

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**KING SOLOMON'S
MINES**

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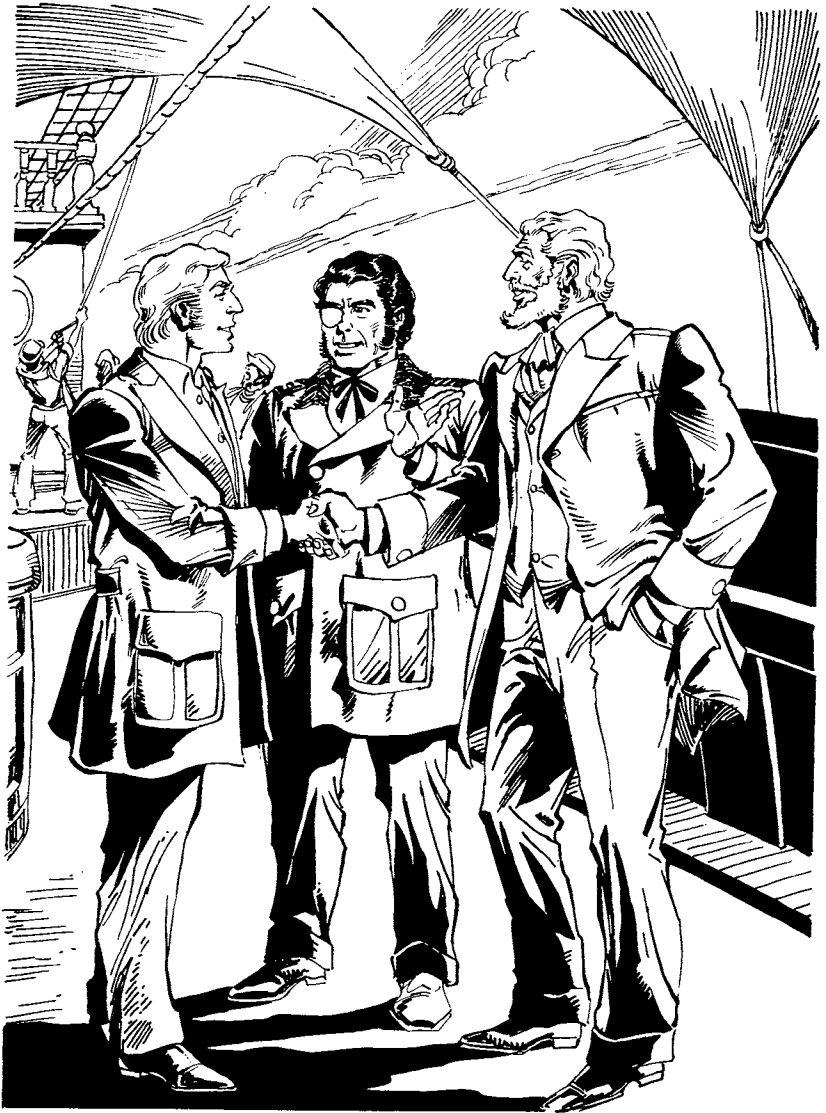
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I Met Two Men on the Ship.

CHAPTER 1

The Legend of Solomon's Mines

I first met Sir Henry Curtis and Captain John Good on a ship that was sailing along the coast of South Africa. I was returning home after some bad luck on an elephant hunt beyond Bamangwato. Everything went wrong that trip. Plus, I came down with a fever. I wasn't so young anymore and I needed to take time off and rest.

I was sailing toward my home in Durban, farther to the north. I got to talking with the two men on the ship. The first, Sir Henry, was

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a tall, well-built man of about thirty. He had blond hair and a thick blond beard and deep-set gray eyes. He reminded me strongly of somebody else, but I couldn't remember who it was.

I knew right away that the second man was a naval officer. Captain Good was about the same age as his friend, but short and stout. He had dark hair and was clean-shaven. Something about the way he moved around on the ship told me he had been at sea a great deal. He always wore a monocle clenched in his right eye socket and had a beautiful set of false teeth!

"You're Allan Quatermain, aren't you?" Sir Henry Curtis asked as the three of us sat down at dinner.

I said I was.

Not much more was said at dinner, but afterwards Sir Henry invited me back to his cabin to talk.

"You were in Bamangwato two years ago, weren't you?" Curtis asked.



At Sea a Great Deal