

ADULT FICTION

PROSE – ENGLISH

ADVENTURE

KING SOLOMON'S MINES

STORY BACKGROUND:

King Solomon's Mines, first published in 1885, was a best-selling novel by the Victorian adventure writer H. Rider Haggard. It relates a journey into the heart of Africa by a group of adventurers led by Allan Quatermain in search of the legendary wealth said to be concealed in the mines of the novel's title. It is significant as the first fictional adventure novel set in Africa, and is considered the genesis of the Lost World literary genre. (Anon. n.d.)



Allan Quatermain and his party camp out in a cave while crossing the mountains at Sheba's Breasts peaks on the way to Kuluanaland. There the native Hottentot dies from the cold and they find the corpse of the Portuguese refugee who, three centuries before, made the map they are using to find the mines.

Later the tribal witch guides them to a cathedral-like chamber in a natural stalactite cave. This leads to artificial chambers and the treasure consisting of ivory tusks, gold coins and diamonds. A sliding stone door traps them, but they follow air currents and find a trap door leading to a labyrinth of mine tunnels, which eventually allow them to exit into the blue clay diamond pit near the cave entrance. Two days later they return but fail to find the exit hole or a way to open the stone door into the treasure chamber.

For the scenes in the cave Rider Haggard was inspired by Sudwala Caves, at Schagen, East Transvaal, Republic of South Africa. We are told – "In August 1877, Rider Haggard, then Register of the Pretoria High Court, visited Lydenburg on a circuit court visit. There he was told the story of Somcuba, the caves and the treasure. The young man's imagination must have been thoroughly fired by these stirring tales because, armed with a Martini Henry carbine and accompanied by his pointer Ben, he set off on a journey of exploration to the caves, traveling south from Mount Sheba. Eight years later his famous book 'She' was published, to be followed a few years later (sic) by the equally famous and popular 'King Solomon's Mines.' In both books caves play an important part and in 'King Solomon's Mines' the history and physical features of Sudwala Caves are unmistakably portrayed.



The book contains vivid descriptions of what could only be Mount Sheba ('Sheba's Breasts')..." (Jackson, ca.1970)

For the 1950 MGM movie, "King Solomon's Mines," (directed by Compton Bennett and Andrew Morton) the scenes in the stalactite cave were filmed in New Cave within Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico.

The four slightly abridged readings listed here are considered adult fiction. There is a shorter, much abridged version adopted for children, which can be found under Children's Fiction – Adventure.

Ref: Anon. n.d., *King Solomon's Mines*, Read by John Nicholson, [archive](#)

Butts, Dennis 1992, Introduction & Explanatory Notes, in Haggard, H. Rider 1992, *King Solomon's Mines*, reprint by Oxford University Press, Oxford, p. 335

Haggard, H. Rider 1885 (1992), *King Solomon's Mines*, reprint by Oxford University Press, Oxford, p. 94-101, 255-302

Henry Rider Haggard, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Jackson, Harold et al. ca.1970, *Sudwala*, Collenia, p. 2-3

SWA-AV1 United States 1997

KING SOLOMON'S MINES

SW – Adult – Adventure – Cave Pic Cover

Author: H. Rider Haggard (Based on book "King Solomon's Mines")

Nar: John **RICHMOND** (reader)

Prod. Co: Blackstone Audiobooks; Ashland, OR

Time: 8:30:00

CDs: KING SOLOMON'S MINES

Blackstone Z2575 (7XCDs) (Discs 3, 6 & 7)

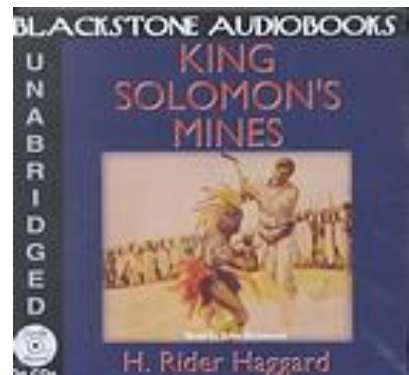
Notes: This is a slightly abridged reading of the classic. Disc 3 has the end of chapter 6 "Water! Water!" and the beginning of chapter 7 "Solomon's Road" concerning the cave on Sheba's Breast mountain.

Disc 6 has chapter 16 "The Place of Death" and chapter 17 "Solomon's Treasure Chamber" and Disc 7 has chapter 18 "We Abandon Hope" and the beginning of chapter 19 "Ignosi's Farewell" which all deal with the stalactite cave and the artificial chambers and tunnels of the mines.

Ref: Haggard, H. Rider 1885 (1992), *King Solomon's Mines*, reprint by Oxford University Press, Oxford, p. 94-101, 255-302

Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines*, Read by John Richmond, State Library, New South Wales, [nsw.gov.au](#)

Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines*, Read by John Richmond, [Worldcat](#)



SWA-AV2 United States 2001

KING SOLOMON'S MINES

SW – Adult – Adventure – Cave Pic Cover

Author: H. Rider Haggard (Based on book "King Solomon's Mines")

Nar: Jack **SONDERICKER** (reader)

Prod. Co: Books in Motion; Spokane, WA

Time: 8:48:00

CDs: KING SOLOMON'S MINES

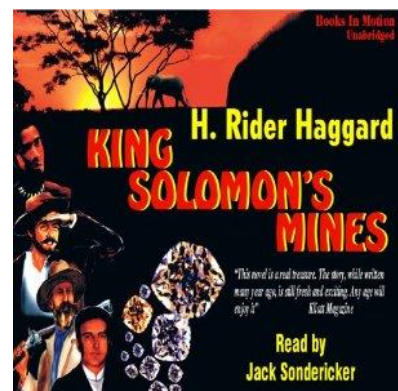
Books in Motion (?) (8XCDs)

Notes: This is a complete unabridged reading of the classic.

Ref: Jack Sondericker, Interview, [christianbook](#)

Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines*, Read by Jack Sondericker, Louisville Public Library, [flatironslibrary](#)

Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines*, Read by Jack Sondericker, [Worldcat](#)



SWA-AV3 Columbia 2001

LAS MINAS DEL REY SALOMÓN

SW – Adult – Adventure

Scr: (?) (Based on book “King Solomon’s Mines”
by H. Rider Haggard)

Perf: Carlos J. **VEGA** (reader in Spanish)

Prod. Co: Yoyo Music S.A.; Bogotá, Columbia

Time: 3:01:00

1. **CDs:** LAS MINAS DEL REY SALOMON
Disonex (?) (3XCDs)

2. Reissue **CDs:** LAS MINAS DEL REY SALOMON (2005)
Yoyo Libros 70061 (3XCDs)

Notes: An abridged reading of the classic released by an important Spanish language spoken word recording company, Yoyo Music S.A..

The drawing by Angel Pardo (?) was taken from the Joyas Literarias Juveniles comic book, “Las Minas del Rey Solomon,” no. 156 published by Editorial Bruguera S.A., Barcelona.

Ref: Rider Haggard, *Las minas del Rey Salomón*, Read by Carlos Vega, State Library, New South Wales, nsw.gov.au

Las minas del Rey Salomón, Read by Carlos Vega, [audioteka](#)

Las minas del Rey Salomón, Read by Carlos Vega, Disonex, [Worldcat](#)

Las minas del Rey Salomón, Read by Carlos Vega, Yoyo Libros, [Worldcat](#)



SWA-AV4 United Kingdom 2005

KING SOLOMON'S MINES

SW – Adult – Adventure

Author: H. Rider Haggard (Based on book “King Solomon’s Mines”)

Mus: (?)

Perf: Bill **HOMEWOOD** (reader)

Prod. Co: Naxos AudioBooks Ltd.

Time: 3:50:00

Bill HOMEWOOD

CDs: KING SOLOMON'S MINES
Naxos AudioBooks NA 335412 (3XCDs)

Notes: This is an abridged reading of the classic, read with the suitable British accent. Music is used for lead into the first chapter.

This Naxos CD is part of their Junior Classics series and is definitely somewhat abridged, but as it is a serious presentation on a serious label, faithful to the original text, it is included here with adult fiction.

Ref: Rider Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines*, Read by Bill Homewood, [naxosaudiobooks](#)



THE LOST WORLD

STORY BACKGROUND:

The Lost World, published in 1912, tells of an expedition to a plateau in the Amazon basin of South America where prehistoric animals (dinosaurs and other extinct creatures) still survive.

A scientific exploration party goes up the Amazon to verify Professor Challenger’s claim that fantastic Jurassic life lives on a high plateau there. While seeking a way up the encircling sheer cliffs they find a cave at the base but it is blocked. This was the way that the original explorer gained access to the plateau but, as they later learned, an earthquake caused a collapse there. They finally succeed in reaching the plateau by climbing a limestone pinnacle and crossing a fallen tree to the top edge of the cliffs. The plateau surface is roughly 30 miles long and 20

wide. At one end natives are found living in series of caves strung out along the Red Cliffs. Later the chief they had rescued gives them given a crude map on a roll of tree bark showing 18 small caves all parallel in a row. On the map there is an “x” mark next to the seventeenth cave, which is the longest. Professor Challenger and his crew figure out that this might indicate the way to get off the plateau where they are marooned. They explore this cave, take the wrong fork, and finally find the passage that breaks out in the side of the cliffs, which they manage to descend on a rope and return to their base camp.

The three versions listed here (one abridged and two unabridged) are considered adult fiction. There is a shorter, much abridged version adopted for children, which can be found under Children’s Fiction – Adventure.

Ref: Arthur Conan Doyle, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)
The Lost World (Conan Doyle novel), [Wikipedia](#)



Arthur Conan DOYLE

SWA-AV5 United States 1970

THE LOST WORLD

SW – Adult – Science Fiction – Adventure

Scr: (?) (Based on book by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

Mus: (?)

Nar: Frank **KELLY**, Des **NEALON**,
& Paul **FARREL**

Perf: Frank **KELLY** (Edward Malone)
Paul **FARRELL** (Professor Challenger)
Justin **BROWN** (Professor Summerlee)
Des **NEALON** (Lord John Roxton)

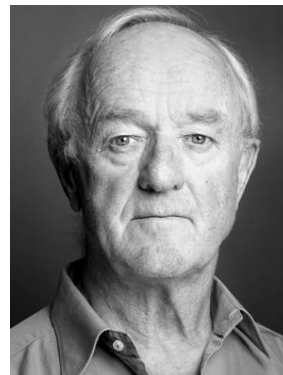
Dir: Christopher Casson

Prod. Co: Spoken Arts Records; New Rochelle, NY

Time: (Side 1) 23:35 & (Side 2) 24:48

LP: THE LOST WORLD

Spoken Arts SA 1097
12" 33rpm (Sides 1 & 2)



Frank KELLY



Paul FARREL

Notes: A careful performance that respects the feeling if not the exact wording of the original text. Sounds like a radio broadcast of the tale. Music is used for intros and bridges between scenes. Sound effects occur throughout: birds, tree falling, screaming dinosaurs, etc. The characters all have a suitable British accent.

Following harp music near the end of side one Edward Malone reports – “We clambered up over loose stones and found what seemed to be the only means of ascent – a cave evidently, that used by the ill-fated explorer, Maple White. It was marked with the sign of an arrow. We at once penetrated into this cave to a depth of about 50 yards, but our hopes were dashed; the roof had fallen in and made it impossible.”

Later, once the party reaches the plateau, Malone explores and from the rocks at the edge of the central lake – “At the mouth of caves on the far shore I saw fires there and figures moving in front.” After a battle between the apemen and the Indians (where the mix is so poor that the narration blends with the chaotic sounds of the battle) – “With the help of the chief’s son the caves were all explored and a way discovered through the longest of them to an opening halfway down the cliff’s face, quite inaccessible and invisible from below, but not so high that our ropes could enable us to descend safely.”

After their return to London and the presentation at the Queen’s Hall it all ends with a nice rhythmic flute piece.

Ref: Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Lost World* LP, [Discogs](#)

Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Lost World* LP, [Worldcat](#)

Frank Kelly, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

SWA-AV6 United Kingdom 2001

THE LOST WORLD

SW – Adult – Science Fiction – Adventure

Author: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Excerpted from his book)

Perf: Matthew RHYS (reader)

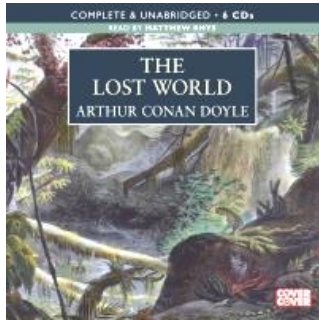
Prod. Co: BBC Audiobooks Ltd.; Bath

Time: 7:38:00

CDs: THE LOST WORLD

BBC Audiobooks CCD 1556 (6XCDs)

Matthew RHYS



Notes: This is a slightly abridged reading of the complete text. Here again the original text is reworked and tightened up, but the spirit is still there. The reader does all the voices.

Matthew Rhys, a Welsh actor, has done a lot of work with BBC Television and in 2001 he went to New Zealand to shoot the epic drama *Lost World* for the BBC, where he played the Edward Malone role. (Anon. 2016)

Ref: Anon. 2016, Matthew Rhys, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

The Lost World, BBC Audiobooks, [WorldCat](#)

The Lost World, BBC Audiobooks, National Library of Australia, [nla.gov.au](#)

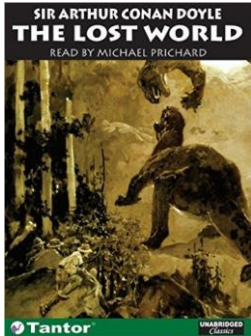


SWA-AV7 United States 2003

THE LOST WORLD

SW – Adult – Science Fiction – Adventure

Author: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Excerpted from his book)



Perf: Michael PRICHARD (reader)

Prod. Co: Tantor Media; Old Saybrook, CT

Time: 8:13:00

CDs: THE LOST WORLD

Tantor Media (?) (7XCDs)

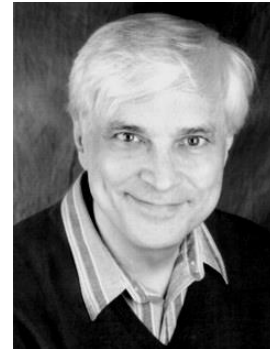
Notes: This is an unabridged reading of the complete text.

Ref: The Lost World, Tantor, [openlibrary](#)

Doyle, Arthur Conan 1912 (1960), *The Lost World*, Pyramid Books, New York

The Lost World, Tantor Media, [Worldcat](#)

Michael Prichard, Bio, [tantor](#)



Michael PRICHARD

caveinspiredmusic.com