locating Sally-Anne at a moment's notice even when she wasn't in the country at the time. His reach is long and his influence is unnerving at times for Craig.

Coming home one day he finds Bawu's cook Joseph in the kitchen. Overjoyed by the sight of him, Joseph chastises him for not having sent for him sooner, and then proceeds to fill Craig in on the work he and the houseboy Kapa-lala have accomplished from cleaning to washing clothes. He also tells Craig that Bawu would be horrified to see the condition of King's Lynn and has already sent messages to varying family members to fix everything from the roof thatch to bricklaying and carpentry. He even knows someone who can bring the gardens back to a standard befitting Craig's heritage and stature. Craig is overwhelmed and filled with joy. Joseph was with Bawu for many years, and now Craig truly feels at home. When the first four bulls are delivered, Joseph creates a magnificent feast to honor the ministerial welcoming committee, and promises Craig that by Christmas the house will be ready to receive thirty important guests - just like in the old days.



## Section 5: Pages 102 - 126

### Section 5: Pages 102 - 126 Summary

Craig finishes restoring Queen's Lynn and hires Hans Groenewald to move in with his family as cattle overseer, leaving him to concentrate on the details of Zambezi Waters with Sally-Anne. Peter insists the third brigade troopers accompany them, and the first time Craig and Sally-Anne are alone, Comrade Lookout confronts them as to their intentions. Craig assures them that no harm will come to them, and makes a deal with them for protection of wildlife and tourists in return for one thousand dollars paid monthly. Craig hires an architect who works with Sally-Anne who takes her part in this seriously. She uses her connections to hire a Swiss trained chef and five safari guides with wildlife knowledge, and helps Craig to make a brochure that she sends to travel specialists around the world. On one trip to Zambezi Waters, Sally-Anne is shocked to see two rhinoceros on Craig's land have been poached and their horns taken. Craig summons Comrade Lookout to discuss this lapse in his job duties.

Comrade Lookout vows to return with the name of the poachers responsible. Meanwhile, Craig and Sally-Anne tell Peter who investigates on his end and finds that Minister Tungata is most likely at the root of the poaching. They send a man in undercover who reports a shipment is due to be sent out, and set a trap for him. Peter asks that Craig and Sally-Anne make themselves available as witnesses, and while they are on stakeout, Craig realizes that he is in love with her. Tungata arrives to meet a truck full of poacher's spoils and is trapped. He grabs Sally-Anne and forces her into the Jeep in an effort to escape. Craig follows as far as he can in the Mercedes, and then gives chase on foot. When the Jeep crashes, Sally-Anne is thrown clear, and Craig wrestles Tungata into unconsciousness before taking Sally-Anne in his arms and confessing his feelings for her as he realizes she is still alive.

### Section 5: Pages 102 - 126 Analysis

Craig is busier and happier than he has ever been before. Once the properties at King's and Queen's Lynn are in capable hands, he devotes his time to getting Zambezi Waters organized. There too, there is much more work to be done than he at first realizes, and he is very grateful for the ongoing help and support of Sally-Anne. He finds himself drawn to her more and more, his feelings intensifying, but knowing she is not ready, he does little more than incidental contact with her for now, letting her come around in her own time.

He has very mixed feelings where Tungata Zebwe is concerned. On one hand, he remembers him as likely the best friend he had in his younger park ranger days. In those days, known as Samson Kumalo, they were inseparable. They worked together closely and relied on each other so heavily that they even developed a sign language used in the bush to communicate. Samson had saved his life, and had even quit his job



when Craig had in support of his decision to stop culling the elephants he so loved and respected. As Samson shared his deep feelings for the wilderness of his country, Craig finds it almost impossible to reconcile that person with the man who is now responsible for one of the largest poaching rings in the country - if not the largest. The two personality profiles are so far apart that even when confronted with irrefutable evidence, Craig still hesitates. He knows that the Samson Kumalo he knew no longer exists, but can hardly believe that he has evolved into this heartless and opportunistic killer.

In the other corner of his life is Peter Fungabera who helps Craig at every turn. He provides Craig with goods and services that no one else in the country seems to be able to provide, and manages to keep track of everything and everyone. In fact, his influence is so great and his reach is so long that it makes Craig nervous and even uncomfortable at times to be in business with him. The contract he signed with Peter has only one copy that Peter has control over, and something about the whole situation bothers Craig, although he is so busy that it is hard for him to put a finger on what it is.



## Section 6, Pages 126 - 153

### Section 6, Pages 126 - 153 Summary

Sally-Anne is injured, but will heal, and Craig stays by her side in Harare where Peter had arranged a private ward. Craig waited while his artificial leg, damaged in the encounter with Tungata, is repaired and both he and Sally-Anne are stunned by the short time it takes to bring Tungata to trial. In only ten days, proceedings began. Justice Domashawa alone would be responsible for the verdict. After listening to all the evidence, which includes Sally-Anne's account of her kidnapping and assault, and Sarah Nyoni's testimony that Tungata was merely coming to see her and attend a prearranged meeting with her father, Justice Domashawa finds Tungata guilty of all charges. He is sentenced to forty years consecutively, and Tungata signs two messages before they take him away. One is to Craig that tells him now they are even, insinuating that Craig's leg and Tungata's loss of freedom evened the score, and the other is to Sarah to warn her to take cover and hide herself for she is in danger.

Craig is shocked by the sentence, and Sally-Anne knows he will punish himself for it, so she refuses to let him go back to King's Lynn alone. She goes with him, and that night is the first time they sleep together. Slowly, she becomes a larger and larger part of the household, and Joseph subtly changes his treatment and address of her, knowing she is now the mistress of the house. He asks her advice on menu plans and she submits ideas and suggestions for everything from furniture to curtains and gardens. Before long, she realizes that she is in no hurry to leave, and in fact feels very at home with Craig at King's Lynn. She finally admits to him that she loves him deeply, and wedding plans begin.

The only blot on their plans comes when they see the news that announces the Matabele style slaying of Nigel Goodwin and his family. Nigel, his wife Alice and their two girls are executed in their home after returning from town one evening. Tungata Zebiwe lives is written in blood on the wall, and the news makes Craig feel sick.

### Section 6, Pages 126 - 153 Analysis

Sally-Anne's brush with danger and death makes Craig realize how much he really cares about her. Nothing else matters to him - not the business or the properties, as he waits with her at the hospital until she can be released. At first, she feels out of place, having been used to the freedom of traveling on her own from place to place. Now, their time is taken up with the upcoming trial. Just ten days after his arrest, Tungata's trial begins. Sally-Anne and Craig are both called to testify, and despite the seemingly logical reasons Tungata has for being in the area of the mission, he is convicted. Justice Domashawa dismisses the testimony of Sarah Nyoni because he believes that she is too involved with Tungata to be truthful.



The sentence shocks Craig, and he is so disturbed that Sally-Anne recognizes he can't be left alone. She goes with him, forgetting how much she wanted to get back to flying and to her 'life'. Though she still isn't ready to admit that she loves him, she is ready to give herself to him, and when they return to King's Lynn, Sally-Anne is able to stop Craig from drinking himself into a state of oblivion by telling him that she is ready for him. Once they have crossed that bridge emotionally together, everything changes, and even the staff notices. Life at King's Lynn is finally as it should be, at least as far as Craig and Joseph are concerned. Though it isn't discussed, they separately conspire to bring her into the fold. Her plane needs to be picked up, but Sally-Anne realizes that she doesn't even want to go anywhere without Craig. He agrees to go with her, and when she finally admits that she loves him, Craig's first instinct is to find a minister and marry her. Of course, Sally-Anne and Joseph want much more from their wedding day. Joseph is thrilled to have an event at the great house again, and is more than ready. He has seen the house through many changes, but it is always the best when a couple in love runs it. They are so wrapped up in their newfound joy that the news article about Tungata brings them crashing back to earth.

The Matabele slaying of Nigel Goodwin and his family take any sympathy that Craig has for Tungata away. He can't believe that the man he knew would be behind such a horrendous act, but the evidence to the contrary is mounting to a degree that he can no longer ignore it.



## Section 7, Pages 153 - 181

### Section 7, Pages 153 - 181 Summary

The Prime Minister, disturbed by the slaying of the Goodwin family, vows justice will be done. Sally-Anne is appeased, but Craig is not so eager for fighting to begin again. Two days later when the entire household heads to Bulawayo for shopping and socializing, they are turned back. Shots are heard in the distance and Craig quickly gets them turned around. News and truth is hard to get because the minister of Zimbabwe has expelled all journalists. Craig listens to the BBC on shortwave radio, and it is sickly familiar. Three days later for Sally-Anne's birthday, Craig gives her a Rhodesian lion dog puppy and everyone gets the day off in honor of her birth.

During the night Craig hears gunfire, wakes Sally-Anne, and tells her to get dressed. He turns on the outside lights, and cuts the house out of the circuit. Without weapons, they have no choice but to run. Sally-Anne looks for Buster, and Shadrach, covered in blood comes and warns him to leave. As the men with guns get closer, Craig relaxes as it is the Third Brigade, but something is wrong. They ignore his questions, waiting until General Fungabera arrives. Peter tells him there have been many dissident casualties but they have cleaned his property of traitors. Craig is disbelieving, so Peter calmly takes Buster from Sally-Anne and while it nuzzles him, he dumps it on the floor and stomps it to death to show them how little they matter to him. He throws the body in the fireplace and accuses Craig of being a traitor, citing his relationship with Henry Pickering and the CIA financed claiming the five million dollars. He puts papers in front of Craig that admit he is a traitor, and by signing he relinquishes all rights to all three properties. Craig refuses, but Peter insists, using Sally-Anne for leverage. He promises he will give her to his men and when Craig hesitates, the soldiers grab her and he doesn't hesitate long after that. The troopers escort Craig and Sally-Anne to the Land Rover and Captain Nbebi drives them towards the border where Peter says they will be set free. Craig soon realizes that isn't going to happen. The orders are not to free them, but to kill them and bury them in the wilderness. Craig's suspicions are confirmed when they pull over and two of the soldiers begin digging.

At the last moment Captain Nbebi turns on the other three soldiers, rescuing Craig and Sally-Anne. He admits that the arrest of Tungata was set up and Tungata is innocent. The deaths of the Goodwin family were committed by Mashona under General Fungabera's orders, and the killing of so many Matabele accused of treason are all a lie. All of it is arranged by Peter who is making deals with the Russians, and Captain Nbebi even admits that Peter is the poacher, not Tungata. He can't ignore it any longer, and has chosen to run, hoping to take them to the border as they were promised. As they get closer, they approach the mission station at Empandi. Peter's soldiers have just left, and Sally-Anne documents the horror in their wake. She asks the Captain to stop so that she can photograph properly.





## Section 7, Pages 153 - 181 Analysis

When the Prime Minister assures the public that he will make those responsible for the Goodwin family slaughter pay for their crimes, Sally-Anne is supportive, but Craig tempers her with his past experience. He knows what war in Africa is like, especially war between the two opposing tribal factions. He knows how justice can be twisted and perverted by those who are supposed to be their greatest proponents. The whole situation is so familiar that his stomach churns uncomfortably. Things happen very quickly from that point forward, just as Craig feared it would. On their next trip into town they are turned back at the crossroads 'for their own good and safety' and the gunfire Craig hears in the distance is enough to convince him. At this point, he still feels safe on his homestead at King's Lynn, and two days later is happily celebrating Sally-Anne's birthday with her and declaring the day a holiday for all. The puppy he gives her is full of exuberance and helps them to forget the outside world for a little while. Their break from reality doesn't last long.

When Craig wakes to the sound of gunfire, he can tell it is coming from his own property and fearfully tells Sally-Anne to get dressed. His mind is working at getting them out safely, while listening to the keening of an African woman in the background is tearing at his insides. He is overwhelmed when Shadrach risks his life to come to the house to warn him and hurries to apply first aid to his mangled arm, but Shadrach doesn't stay. His purpose was merely to warn his master, and now his survival instinct takes over again as he disappears. Craig is frantic to get Sally-Anne out until he recognizes the uniform of the security forces of The Third Brigade. Then he relaxes. He believes that the soldiers are there in response to the attack on his ranch. He is a bit confused by the attitude of the soldier who hustles them back inside, but waits there until General Fungabera arrives. The soldiers have made Craig a bit wary now, and he greets Peter carefully.

Peter has planned this all very carefully. First he ensures Craig signs the document that states his property all reverts to government should he be caught participating in any subversive activities - telling him it is a standard clause in Africa now. Peter also ensures that he is the only one with a copy of the document, so that Craig can prove nothing. Then all Peter had to do was wait until Craig built King's Lynn back up again and stocked it with prime cattle, all along he eyes it greedily, and plans his grand takeover while pretending to be Craig's ally and gaining his confidence. Once the country is in upheaval, the General has the power and distraction he needs to finish what he started. He sets Craig up, claiming that he is a subversive, and calling his ranch hands Matabele dissidents. He backs up his claim by threatening Hans Groenewald's family until he is willing to swear that Craig asked him to supply and hide two crates of automatic rifles. Once he lays out the charges, telling Craig that he knows his local control was an agent at the Embassy, and that his central control and paymaster was Henry Pickering, he produces a document for Craig to sign that contains his confession and admission to the charges. Of course, all this means is that he forfeits his properties and everything on them. Craig digs his heels in at first, but General Fungabera has already killed the puppy in front of them, and now threatens Sally-Anne and tells Craig



he will let his men take her one at a time on the kitchen table - all one hundred and fifty of them, wondering aloud at how many Craig will let have her before he agrees. He quickly changes his mind. Nothing matters to him as much as she does. Peter promises that when the document is signed he will let them take their passports and drive them to freedom at the border, but that is also a lie. It isn't long before Craig realizes the plan is to kill them both and leave them to be found - seemingly killed by Matabele warriors. This would indeed have been the case if not for the brave actions of Fungabera's Captain Nbebi. He strands three accompanying soldiers, explaining afterward that he simply couldn't continue with the charade. He goes on to tell them that everything that has happened is a fabrication of events created by Fungabera, and as a man who is part Matabele, he can no longer endorse or support the actions of his General. He takes them in the direction of the Botswana border, even though he knows he has just signed his own death warrant in the process. Discovering that the master poacher was Fungabera, and that Tungata was innocent, and set up just like he was both shocks and pleases Craig at the same time. He is overjoyed to know that his long time friend has not strayed so far from the ideals they shared as younger men, but shocked and fearful where Tungata's current situation is concerned. He is also ashamed to realize that he is part of the reason that Tungata is in jail.

They follow the reports on the shortwave to keep track of when their escape comes to light, and where the soldiers are, avoiding them in the process. When they come to the small mission station of Empandeni, Sally-Anne gets a close and unadulterated look at the atrocities of war. Bodies are everywhere, and it is apparent that no one has been spared. Women and children alike are shot and burned. Captain Nbebi asks her to document the event on film so that there is some proof because the reporter had long since been removed. Her horror is complete when she stumbles across a badly burned and mutilated woman who somehow still clings to life, and Captain Nbebi shows his compassionate nature once more as he puts her out of her misery, knowing there is nothing else he can do for her.



## Section 8, Pages 181 - 202

### Section 8, Pages 181 - 202 Summary

Captain Nbebi carefully avoids patrols as he weaves the Land-Rover towards the border. They have few supplies and little water. Timon Nbebi is in territory unfamiliar to him, but Craig has been through the area with Tungata years previously. They hear on the radio their escape is now known. Air patrols are dispatched, and soldiers rerouted to intercept them. Timon's expression is tense when he hears the command to kill them on sight. Craig acts as navigator and it isn't long before he sees the telltale dust devils about five miles behind them. He is so busy watching the chasing vehicle that he doesn't notice the anthill in front of them until it is too late. They hit it hard, and lose precious time while they get free of the sand trap. When they are finally out, the Rover vibrates, and shakes. The chase vehicle is equipped with a machine gun, and Craig urges Sally-Anne to drive faster. They exchange gunfire, and Craig manages to slow them down briefly, and they manage to hit Timon. He is mortally wounded, and minutes later Craig yells at Sally-Anne stop. When she does, they watch a colony of kangaroo rats cross in front of them. The ground ahead is a maze of tunnels so they divert around the colony, until they get to the salt pan's edge where they cross a narrow bridge of solid ground. Craig tells Sally-Anne to turn hard right, and prays the pursuing vehicle is so busy with the chase that they don't notice the colony. His plan works, and they are soon mired - their vehicle rendered useless. Relieved, they continue on as Craig checks on Timon. The damage is substantial, and Timon knows he is going to die. Soon the damage to the Rover stops them permanently, and Timon insists they leave him behind. The soldiers are coming on foot and traveling fast. Timon tells them to leave him with one grenade for when all hope is lost, and a rifle. Soon after, Captain Nbebi carefully avoids patrols as he weaves the Land Rover towards the border. They have few supplies and little water. Timon Nbebi is in territory unfamiliar to him, but Craig has been through the area with Tungata years previously. They hear on the radio their escape is now known. Air patrols are dispatched, and soldiers rerouted to intercept them. Timon's expression is tense when he hears the command to kill them on sight. Craig acts as navigator and it isn't long before he sees the telltale dust devils about five miles behind them. He is so busy watching the chasing vehicle that he doesn't notice the anthill in front of them until it is too late. They hit it hard, and lose precious time while they get free of the sand trap. When they are finally out, the Rover vibrates, and shakes. The chase vehicle is equipped with a machine gun, and Craig urges Sally-Anne to drive faster. They exchange gunfire, and Craig manages to slow them down briefly, and they manage to hit Timon. He is mortally wounded, and minutes later Craig yells at Sally-Anne stop. When she does, they watch a colony of kangaroo rats cross in front of them. The ground ahead is a maze of tunnels so they divert around the colony, until they get to the saltpan's edge where they cross a narrow bridge of solid ground.

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## Section 8, Pages 181 - 202 Analysis

Captain Nbebi knows he has ensured his own death with his actions, but he would rather die as an honorable Matabele man than as a Mashona who cannot face himself because of his actions at the behest of General Fungabera. Despite their lack of supplies, Timon Nbebi is positive and in control. He monitors the conversations on the shortwave so that he knows how much time they have before the soldiers begin searching for them. They travel with determination that only deepens when Timon's suspicions are confirmed. He hears the reports of their escape and the response that they are to be shot on sight. It is no surprise. He listens and knows where the soldiers are, and before long, they have a vehicle behind them. He continues to help them until he is mortally wounded and then Craig and Sally-Anne are faced with leaving him behind. He is calm and resigned, asking that they leave him with one grenade for himself when the soldiers get too close. Now, his only thought is to buying Craig and Sally-Anne as much time as possible. Sally-Anne is devastated. In the short time they traveled together, she has come to like and respect Timon, and has a difficult time walking away from him, knowing that she is consigning him to his death.

Timon, true to his word holds the soldiers off for as long as he can and then uses the grenade to end his life before the soldiers can take him. Craig and Sally-Anne travel as



quickly as they can on foot, trying to get as far ahead as possible. Sally-Anne has a large swollen bruise on her forehead from the collision with the anthill, and though the push forward is difficult, she never complains. Craig loves her all the more for it. When they finally stop to rest, Craig holds her and instead of feeling sorry for herself or complaining, all Sally-Anne can do is tell Craig how sorry she is that he has lost everything. Craig doesn't care anymore. He just wants to survive and get Sally-Anne to safety. He holds her until she calms, and sleeps. Then he stands guard, unable to rest, knowing the soldiers are coming and only too aware that they can travel at double time all night if need be.

When the soldiers catch up with them, Craig is ready to make a stand. He knows he can't outrun them, and there is no break in the terrain where they can hide or take cover other than where they are. He sets up grenades, and manages to take out all but one soldier. That man is determined to kill Craig. The grapple and when the soldier has the upper hand and is ready to kill Craig, Sally-Anne shoots him in the head at close range. It is a shock to her, as she has never hurt anyone or anything before. All she wants is to put as much distance as she can between herself and the smell of blood and death. In shock and exhausted, Craig doesn't think to grab the soldier's water bottles, and regrets it later when he realizes it. He almost goes back for it, calculating the time it would take if he left Sally-Anne and went back himself, but his plans are made for him when a spotter plane sees them.



## Section 9, Pages 202 - 230

### Section 9, Pages 202 - 230 Summary

Craig and Sally-Anne push on, dehydrated, leaving behind everything of weight including the rifle and ammunition. The single width road patrolled by the Botswana police doesn't even register on them in their semi delirious state as they walk on focused only on the horizon. Craig uses every desert advantage he knows, squeezing liquid from a Gemsbok melon, and even creating a solar still when they are no longer able to continue. They have one more day before the desert claims them. During the night, he hears the sound of a Land Rover, and hallucinations have him believing it is Peter Fungabera. He tries to defend himself, even as the Botswana police are giving him water and arresting them for entering the country illegally. Craig and Sally-Anne are fortunate that the police had seen their tracks crossing the road, and had taken the time to track them. Craig finally understands it is not Peter when their rescuer introduces himself as Sergeant Simon Mafekeng.

Colonel Nikolai Bukharin is the head of the department of the Seventh Commissariat, and his job suits his personality. At the age of sixty-two, Nikolai hunts the most dangerous animal - man. Eager to take on his new assignment, he goes undercover as a timber merchant to meet with General Peter Fungabera. He suggests to Peter that they go big game hunting and Peter agrees. Colonel Bukharin assesses Fungabera as they hunt. Later, Peter trusts Nikolai and tells him his plan. He wants not only Zimbabwe but also the land to the south as well intending to enslave and emancipate the people there. Nikolai reminds Peter that his people want money, and Peter assures him that Tungata Zebiwe is in his custody and has access to diamonds exceeding two million. Nikolai asks to see Tungata.

Tungata has been starved, tortured, and terrorized, but remains strong of mind. He stands in front of the firing squad after standing in the heat all day with two compatriots, and leads them in the ancient Matabele fighting song. When the guns fire, only Tungata still stands. The guards think this so amusing that they repeat it the next day. Afterward, he is taken up to the fort where he meets Nikolai for the first time. Peter gives them a lesson in history, from the days of Mzilikazi to Lobengula. He describes the tomb of Lobengula and the diamonds buried there with him, and tells Tungata that if he takes him to the burial site, he will allow Tungata and Sarah Nyoni to leave the country together. When Tungata doesn't rise to Peter's bait, he is taken back to his quarters. Nikolai reminds Peter that they only have days to work with, and Peter assures him that he will be able to deliver within a month. Nikolai is pessimistic, and tells him he has only three weeks to produce both money and Tungata.



## Section 9, Pages 202 - 230 Analysis

Craig and Sally-Anne have been in the desert heat for so long that they are hallucinating. Craig knows that their time is running out, and has reached a point where he doesn't care who finds them, as long as someone does. They are so intent on maintaining forward motion that they don't even see the road that they were looking for, crossing it and continuing on instead. Craig's love for Sally-Anne is so strong that he gives her all he finds in an effort to keep her alive, even if it means his own death as a result. When the Botswana Border Patrol find them, Craig believes that it is Fungabera, and in a last blast of sheer hatred for the man, tries to kill him but his body is so close to death that he is unable to strike.

Nikolai Bukharin has been tasked with hunting General Fungabera. It is an assignment of great importance, and he recognizes the value of it, and volunteers to deal with it personally instead of delegating it to someone else. Posing as a timber merchant, he convinces Peter to meet him for an illegal hunt in order to lure Fungabera into a false sense of security. The ruse works, and Peter sees Nikolai as a kindred spirit of sorts, even coming to admire him to some degree. He shows much of his true color on the hunting expedition, and later reveals his real intentions regarding his country and his ambitions. He quite freely tells Nikolai that he wants much more. He plans to enslave the land to the south of Zimbabwe, emancipating its people, and to finance this endeavor, he requires the Russian's aid. Of course, he has access to two million in diamonds, he tells him. The key to his entire plan rests with breaking Tungata. Tungata alone knows the whereabouts of the final resting place of Lobengula. Lobengula had been buried with all of the diamonds that had been smuggled out of the mines in Kimberly, and with persuasion, Peter is convinced that Tungata will share that location with him, enabling him to further advance his goals to dominate Africa. Tungata is strong however, and doesn't believe that Peter has Sarah as he claims. He had sent Sarah hand signals in court telling her to hide herself as her life was in danger, and he believes that she has. This belief keeps him from giving in.



## Section 10, Pages 230 - 254

### Section 10, Pages 230 - 254 Summary

Peter Fungabera brings in a Gila woodrat in a cage and tells Tungata that if he doesn't tell him where Lobengula's tomb is, he will get the adder to bite him - a death sentence. They attach a fencing style helmet to his head, and join it with the snake's cage. They use hot coals to chase the snake up the connecting tube. It coils around Tungata's face, and when the snake doesn't bite him, Peter antagonizes it with heat. Tungata finally gives in to his fear and screams and loses consciousness. The doctor gives Tungata a shot of adrenaline, and antibiotics for the two snakebites as Tungata regains consciousness. They confess that the snakes' poison sacs had been removed - this time. They send him back to his cage, and continue his regiment of little water, interspersed with days at the execution wall in the sun. Then one morning he gets a gallon of water, and is taken out to the parade ground. Peter sits at a table eating. He passes before seeing Sarah on the ground, naked, and chained to the execution wall. He caves and asks that Sarah be given her clothes and her freedom. When she is free, he'll lead Peter to the tomb. He gives her a password, and tells her to find their friends and three days later, she calls and gives him the password back, and tells him she has found their friends. Tungata begins the journey to Lobengula's tomb. After some difficulty relating to changes in the road, he finds it and spends two days digging the entrance free of the rocks that seal it. Inside, they find Lobengula's medicine man, but not the king. The diamonds are also gone, and Peter vows vengeance on Tungata.

Morgan Oxford, Craig's embassy contact, comes to see them in the hospital in Botswana. He berates them for their behavior, telling them that Mugabe is seeking their extradition for crimes committed, and will arrest them on sight. Sally-Anne is angry, but Craig listens quietly as Morgan tells him that Henry Pickering works for the agency, and whether they were duped or not, Craig's surety has been repudiated by the Land Bank of Zimbabwe. They have officially been declared enemies of the people, and Henry Pickering is looking for repayment of capital and interest, has frozen all assets and bank accounts, and put a hold on all future royalties with his publishers.

Craig asks only that Morgan deliver the last installment of his novel to his publishers, and Morgan agrees. Craig and Sally-Anne go to the hotel the next day after her release from hospital, and find Sarah there. Having heard how the Botswana police found them, she goes to tell them the truth. Tungata's innocence is already common knowledge, but they didn't know that Tungata actually tried to protect Craig and keep him out of harms' way, unsuccessfully. It is why Craig's land request had been refused, and Tungata had been so short with him, citing that to be his friend he now had to become his enemy. Sarah tells Craig that Tungata is still alive, and Craig decides to attempt his rescue, enlisting Sarah's aid to get AK 47's and grenades, and Sally-Anne's aid to fly them in.





## Section 10, Pages 230 - 254 Analysis

Peter is becoming increasingly desperate to get Tungata's cooperation, but Tungata holds fast. Each man has his reasons for their unrelenting behavior. Peter knows if he does not convince Tungata soon, everything he has done will have been for nothing. The Russians will pull their support, and without them Peter's plans for the future are limited at best. Tungata feels the fate of the Matabele people rests with him. He cannot give in. If he does, his people will also quit, and then they are truly lost. He feels that the only hope his people have is wrapped up in his ability to remain stoic no matter what. Peter's methods become ever more persuasive, and Tungata is so immune to it all that the only thing he now fears is the unknown. Only one thing breaks Tungata and Peter finally finds her. When Tungata sees Sarah tied to the execution wall naked, he loses all will to fight. All he can think about is his love for her and securing her freedom. He makes a deal.

Craig and Sally-Anne have made it to safety, but their lives are all they have left. They discover that Henry Pickering is in the agency, and worse still that he doesn't believe the last reports they sent. Steadfast he believes that it is the Matabele who are in bed with the Russians and that they must do everything they can to keep Soviet influence out of Africa. Therefore, they support Peter Fungabera who on the surface claims to hate the Soviets. Henry Pickering doesn't believe that Peter has anything to do with the Soviets and because Captain Nbebi is dead, he has no way to back up his claims. Peter has managed to create the illusion that the Matabele are behind all of the troubles in Africa, and Pickering and the agency are completely duped.

Craig doesn't care about the loss of the money. His only concern is that he and Sally-Anne survived. He gives her a chance to change her mind about marrying him, but she won't. She loves him, not his money. He tells her that none of it matters, and in fact now that the money is gone, he feels a sense of freedom from the great responsibility of managing it all. His only regret is the knowledge that Sally-Anne and he could have made something special out of Zambezi Waters and King's Lynn. When they get to the hotel, after Sally-Anne is released, they find Sarah and Craig is deeply relieved to discover that Tungata still lives. He is so taken back by the news that Tungata had been trying to help him all along that he makes the decision to attempt his rescue - his friendship with his old friend reinforced by their conversation with Sarah.



## Section 11, Pages 254 - 277

### Section 11, Pages 254 - 277 Summary

Craig and Sarah wait thirty kilometers east of Botswana for Sally-Anne to come in the Cessna. When she arrives, they strip the plane of all non-essential items to lighten it as much as possible, even removing the rear seats. Then they load it with the gear that Craig has spent the last few days preparing and repacking into lighter cartons. There are forty eight hand grenades, five Tokarev pistols, twenty five good rifles and eight thousand rounds of ammunition, and Sally weighs it all as it goes aboard. When the plane can hold no more, she stops Craig and they sit with Sarah and two Matabele named Jonas and Aaron who helped them to uncover the cache of weapons and eat the food that Sally-Anne brought in. Then they sleep until dawn, and Sally-Anne, Craig and Sarah fly to the remote landing site near Zambezi Waters where the poaching evidence was found much earlier. The bones are still visible. They unload hastily and Sally-Anne leaves alone after arranging when and if she will pick them up. Now Craig builds the smoke fire to summon Comrade Lookout and his friends. When they show up, they are nervous and expecting money from Craig, but instead he tells them he has dangerous work for them. Comrade Lookout and his three companions take Craig and Sarah to one of their temporary shelters. They move every few days to avoid capture. When they have eaten, Craig explains his need for help, and though they are doubtful at first, they know Sarah to be a loyal supporter and if she says Tungata is alive, they believe her, and are ready to help. The weapons Craig brought with him help their cause immensely.

Sally-Anne returns with the remaining ammunition and weapons, and the guerrillas help to unload and hide it quickly. They have trouble concealing their happiness when they see the tools of their trade. Sally-Anne is afraid, and Craig assures her that he will be there for the next meeting as well. She calms down on the outside, but is just as frightened as she flies away again, knowing it might be the last time she sees him.

They hike, heavily laden with weaponry headed for Sarah's father's village, which is some miles north of the Tami Mission Station where Tungata is being held. It is almost sixty miles on the map but the terrain is a switchback of hills and valleys. Finally they reach Vusamanzi's village, and Vusamanzi is eager to assist them once he knows their objective. They rest and are fed, and then set up an ambush for the supply truck as it heads on its regular trip to the mission. Using three of Sarah's half sisters from the village, they entice the soldiers in the two-truck convoy to stop and while they distract them by their nakedness, Craig and the guerrillas kill them. It takes little time to dispatch them all, switch clothing and wash away all traces of blood.

The one soldier who speaks Shona gets on the radio and tells the Mission Station that they have truck trouble but will be there before the night is over. They wait until dark and then in place of the Shona soldiers they drive to the mission. They all have their assignments - some going to get Tungata, some taking out guards and some responsible for silencing the radio. It is a brutal skirmish that begins when Craig realizes



he has miscalculated, and the generator is already running. All lights are on as they pull up, and their ruse is quickly discovered. The soldiers fire on the guerrillas and the guerrillas fire back while Sarah and two men go to get Tungata and free the other prisoners. They are unable to prevent the radio operator from transmitting their distress, and when Craig destroys the radio it is just after confirmation is received. The radioman is unarmed and Craig hesitates, but behind him shots ring out and he turns to see his friend Tungata - gaunt but alive.

## Section 11, Pages 254 - 277 Analysis

Though Sally-Anne agrees to fly the plane in and out, and help as much as she can, she's scared. She's afraid that they will either be caught, or Craig will be killed in the process, even though she knows that they are doing the right thing. She drops Craig off the first time near Zambezi Waters so that he can find Comrade Lookout and his friends. They will need his help if they are going to manage to secure Tungata's release. Comrade Lookout and his group were convinced, along with many others, that Tungata had already been killed, and is at first reluctant to believe the things that Craig is telling him, but when Sarah confirms his story, and in fact reveals that she is the one who had seen Tungata only a short time ago, they know it is a fact. Sarah has been a loyal supporter of their cause for some time, and has family with them. They surrender all doubt and Craig lays out his plan.

By taking the uniforms and driving the trucks of the resupply convoy, they believe their chances of success are much greater, but Craig doesn't count on the generator running and lighting up their arrival. Though the driver of the first vehicle speaks Shona, he does not reply in the manner expected and their ruse is discovered almost instantly. Craig believed their best hope of success involved getting to the radio before transmission for help could be made, but they aren't able to accomplish that. All Craig can think of is how important it is that they succeed and that he manages to affect Tungata's release. His friend had not given up on him, and had not been responsible for any of the crimes he had been set up for. It is a wrong that he has to make right, even if it costs him his life to do it. When the prisoners hear the gunfire in the compound, they begin singing the Matabele's warrior song, emboldened by the help they know is there. Craig is hit before he can get to the radio room, but the shot hits his artificial leg, and luckily it misses the joint entirely. When Craig manages to destroy the radio, the operator who is unarmed cowers in the corner of the room. Despite the fact that he had been fired upon, and was almost killed, he is unable to pull the trigger on the radio operator. A sense of moral right and wrong is still too strong in him to kill an unarmed man. Tungata arrives behind him and shoots the man dead. Tungata has no reservations what so ever. Craig is so relieved to see his friend Samson, and calling him Sam instead of Tungata, he tells him how good it is to see him. Tungata is gaunt, and scarred, but his eyes are fierce and strong as ever.



## Section 12, Pages 277 - 299

### Section 12, Pages 277 - 299 Summary

Both vehicles driven in by the guerrillas were disabled, but by pulling the rear wheels off the first and putting them on the second, they could create a running vehicle. The problem is then reduced to lack of fuel. With thirty miles to the airstrip, Craig knew they would have to move fast to stay ahead of the incoming troops. Tungata knows by looking at Craig that he feels each and every life lost, and though their side lost fourteen men, Comrade Lookout considered it to be an acceptable loss for the rescue of Tungata. Between the two tanks, they only had about fifteen liters of fuel but at the last moment Craig remembers the generator. Sure enough, when he goes to check on it, he finds it full. It takes very little time to siphon and be on their way. They drive quickly and when they are within ten miles, the engine sounds different. At first he is afraid the car is going to quit, but then realizes it is the Cessna he hears. He waves, and racing through the village Sarah hangs out the window and shouts at the villagers to take cover as soldiers are coming. Another aircraft flashes past them and Tungata sees Fungabera in the open hatch. They come down to drop altitude, and in no time the air is alive with troopers. Tungata fires at the landing troopers, hitting one of the first three to land. They run for the Cessna, Tungata so weak he barely makes it to the steps.

With soldiers firing at the Cessna, Sally-Anne takes off again, keeping a large Marula tree between them and the trooper's line of sight. While the other aircraft is landing, Sally-Anne is having difficulty getting the landing gear up and with it down, it is unlikely they will be able to outrun the helicopter they know is waiting at Victoria Falls. Suddenly, everything is quiet, and Sally-Anne realizes it is all immaterial, as the engine has completely cut out. She immediately begins looking for a place to put the Cessna down, hoping to shear the wings off in the trees first. She manages to land the plane with enough grace that all survive, but smelling gas, she hurries them out. They wait, but nothing else happens so they ransack the Cessna and Sarah suggests they make their way back to her father's village.

When they arrive, Vusamanzi greets him with great reverence. He tells them he will hide them until the soldiers have stopped looking for them. When they reach the cliff, Vusamanzi just continues heading in to the hillside itself. They rest inside, and soon after two of Sarah's half sisters arrive with food and supplies. Vusamanzi tells Tungata that their meeting was preordained by the gods, and relates the story of Lobengula's tomb, explaining in the process how his father had moved the king when Sir Ralph Ballantyne showed too much interest in the area of his original tomb. Along with his remains, they also took the five beer pots full of diamonds, explaining why when Tungata took Fungabera there, the diamonds were gone. Tungata is amused by the story, as is Craig and are even more entertained to discover that the remains of the king are deeper inside the very mountain they are hiding in. He promises to take them there in the morning, including the women after a small bit of coaxing.



When he threads them through the caverns in the morning, they arrive at a subterranean lake that Vusamanzi explains filled slowly over the years after Lobengula's body was brought in. Now, his final resting place was forty feet beneath the surface. Craig makes an attempt to find the tomb, and manages to locate the entrance, but like his first tomb, it has been sealed by masonry, closely packed together. All Craig manages to surface with is the chain from Lobengula's wagon, buried with him.

## Section 12, Pages 277 - 299 Analysis

Craig is relieved to see Sam, despite how disturbed he is by Sam's physical appearance. He notices that Sam still has the same fire in his eyes, and can't imagine what he must have gone through of late. Sam kills the radio operator when Craig hesitates, and knows that Craig does not have the stomach for killing. In fact, throughout the entire takeover of the compound, Craig has killed no one. He openly admits that he is happy to leave that to those more qualified. Now he concentrates his efforts on getting Sam out of there before the reinforcements arrive. From the two damaged Jeeps he is able to make one that will run, but the problem is a lack of fuel - at least until he remembers the generator. They leave as soon as possible, and Craig begins to hope that they'll make it out alive. He has to save Sam to make up for helping the government led by Fungabera railroad his conviction, despite honestly believing Sam was guilty at the time. That is perhaps the worst part of all. Craig now knows that Sam had nothing to do with any of it, and in fact is still the same man he worked with as a young man and respected as his friend. He can't reconcile the fact that someone else could convince him of Sam's guilt when deep down he should have known better. He should have trusted Sam. Fungabera had managed to convince him that Sam was not the same person he used to know. He's disappointed in himself for believing it.

They make the rendezvous with Sally-Anne, and relieved that they all survived, she happily gets the plane off the ground again, but the Cessna sustains damage from ground fire as they are leaving. They fly a very short range before the engines cut out and they are forced to crash land. Again, Sally-Anne shows remarkable skill as a pilot, managing to sheer the wings before bringing them in for a landing that everyone walks away from. They are close enough to Sarah's father's village that they decide to walk back. Vusamanzi recognizes Tungata immediately, and pledges his allegiance and any help he can offer. Knowing soldiers are close, he leads them to a series of caverns that are safe. There is an inner cave where a fire can be built without detection, and he tells them that as long as they stay indoors, they will be safe. He stays with them long enough to reveal that he is fulfilling his destiny as told to him many years ago. Like most Matabele prophecies, this one is a bit confusing until it comes about, and then all of it is remarkably clear. Knowing that Tungata is the chosen one, he confesses that he knows the location of Lobengula's tomb. It is in the very caverns they now hide in, and he promises to take them there the following morning. When he does, it is a long ways in, and he knows the route with ease though Craig is nervous enough to blaze the way in and back out again. They discover that the final resting place of Lobengula is behind a forty-foot deep subterranean lake and sealed behind a wall of masonry. Without diving gear it is inaccessible.



## Section 13, Pages 299 - 327

### Section 13, Pages 299 - 327 Summary

They climb back out of the passages, until they reach the initial cavern where Vusamanzi impresses on them the importance of remaining inside. He himself must return to his village before the searching soldiers become aware of him not being there, but promises that every two nights or so, the women will come to replenish their supplies. Again, reminding them of the importance of staying inside, he leaves. At first, it is entertaining, but for four such active people, the confinement without distraction soon wears thin. The topic of conversation often returns to the problem of uncovering the tomb, but there are no answers without diving equipment. Sarah begins teaching Sally-Anne Sindebele, and she is soon able to have rudimentary conversations in the language.

After days of confinement, Craig remembers that there is oxygen tanks and high altitude equipment on the plane, so he and Tungata make the trip during the night, avoiding encounters and trying to cover their tracks. Despite that Fungabera and his troop come across their spoor and go to Vusamanzi's village. They torture him to death, but he doesn't talk and tells his women that if they do he will haunt them from the grave. Colonel Bukharin doesn't believe Peter will get anything out of the villagers, but when he threatens to burn one young mother's baby alive, she agrees to show them the way. Meanwhile, Craig has been diving regularly, removing the stones that block the entrance to Lobengula's tomb. Finally, he has a hole that he can barely fit through and follows another inside passage to a shelf out of water. He rests, but then is pulled back by the others to find that the Shona have come and is at the entrance to the cave. Tungata holds them off with gunfire while one at a time Craig pulls the women down into the cave. The first to go is Sally-Anne, while Sarah is told to pack whatever she can of their supplies. He takes her next though she is terrified, and she almost drowns in the process, but Sally-Anne helps to revive her. When Craig goes back for Tungata he is exhausted, and almost doesn't make it. Tungata helps him get to the surface for the last time and Sally-Anne brings him back to consciousness.

### Section 13, Pages 299 - 327 Analysis

Vusamanzi can't impress the importance of staying inside the cavern enough. He promises that someone will come to bring them food, supplies and news every couple of days when it is safe, and he lives up to his word. Slowly, the group is going stir crazy. With nothing to do but talk, they learn a lot about each other. Craig learns that Sam has not changed, and is in fact even more passionate about the country they both love; Sam learns that Craig is still his friend despite the events that led to his arrest and incarceration; Sally-Anne learns she has a gift for languages - learning conversational Sindebele well enough that she can converse slowly but relatively competently; and Sarah learns to trust these people who are not African by descent.



They are confined for some time before Craig remembers the oxygen tanks on the Cessna for high altitude flying. He asks Sally-Anne about them and she assures him that all of the gear would have been in working order. He is so excited about having something to do other than just sit around that he convinces Sam to leave under cover of night. They don't want to worry Vusamanzi so they bypass his village and make their way to the plane. Craig salvages all the gear necessary and divides it between two makeshift packs and they head back.

This trip is a critical mistake. Peter Fungabera is desperate to find Sam and will not give up easy. When he stumbles across the spoor of their tracks, it is not difficult to backtrack to the plane and also see how many left originally. It is also easy to assume that they are being helped by one of the local villages, and since Vusamanzi's village is the closest, they are the next targets of Peter's wrath. Though tortured, Vusamanzi reveals nothing, even threatening his women with visits from the afterlife if they reveal anything, but they are not as strong.

When Peter takes a newborn from one young girl and begins to roast him over the fire alive, she caves quickly and agrees to show them the cavern. She tries to redeem herself when she gets closer by calling out a warning for which her neck is broken. It is just enough. Inside the cavern Sarah hears her and runs to get Sam. He goes back to hold them off while Sam is pulled out of the subterranean lake where he has just broken through. To save their lives, he must take them one at a time down with him into the small opening he has created in the rocks below. Sally-Anne, trusting him completely, goes first. He leaves her on a ledge below, breathing the air that exists on the other side of the opening. Next he takes Sarah, who panics and almost drowns.

Craig is persistent enough to drag her down even when she fights him, and they revive her on the ledge below. Sam is hardly able to keep his own head now. He is light headed and dizzy when he goes back to get Sam. Sam is unable to swim and refuses to go, but Craig convinces him and he even ends up helping Craig make it to the surface inside the tomb's cavern.



## Section 14, Pages 328 - 367

### Section 14, Pages 328 - 367 Summary

They can't stay on the ledge they are perched on, so one at a time they go up the old rope ladder that is their only choice. When Tungata goes up, a rung breaks and when Craig tries, the whole thing begins to collapse so they lower a rope and help him to get the rest of the way up. Exhausted, wet and cold, they keep going, leaving their gear behind for now. After fifty feet, the tunnel they are in opens up to reveal the crystal cathedral that is Lobengula's tomb. Its beauty takes their breath away. Lobengula sits on a platform, with the beer pots of diamonds around him. Tungata prays quietly and then asks Lobengula's permission to desecrate his final resting place. The clay pot he picks up falls apart and the stone tumble out in front of them. Having written a book about these diamonds, Craig is somewhat of an expert, and he regales them with stories to keep them from thinking about their plight. There are all sizes, some large enough to fetch up to a million dollars in his estimation.

Peter and the Shona become impatient. Inside, the ground trembles when the entrance is dynamited shut. Craig makes one dive, going just far enough to discover the truth. They are entombed. The lanterns are dimming so splitting up, they search the passages, but all are dead ends. Craig realizes that the bats are still getting out. He uses his rock climbing skills and with great difficulty, he finds the only exit but can't get to it. Sally-Anne climbs up and stands on his stomach as he braces himself in the chimney. She makes it to a ledge and helps Craig to get there with her by tying off their rope on top. They pull Sarah and Tungata up as well. Craig and Tungata tell the women to stay put while they look around. It doesn't take long for them to find the first machine gun post. Approaching from behind, they overwhelm the four soldiers, killing two in the process. They don their uniforms, tying the two remaining guards and leaving them gagged in their exit. Arming themselves, they notice the headquarters encampment below with a helicopter at the ready. They manage to overtake headquarters and, forcing Peter and Nikolai into the helicopter, they head for the border.

Craig opens Nikolai's briefcase and finds a documented blueprint for a revolution that even includes the press releases for the day of the coup. When Tungata reads the part that includes his reformation by way of Russian clinic so that he can lead the Matabele into slavery, he almost throws Fungabera off the helicopter, but Craig has better ideas. They call ahead, and arrange to have Morgan Oxford meet them, giving him all of the documents. It takes many weeks to sort everything out, but the outcome is poetic. Tungata uses the largest diamond to pay off all debts owing on King's Lynn, Queen's Lynn and Zambezi Waters, and returns them to Craig and Sally-Anne adding his hopes that they'll return. They agree happily as Tungata tells them all charges have been dropped and they are free. Craig's new book is an instant best seller, and there is much to celebrate.





## Section 14, Pages 328 - 367 Analysis

Craig is determined to affect Sam's rescue even if he loses his own life in the process. He pushes all physical and mental boundaries as he continues forward. When they find Lobengula's new tomb, they are all amazed by the beauty of the place. Stalactites and stalagmites are everywhere, and are forming even as they stand in awe. Tungata approaches Lobengula, reverting to the name Samson Kumalo and claiming his lineage and tribal heritage. With superstitious nervousness, he introduces himself and asks Lobengula's permission to desecrate his final resting place. When he picks up one of the beer pots that surround the king, it cracks and the diamonds spill out into a pile on the ground. They whisper to each other, awestruck, and retreat from Lobengula to the end of the cavern where they examine the many diamonds in their raw form, even naming one of the largest ones as Lobengula's Fire. Despite the millions of dollars worth of diamonds in front of them, they would all trade them without hesitation for fresh air and freedom. They have little food, and have no idea how long they will have to wait before Peter and his soldiers finally tire of guarding the entrance. To avoid panic, Craig tells them stories until he can hardly talk, telling them about famous diamonds and their histories. When the ground shudders underneath them, Samson immediately realizes that the Shona have dynamited the entrance. Craig is skeptical, and dives one more time to find that Samson is correct and they are entombed.

With logical reasoning, Craig knows they must find a way out before the lanterns die. They split up and search, but all tunnels are dead ends. Still Craig won't give up. He remembers the bats, and knows that if they can get out, perhaps there is a way. Looking up, there is a chimney, but the lanterns aren't strong enough to reveal an exit. Using his rock climbing experience, Craig climbs the chimney and uses his artificial leg to brace himself wherever he can. He almost gives up, but somehow Sally-Anne senses his distress, and encourages him from below. When Craig has gone as far as he can, and still can't reach the ledge above, he convinces Sally-Anne to climb up the chimney with him. She trusts him enough to climb up, and when she loses her footing part way up and becomes hysterical, Craig yells out to her and manages to get her moving again. All through the ordeal, Craig maintains an aura of calm and assertiveness that gives the group confidence and fends off despair. When they all get up to the ledge, Samson's training takes over. Craig is happy to take a back seat now as Samson leads them out, telling the women to stay behind until they have secured the area. When they see the machine gun nest of Shona soldiers, Craig is reluctant to engage them, but Samson is confident and takes the lead. He instructs Craig to engage and without hesitation Craig rolls into the edge of the nest and hits one of the guards in the temple, but inexperience makes him hit a bit too hard. He feels the bone break. The girls are shocked and silent when Samson and Craig return and get them to don the uniforms of the soldiers. Each of them seems to have exactly the qualities necessary as they go along. Without Craig's experience and determination, they may not have managed to get out of the cavern. Without Samson's experience, they might not have been able to overcome the soldiers and without Sally-Anne's flight knowledge they would not have managed their escape in the helicopter. Lastly is Sarah, without whom they would not have known her father, discovered the location of Lobengula's tomb or had a cavern to hide out in. Each family



had roots that interacted for generations before them, and their meeting is no accident. It is prophesied that they find each other and that the diamonds are used for the betterment of the Matabele people. All of the prophecy comes to pass.

When they escape in the helicopter with Peter and Nicolai held hostage, Nicolai attempts to throw his briefcase out the open door. It contains the documented proof that their two governments were in a conspiracy to execute a revolution. The blueprint includes plans to brainwash Samson in Russia until he agrees to lead his people into slavery. In blind rage, Samson almost throws Peter out of the open hatch, but Craig is the voice of reason. Instead, they radio ahead and have the cultural attaché Morgan Oxford ready to meet them. It takes weeks to iron out the details, but Samson repays Craig for his bravery and loyalty. In the end, all debts Craig has are paid in full with his share of the sale of Lobengula's Fire, and his properties including Zambezi Waters are returned to him. Samson, who once believed that to save his friend he had to alienate him, now realizes that for Africa to move forward, men like Craig are vital.



# Characters

## Craig Mellow (Kuphela)

Craig's hair is dark and thick and he moves with grace. There is little or no trace of the limp that identifies his disability. Craig works hard to hide the fact that he lost a leg in a minefield that was laid by the security forces of the white Rhodesian government along the Zambezi River many years previously and now too expensive for the current government to remove. Considered by many to be the most important writer to have come out of Africa and held in high regard by public standards, Craig is a perfectionist who still second-guesses his success and his ability to translate into words the country he loves. After groups of people over time attempted to ride on the coattails of his good fortune in the publishing industry, Craig has an undertone of defensiveness, and caution when dealing with new people though he struggles to suppress it and keep it from bubbling to the surface.

Having once worked as a ranger in the game department, he has empathy for the fate of the giant pachyderms that are native to that country. He speaks Sindebele, one of the two major languages of Zimbabwe, and has a great many friends including some placed highly in the current government. Despite the changes, he still thinks of the area by its former name, Rhodesia, named after Cecil Rhodes who was largely responsible for bringing civilization into what was originally untouched wilderness. Terrified of failure, Craig is hesitant to try his hand at writing again.

He lives aboard a five year old yacht called the Bawu that he had lovingly restored one screw at a time. Named for his grandfather, whom he loved and greatly respected, Craig still found great pleasure in just the look of her lines as she sat at the marina. He sells Bawu though to return to the land he loves, and once he is in Africa again, he manages to regain control of the family homestead known as Rholands Ranching Company. Though disappointed by the condition the property he knew to be grand, he puts all of his energy and resources into rebuilding the company to its former glory, purchasing prime cattle to graze and restoring the homes to their former beauty. Comprised of three properties, Rholands Ranching Company is huge and Craig employs many native Matabele just as his grandfather before him had who look up to and respect him. He is an honorable man who is loyal to his friends and true to the ones he loves.

## Sally-Anne Jay

An extremely talented photographer, Sally-Anne has gold tanned skin and fine boned features set off by dark thick eyebrows that stretch over green eyes that are flecked with the color of honey. Her eyelashes are long and compliment her eyes, especially when she is excited or passionate. Her look is direct and candid and her hands are delicate and artistic, with nails that are closely clipped and without paint. Despite her aristocratic appearance, her calloused hands belie the fact that she is used to hard work. Her face



sports a nose that is slightly larger than it needs to be, and her mouth a little wider than necessary to be considered beautiful, but still took nothing from the grace of her character. She has dark, thick hair that she wears scraped back from a forehead that is broad and as honey colored as the rest of her face. Her cheeks have a sprinkle of freckles, and her voice is clear and level when she speaks. Her legs are long and shapely, and her attitude sensitive.

Her accent is mid-Atlantic, and her timbre is the only thing that gives away her youth of age. Born in Denver, Colorado, her father worked with the Embassy in London for years and as a result she had completed most of her schooling in England. At the age of eighteen, she had gone to Africa, and fell in love with the continent and its raw beauty, which accounted in part for the depth and understanding that showed through in her photographs.

Sally-Anne is an excellent pilot who has a Cessna 210 on permanent loan to her from the World Wildlife Federation. She is also a capable helicopter pilot and able to overcome her own fear if necessary. She works photographically documenting the endangered species of the country. She is fiercely loyal and has a soft heart that she gives to Craig in entirety. A defender of all that is good and just, Sally-Anne is the perfect companion for Craig and he for her.

## **Comrade Minister Tungata Zebiwe**

Formerly Comrade Commissar, and now Comrade Minister, he is a commanding figure of a man who has the well-earned respect of the former guerrillas still under his influence. He is a handsome man, standing straight and strong, and used to commanding respect of those under him. His mahogany colored face is dark and his teeth are white and straight. His hair is kinky and close-cropped in a typical African style, and covers a skull obviously finely sculpted. He wears expensive suits that emphasize his position of power, and his shoes are hand made from soft calfskin.

Tungata had come a long way from his early days. A direct descendant from royal Matabele blood lines, he was once known as Samson Kumalo, great grandson of Bazo the Axe who had led the Matabele rebellion in 1896, and great great grandson to Gandang who was half brother to the last king of the Matabele, Lobengula. His royal blood shows in his stature and bearing, and he commands respect. At well over 6 feet tall, his physique is lean and strong, and his stomach still flat. He has wide shoulders and eyes the color of burnt honey.

He lives for the betterment of his people, funneling all he can back into the land that he loves. His aim is to bring Africa out of the dark ages and into the future with all the grandeur that the county deserves. His love for his people is as strong as his leadership of them. His aim is to unite the people and help them to work together to bring them out of the dark ages that threaten to overwhelm the land he loves.



## General Peter Fungabera

As the Minister of Internal Security, the General has a difficult job, but his command of English is impressive and though he gives the impression that he is a hard man, he is also a good one. His words are carefully chosen, and his accent is strong. General Fungabera is quick witted, and has a sense of humor. His eyes are penetrating, and he is well informed. With a brother in law who is the Minister for Agriculture, he has influence in many areas. He has an irresistible smile and understands the country and it's politics. He is African through and through, preferring his women the same. He finds European women to be lacking in manners with their directness, and their overall appearance too pale and unattractive. He prefers his women to have traditional manners, and old-fashioned values. Peter is from the Mashona tribe.

Peter Fungabera helps to run a rehabilitation center for youth who were once part of the civil war, and were made promises that could never be kept. Taught to shoot, kill and commit atrocities, these young men and women now lived in a modern version of a traditional bush camp. He speaks honestly and forwardly about the Tuti Rehabilitation Center but it is all a front. His men are retrained to commit atrocities for him instead. Any that dare to question him are fed to the Hyenas. Once the leader of a large contingent of loyal bush fighters, he now holds the title of Minister of State of a sovereign government. He also considers himself to be the most successful ivory poacher of all time. His level of intelligence is high, and his understanding of the African people and command over them helped him to gain the position he holds, and now uses to his very best financial advantage - still disregarding the laws unless they suit him.

## Shadrach

Shadrach is a tall and elder man who is directly descended from King Lobengula. He dresses in typical African style loincloth, covered with an oily blanket and carries his fighting sticks over his shoulder. He wears old car tires on his feet as sandals, and uses plastic stoppers from acid jars that are covered with beads to expand his earlobes to three times their normal size. His smile reveals a gap in his yellowed teeth, and he is a shrewd negotiator. He knows cattle, having been responsible for them since he was knee high, and is respected by the men under him. He has a remarkable memory, common to those who are illiterate in Africa.

Craig gives Shadrach back his manhood when he puts him in charge of hiring for King's Lynn, and makes him responsible for the cattle. It is their opinion that raising goats is women's work and demeaning, so Craig assured their loyalty when he bought all of their goats and replaced them with prizewinning cattle instead. Shadrach returns that loyalty when General Fungabera double crosses Craig and comes with his armed brigade to oust Craig from his property.



## Joseph

Former cook for Bawu, Joseph is a Ballantyne family institution. He is a confident and considers himself to be the one and only cook on King's Lynn. He has been around the family since Craig was young, and feels secure in lecturing him as to the condition of his clothes and linens, but his criticisms are born of love and respect. He has a sense of style that Craig admires, and is equally adept at either laying a formal banquet for fifty, or cooking a meal over a bush fire.

## Captain Timon Nbebi

Timon is a man of principle who is raised as a Mashona by his father, but who's mother was a full blooded Matabele. Though she died when he was young, Timon honored her memory. He works for General Fungabera, but is secretly ashamed of the increasingly violent and deceptive manner in which his leader operates. As such, he rescues Craig and Sally-Anne from a death sentence and gives his life for their freedom. Timon speaks Shona fluently.

## Henry Pickering

Henry is the senior vice president of the World Bank, and wields a great deal of power and money as a result. Dressed as a typical banker, he wears dark, banker style suits over a tall and thin body. He is balding prematurely, and blue eyes that twinkle when he talks. His behavior is refined and gracious, and he is soft spoken. He is receptive to the moods of those around him and responds accordingly. He has style and a good memory for details.

His business consists mostly of loans to underdeveloped countries and he believes in Craig's ability to accurately write and depict the life in Africa. He has a good business mind, and is able to put together opportunities when he sees them. His handshake is cool and full of power, exuding the confidence he feels. He recognizes that every man has his price, and knows how to go about finding out what it is.

## Colonel Nikolai Bukharin

Nikolai is sixty-two years old but his age has not slowed him down. He is the head of the department of the seventh commissariat in Russia, and his job is to hunt men. It is a job he is very good at. As a child, he lived in the high Urals in a remote village where he learned his passion for the hunt during wolf hunts with his father. He is tall, slim and his head is clean-shaven. His eyes are blue, and cold enough to inspire discomfort if not fear. His senses are still sharp, and he enjoys pitting his wits against dangerous prey. He has an almost computer like memory for faces and facts, and speaks Finnish fluently. He enjoys solitude, and being in wild and untamed places. All of these things



are an asset as he poses as a timber merchant from Helsinki in an effort to bring down General Peter Fungabera - his current assignment.

## Vusamanzi

Father to Sarah, Vusamanzi is a senior Matabele tribe member who is a magician, rainmaker and soothsayer of the tribe. He lives isolated, with only his immediate family and wives around him. Most ordinary people avoided him as he was a practitioner of the dark arts, but if treatment were required, or divination, they would pay him by goat or other beast of request, and leave gratefully afterward. He lives with his many wives some fifteen miles from the Tuti Mission Station, and earned his name which translates into "Raise the Waters" by his supposed ability to control the Zambezi and its many tributaries. His hair and beard are pure white - the beard shaped into the traditional spade shape of the Zulus. He is a handsome and dignified man though he wears only a loincloth. His voice is steady and deep and his behavior courteous. His body is lean and straight, and it is easy to see where Sarah gets her good looks.

## Morgan Oxford

Morgan is the cultural attache at the United States Embassy in Harare. In his early thirties, he wears his hair cropped short. He has a firm handshake and exerts a strength that is surprising. Built like an athlete, he is forward and confident. There is little that he doesn't see, and he is well informed. He is the go between for Craig and Henry Pickering, allowing Craig to send and receive reports via diplomatic pouch transfer. He is also the man that Craig calls when they escape in the helicopter with Fungabera and Bukharin as prisoners.



# Objects/Places

## Bawu

Yacht lovingly restored by Craig Mellow and named after his grandfather, Jonathan (Bawu) Ballantyne. Docked at the marina in New York's harbor, and Craig's residence when he is in that city.

## Rholands Ranching Company

Comprised of three spreads in Africa including King's Lynn, Queen's Lynn and Chizarira and all owned by the Ballantyne family until the war that put blacks in charge of Africa once more. Then it sold for a small fraction of the ten million it was worth collectively before the war.

## King's Lynn

Owned by Bawu, until his death, and then inherited by Douglas Ballantyne, King's Lynn and it's neighboring Queen's Lynn were the home to the finest Afrikander bulls and breeding cows.

## Queen's Lynn

Located adjacent to King's Lynn, Queen's Lynn was owned and operated by Douglas Ballantyne, son of Jonathan Ballantyne until the blacks took over Africa once more and the land, along with the other two parcels that made up Rholand's Ranching Company were sold for a quarter of a million dollars.

## Chizarira

Chizarira is a property of one hundred thousand acres that had been purchased by Bawu in the 1930's for sixpence an acre, and used as a hunting lodge. It's boundaries included the Chizarira Game Reserve on one side and Mzolo Forest Reserve on the other.

## Midden

An animal midden is a dunghill that certain animals will return to habitually to defecate.





## **Ballantyne Scouts**

One of the elite units of security forces that fought against the rebels. Led by Roland Ballantyne, and cousin to Craig Mellow, the scouts had fought to the death with the rebels on the day that Craig had lost his legs to a mine, attached to them as an armourer. The Scouts had been wiped out that day.

## **Indaba**

Tribal meeting where grievances are heard and judgments are made to settle them by elders of the tribe.

## **Tuti Rehabilitation Center**

Once one of the protected villages set up by the Smith government, the rehabilitation center is home for youth who were involved in the civil war, and hardened by both the actions of their involvement, and disappointment related to promises that their leaders made them but never came close to keeping.

## **Assegai**

Short-shafted stabbing weapon that has a handle of hardwood, and is bound with copper wire. The blade is just under two feet long and four inches in breadth, and is sharp enough to shave the hairs from the back of a man's thumb.

## **Lobengula's Fire**

The largest raw diamond found in Lobengula's final resting place.

## **Third Brigade**

An elite unit of the state's regular army, trained and disciplined, and run by Comrade Minister Peter Fungabera who did his bidding regardless of legalities.

## **Leopard code**

Code given by Fungabera to his soldiers meaning terminate with extreme prejudice.

## **Fungabera's puppies**

Name given to the Hyena's that Fungabera uses to dispose of those who oppose him.

## **Buster**

Name given to the Rhodesian Lion dog that is a gift from Craig to Sally-Anne on her birthday. Peter Fungabera stomps it to death to prove that they mean nothing to him.

## **Mashona**

One of the two main tribes competing for dominance in Zimbabwe and sworn enemies to the Matabele king Lobengula and his predecessors.

## **Matabele**

Tribe that has ruled for generations most recently under king Lobengula.



# Themes

## Tribalism of Africa

The tragedy of the country, tribalism divides the continent. Whether it is Matabele against Mashona; Masai against Kikuyu; or Hutu against Watutsi, the story is the same. When the white settlers were driven out by bush wars, the ideals of fair play and any signs of integrity went with them. Where in the past the Mashona have always been considered to be the 'dogs and sons of dogs' of the Matabele, and used without second thought as their slaves and herd boys, the political winds of change brought about an upset in the balance of power. The Mashona took advantage of white troops of the Rhodesian government, and used them to help massacre the Matabele tribes people. When the white soldiers had done the lion's share of the work for them, the Mashona came out of hiding and claimed victory. Few Matabele leaders still existed that were not imprisoned, and the Matabele's numbers were so reduced that they could no longer defend against the ever-increasing numbers of the Mashona. The power shifted and the Mashona tribe now expected to have the same liberties as were enjoyed by the Matabele for so many years.

The same thing occurred further north where the Masai had always enjoyed advantage over the Kikuyu, who were unskilled as warriors and as such were forced to submit to the demands and lordship of the Masai over them. The larger tribe of the Watutsi, who because of their size considered anyone under six feet tall to be dwarf, lorded over the smaller Hutu, taking them as slaves until the time came when the Hutu, using political advantage, used their overwhelming numbers to subjugate the Watutsi.

In each case, the warlike attitude of the dominant tribe was overcome by the political astuteness of their slaves. Displacement is the end result in a process that repeated itself from one end of the continent to the other, breeding an air of contempt and bitterness in their former tormentors.

When the Englishmen had arrived to colonize the continent, a colonial system had been established. Using existing boundaries like rivers or mountain ranges, the land was divided with no thought to the tribes that existed there before them. South and North divided, tribes were split and lost their potency as a result.

## Wealth vs Freedom

In several instances throughout this story, the reader is taken on a journey of morality where money and freedom are intertwined. In the first instance, Craig is a best selling novelist with access to money but his only desire is return to the land he is so homesick for. At a moment's notice, he would happily give up the money or the fame for the opportunity to return to Africa and work the land again. When he is offered the chance to return and extended the financing to purchase Rholands Ranching Company, the



money and the terms mean little to him. All he can think about is how he is now in a position to create the perfect luxury wildlife sanctuary to share his vision of Africa with others. His freedom doesn't come from the money. It stems from his ability to reconnect with nature.

In the next instance, Craig loses everything to Peter but though his dreams are being taken from him, his only concern is the safety of Sally-Anne and their freedom. He would at that point happily trade his considerable wealth for the love of Sally-Anne and his continued life with her. Where they are and how much money they have is irrelevant. In the final instance, Craig, Samson, Sally-Anne and Sarah are confined in the cavern and have found Lobengula's considerable wealth, but either of them would happily have traded all of the wealth for their freedom and sunlight. Even as the diamonds were first discovered, Craig wanted no part of the wealth involved, insisting that the money should be used to further the Matabele people and better their lives.

## **Good vs Evil**

In typical tradition of good versus evil, Wilbur Smith uses his characters to represent the ongoing battle in life between what is right and what is wrong. On one side is a Cabinet Minister who wants to rule the country by any means he can. He assembles wealth and power by poaching and aligning himself with Russian government, attacking any opposition and removing them by either killing them or putting them in jail. In true evil spirit, the Shona Minister commits heinous crimes and frames the Matabele Minister, setting him up to be arrested. The Shona Minister assembles his own army, and uses underhanded means to support good on the surface but subvert it behind the scenes, conspiring to take control as soon as foundations are laid. He is not afraid to steal, poach and torture, arming his supporters and discrediting all others.

On the good side, the Matabele Minister fights for the good of the people and the land. His efforts are geared towards protection of endangered species, and the betterment of his countrymen. When he is at first arrested for poaching, the Shona Minister has done such a good job of framing him that even his friends believe he is guilty - though reluctantly. The Matabele Minister is of strong spirit, and is not easily broken. He warns the woman he loves to hide when he is convicted, knowing that his enemies will use her against him, and she does until she is told that a child from her Mission requires her help. Good to the core, she cannot ignore the call for aid, and when she arrives, she is taken by Shona soldiers and used to convince the Matabele Minister to reveal the location of the kings tomb. The Shona Minister is only interested in financing a revolution against the people.

Thankfully, as is usually the case when good and evil clash, good prevails. The Shona Minister is caught red handed with a Russian diplomat who carries blueprints for a revolution. Instead of enslaving his own people, as he once believed he would, and ruling the entire continent, he finds himself locked in Harare prison. He dies there after weeks of interrogation and is then mysteriously involved in a single car collision that takes his life. He is buried with full military honors to keep peace. The Matabele Minister

returns to his position, with a trust fund established by the diamonds found in the kings tomb. This fund of six million dollars is to aid in the rebuilding of the country and its people.



# Style

## Point of View

The Leopard Hunts in Darkness is told alternatively in the first person perspective and narrative. The first person perspective switches from one side to another representing good and evil as the story unfolds. Craig Mellow and Samson Kumalo battle the governmental forces of Peter Fungabera and Nikolai Bukharin who are intent on conquering Africa and enslaving its peoples. The plot is well thought out and told by Wilbur Smith in this continuing saga that involves the Ballantyne and Kumalo family histories and how they intertwine to affect the history of Africa and it's evolution.

The emotional connection for Africa felt by Craig and Samson are exemplified in their struggle to bring peace to the region and to highlight its natural resources while the opposing forces of Peter Fungabera and Nikolai Bukharin are intent on raping the land and using the people to increase their own personal wealth. Peter Fungabera uses his position as Minister to become the most prolific poacher of all time, and using the long standing dispute between the Shona and the Matabele, he sets Samson Kumalo up to take the fall. Nikolai Bukharin represents the Russian government as he supports the efforts of Peter Fungabera to destabilize the people of Africa with intention of eventually ruling the nation themselves. Samson accurately depicts their characters when he observes at the end that 'at the bottom of nearly every bully and tyrant lurks a coward'.

## Setting

Set briefly in New York, but primarily in Africa, The Leopard Hunts in Darkness by Wilbur Smith is a novel of compelling contrasts. In the city life of New York where the main character Craig Mellow begins, he feels the claustrophobic push of the crowds and smells the pollution of the masses. He sees the murk of the harbor and can't help but compare it to the clean and clear waters of his homeland of Africa. He misses it with such a force of sudden homesickness that he decides to return, and immediately feels better when he gets there. Totally at peace in the most untamed of wilds, Craig travels to the property once owned by his grandfather Bawu and makes up a third of the Rholands Ranching Company. Bounded by a game reserve on one side and a forest reserve on the other, Chizarira is the heartland of Africa. Unspoiled by cattle or people alike because of the tsetse fly, it is home to kudu, impala, leopards, sable antelopes, black and white rhinoceros, and crocodiles to name a few of the species, and is patrolled by the remnants of the disbanded Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA), now political rebels. Craig fears none of it. In fact, he is at home both with language and species.



## Language and Meaning

Wilbur Smith infuses his story with many references to African lifestyle that lend a realism and authenticity to his work. Blending tribal names for characters along with their regular names is just one way that he helps the reader 'see' the context of his writing. In *The Leopard Hunts In Darkness* the reader is introduced to the politics of tribal disputes and how people in positions of power can use their status to their own advantage. Two warring tribes in this novel, the Matabele and the Shona, have been archenemies for generations. Each feels superiority over the other.

In this story, two Cabinet Ministers appointed are representative of this hotbed issue. One Minister is from the Matabele tribe, and the other is from the Shona tribe. Each believes that their tribe should rule Africa but they have very different agendas. While the character that represents the Minister from the Matabele tribe is concerned primarily with the advancement of his people, the character representing the Shona Minister is more interested in personal wealth and position. To make matters more convoluted, the Shona Minister commits himself to becoming the most prolific poacher of all time and framing the Matabele Minister for his crimes. As the judge in the case also happens to be a Shona tribesman, the Matabele Minister has little hope of acquittal. The Shona Minister involves the Russian government who back him financially in a clandestine effort to enslave the population.

This novel also draws attention to the matter of poaching and the heartlessness usually involved. The authenticity continues as Wilbur Smith weaves his tale involving weapons like assegais when describing a hunt, and his description of king Lobengula's tomb and the possessions that surround him make it easy for the reader to envision the place and its inhabitants. The poverty of the simple people that follows war brought on by those in command draws a parallel to most countries that suffer from tribal instability and infighting.

## Structure

*The Leopard Hunts In Darkness* by Wilbur Smith is 367 pages of novel with no chapter or section breaks aside from divisions during the text that reflect changing scene or character plots. Despite the seeming lack of traditional structure, the novel is an easy read, and there is no confusion on the reader's part, or difficulty following the story line. This structure is typical of Wilbur Smith, and many of his previous novels follow this format as well. The story follows the return of Craig Mellow to his beloved African home after the war has restructured both the politics and the lifestyles of those he left behind. While he is a Ballantyne descendant, he has always had an affinity for Africa and considered it his homeland, so his return invokes a myriad of mixed emotions. He is overjoyed by the familiar sights, smells and sounds of home, but at the same time he is surprised and even disappointed by the state he finds his family's land in. The once grand and profitable expanse that comprised his family's holdings - The Rholand Ranching Company - once the largest and most respected Afrikaner Stud Ranch in

Africa, is now in a state of empty disrepair and squatted on by twenty-five families who in abject poverty raise goats on the once grand estate.

Smith's knowledge of Africa and not only its species of animals but also its wilderness of flora and fauna lend credibility to the novel that places the reader in the heart of the African bush along with his characters. His ability to depict sight, sound and taste are remarkable and could only be accomplished by someone with a vast knowledge and understanding of the area he writes about and he is able to paint a picture of the politics of Africa that is at once both informative and engaging.





## Quotes

"No longer leader of a bunch of unwashed bush fighters, but Minister of State of a sovereign government... And the most successful ivory-poacher of all time - is that not true?" Section 1, Pg 15

Minister of State to the officer who carried out the plan he devises to stampede an elephant herd into a mine field to kill a large number without the cost of bullets and time normally spent poaching.

"You know what they call an optimist here? It's somebody who believes that things can't get any worse." Section 2, Pg 34

Jock Daniel's comment to Craig Mellow during the first few minutes of their reunion when Craig returned to Africa.

"Such things might work in England and America - but this is Africa. They do not work here - I will not bow down to the will of five dirt-eaters." Section 2, Pg 47

Comrade Lookout to Craig Mellow as they discuss the current state of inequity between the Mashona (former slaves and sons of slaves) and the Matabele who had always enjoyed the advantage of superiority over them. Now, with changes in government and the advent of democracy, the Mashona tribesmen were attempting to assert themselves because of their greater numbers.

"They were promised rich farming land and hundreds of head of prime cattle, money and motor-cars and many wives of their choice." Section 3, Pg 65

Peter Fungabera to Craig Mellow as he describes to him the rehabilitation of the young men who were part of the civil war, and how they were misled by their leaders.

"The abyss between the haves and the have-nots of this world will suck us all into destruction." Section 3, Pg 70

Sally-Anne Jay to Craig, speaking of the young men in the rehabilitation center.

"If I put my photographs next to this, they will seem - I don't know - puny, I guess, unworthy of the deep love you express so eloquently for this land." Section 4, Pg 103  
Sally-Anne to Craig, after reading the first few pages of his second book and intended collaboration.

"Do you know who I am? You'll wish your twenty five fathers had taught you better manners." Section 5, Pg 120

Tungata Zebiwe to soldiers as they attempt his arrest for poaching.

"We have cleaned out the vipers' nest of traitors that you were breeding on this colonial-style estate of yours." Section 6, Pg 161

General Fungabera to Craig as he double crosses him, setting him up to take his land from him.



"Those who die or are executed at the rehabilitation centers are taken into the bush and laid out for the hyena. The hyena leaves nothing, not a chip of bone nor a tuft of hair."

Section 7, Pg 174

Captain Timon Nbebi as he explains his position to Craig and Sally-Anne after rescuing them from execution.

"You drink like a man...., Let us see if you hunt like one." Section 8, Pg 209

Nikolai Bukharin to Peter Fungabera, as a challenge to follow the spoor of a wounded rhinoceros.

"Who the hell do you think Henry Pickering is anyway - Santa Claus?" Section 10, Pg 248

Morgan Oxford to Craig and Sally-Anne as he informs them that Pickering works for the agency.

"Last time he lost his leg - this time he could lose his life. To be his friend, I must make myself his enemy." Section 10, Pg 252

Sarah telling Craig and Sally-Anne what Tungata told her before Craig managed to get King's Lynn and the other properties back.

"The man you call Tungata Zebiwe, the Seeker after Justice, was born Samson Kumalo. He is in direct line of succession from Mzilikazi, the first king and father of our people. He is the one upon whom the prophecies of the ancients descend." Section 11, Pg 262  
Vusamanzi to Craig when he discovers their plan to free Tungata.

"This Taka-Taka (Sir Ralph Ballantyne), as I have hinted already, was a famous rogue, with a nose like a hyena and an appetite like a vulture." Section 12, Pg 292

Vusamanzi to Tungata and Craig as he explains the fate of the corpse of Lobengula.

"My curse upon any of you who speak to the Shona pig. I command silence upon you, no matter what is done - he who breaks it will be visited by me from beyond the grave."

Section 13, Pg 312

Vusamanzi to his village as Peter Fungabera tortures him in an effort to find out where Tungata is.

"You would sell this land and all its peoples into a new slavery, into an imperialism that would make the rule of Smith's regime appear benign and altruistic by comparison?"

Section 14, Pg 359

Tungata to Peter after reading the documents that are the blueprint for the revolution they were planning.

"We need men like you to help stave off these new dark ages that threaten to overwhelm the land we both love." Section 14, Pg 367.

Tungata to Craig after announcing that his debts are gone and his land has been returned to him.



## Topics for Discussion

What is the source of Craig's writer's block, and why does he have so little an opinion of himself?

What is the objective of the rehabilitation camps and why are they necessary? What is the obvious disparity realized by Craig and discussed by Sally-Anne while they are there?

Why does Minister Tungata have such a hateful attitude towards Craig? Discuss the differences between the living conditions when the white men ruled Africa, versus the reign of the black man over their own? What are some of the major differences and why do they exist?

How does Craig secure financing to purchase King's Lynn and the rest of Rholands Ranching Company back? What contract clause troubles him, and why does he ignore it? What are the possible ramifications of this clause?

Why does Peter Fungabera keep the only copy of the contract he makes between himself and Craig? What warning signs should Craig have garnered from this behavior?

What evidence points to Tungata as the most prolific poacher in the area? Who brings this evidence forward and to whom? What is the outcome of these revelations and what is Tungata's alibi?

Why is the judge reluctant to believe the alibi Tungata has? What factors might be in play besides the obvious ones that the judge lists when announcing his decision?

Why is Craig so disturbed by Tungata's sentence? Despite all of the contrary evidence, why is Craig reluctant to believe it, and what happens that finally brings him around to the justice of the sentence?

What is Peter's motivation for torturing Tungata other than the tribal conflicts? What methods does he employ, and what finally works? How does he manage to accomplish his goal despite the warning that Tungata offered at his sentencing?

Tungata is conflicted regarding his capitulation to Peter. Why does that change when they reach their destination?

How does Peter Fungabera find out that Tungata, Craig, Sally-Anne and Sarah are still in the area? What is the mistake they made that gave them away?

How does Fungabera convince Vusamanzi's relatives to disclose the location of the cavern that Tungata is hiding in?

How does Craig save them when the Shona attack the entrance to the cavern? What factors involved almost cost several of them their lives in the process?



Tungata reverts to his given name when they find the final resting place of Lobengula. Why?

How does Tungata reward Craig and Sally-Anne for their bravery and loyalty?