

EPISODE ONE

(Int. Government office. LARRY TRENT standing before long table with government officials seated around. )

SCENE 8.

CHIEF                   Trent, you will be the fourth man I've sent to Africa to break up this gang of Ivory Poachers. In the official record the others are down only as missing—but we know they are dead. (He looks round. The other men nod.)

TRENT                  I understand, sir.

CHIEF                   They were brave, resourceful men—yet they disappeared without a word. I mention this only that you may fully realize the danger of the task you have volunteered to undertake.

TRENT                  (Nods) I want to solve this mystery and avenge our dead. One of them was more than just a number to me.

CHIEF                   I think I understand, my boy. (turns to subordinate)  
Are his credentials ready? (Man nods.)  
(Chief turns to Larry again)  
Very well, Trent, you will proceed to Dagheedaland at once.  
(NOTE: This is what the script says. It may be Wabassa or Nuhalla, likely Wabassa.)

TRENT                  I hope to prove that your confidence in me has not been misplaced.

CHIEF                   I'm certain of that, my boy. Before you go I want to turn over to you the only real clue we have.  
(Hands Trinket to Larry, who examines it.)  
It was found among the effects of Operator 27. Our Archaeologists agree that it came from the lost temple of Nuhalla in Dagheedaland.

TRENT                  (Looking at trinket.) Strange, isn't it?.

CHIEF                   Yes—but not half as mysterious as these native tales of the Huge Gorilla they call the KING OF THE KONGO. You'll hear the stories in Dagheedaland.

TRENT                  I've heard some of them already, sir. They say the Kroo boys along the river accuse this Ape of every crime that is committed.

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Scene 8 Cont'd.

CHIEF                    They do, Trent. Our native Police half believe that this Ape is our real Ivory Poacher. This is only talk, of course—but there is something behind these tales. If there is such an Ape he exists only because he has a master. Find that person and you've got the real KING OF THE KONGO.

TRENT                   I won't come back until I have found him.

(TRENT SALUTES, TURNS ON HEEL AND EXITS.)