

The Animal Catchers

By

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Based on a Book by the Same Name

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THE ANIMAL CATCHERS

FADE IN

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - DAY

A LION yawns and just as it is about to settle down raises his ears and peering intently, (p.o.v.) notices a hardly discernible dust cloud dancing in the shimmering heat.

The cloud gets nearer and clearer, and separates into three, each trailing behind a dot.

The dots become larger and larger, so do the clouds trailing them as they advance. The lion lies low as we hear GRINDING GEARS. He lion flicks one ear.

THREE TRUCKS AND A JEEP are laboring uphill and getting closer where the lion is. Suddenly the front one comes to a halt.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY

TED MAXWELL, A weather-beaten man in his fifties with marked lines on his face from narrowing his eyes against the sun, cuts the engine. Beside him is NANCY, his wife about 40 years old.

Maxwell climbs out and holds his hand up for the other trucks to stop. He is wearing full khaki bush gear. He drops his hand and takes out a pair of binoculars from behind the driver's seat and SLAMS the door of the truck with a hand-painted sign.

TED MAXWELL-BIG GAME HUNTER KENYA

Maxwell walks around the front of the truck and lifts the hood standing back from the cloud of steam that is gashing out at him.

He nods to one of THE CREW standing in the back of the truck.

The man jumps out with a 5-gallon can.

MAXWELL

(in Swahili with English subtitles)

Wait for the engine to cool off!

Walks off towards a rock outcrop some 50 feet away.

He walks past the lion 30 feet away to his left.

The lion lies low and watches him as he approaches a rock outcrop. Maxwell heaves himself up after a couple of tries and stands on the highest point of the rock.

He squints his eyes and peers into the distance with his naked eyes. He peers through the dancing heat as he surveys the horizon.

He uses his binoculars to focus at a hint of green. He sees (p.o.v) the greenery much more focused now.

He leaps from the outcrop and heads almost for the lion. He suddenly stops in his tracks as the lion rises to attack or flee. He impulsively hurls the binoculars hitting the lion on the side.

The lion takes off passing by the trucks to the DERISION and CHEERS of the crew.

Maxwell Picks up his binoculars and quickly examines them for damage and walks back to his truck, shuts the hood, and gets back into his truck.

MAXWELL

See that bloody lion?

NANCY

(with implied sarcasm)
Yes, but you didn't.

MAXWELL

Big black-maned bastard.

NANCY

Did you see anything up there?

MAXWELL

Yes. We're spot on. The river is about fifteen miles up ahead. I told you, we were right.

NANCY

Time something was!

Maxwell starts the truck and heads off followed by the other two.

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - DAY

They drive through panorama of the African savannah with its typical wildlife. Giraffes are browsing off thorny bushes.

MAXWELL

How the hell they do it beats me.

Nancy gives no verbal response but shows a bored expression.

Maxwell's truck crushes through bushes and emerges on the other side with branches stuck into its grill. It comes within several feet from a herd of ELEPHANTS with young ones. Maxwell suddenly stops and honks the HORN long and loud. The crew in the back of the truck is making all kinds of noises. A BULL ELEPHANT makes a false charge and retreats to join the rest of the herd, which is sauntering off.

MAXWELL

You got to give it to them.

NANCY

The elephants, or the Africans?

MAXWELL

Both

Maxwell detours around the elephants. The other two trucks go different ways. He travels for some time and comes to a sudden stop. He dismounts.

The jeep pulls along side. JEN a woman in her early twenties comes out. She has a slight figure, with a small bust. She has a small nose, a firm mouth, and widely spaced eyes on a round face accentuated by her shot hair.

JEN

If you are looking for a campsite
its half a mile back. Big trees,
lots of shade.

Another truck a MERCEDES, comes lurching up from the opposite direction and stops in front of them Webb (25) dismounts. He is taller than both. He has a strong skinny build, narrow face with small eyes, a large nose and a wide mouth. Webb approaches Maxwell and Jen

WEBB

I have just passed the best place,
small stream running in. Shade. The
lot. Over there

Webb points

JEN

(looking up to where he is
pointing)

Stuff it. You'd get eaten alive down
there at night. The mosquitoes are just
waiting for suckers like you.

WEBB

Okay I suppose you have it worked out.

JEN

(nonchalantly jerking her thumb over her shoulder) Certainly, the best site's back there. Half a mile.)

WEBB

God almighty. Where is the water.

JEN

Look boy scout. I know you have just left school...

WEBB

They don't teach how to find campsites in school. I knew those sorts of things while you were still wetting your nappies.

JEN

Who said I wore nappies?

MAXWELL

(cutting in) We'll camp right here! Jen, tell the cook boys to get cracking on the far side of that tree. (pointing). We'll have the mess tent right under it. Webb, make camp and start the boys wood for a shelter. Tons of it. (walks away).

EXT. CAMP - DAY

The camp is all set up. We see the Africans on one side playing improvised musical instruments and dancing. Maxwell, Webb, and Jen on another side of camp, have just finished their tea. Webb has pulled his hat over his head.

JEN

(gesturing at Webb) If he's going to take a nap, I'm going to have a kip too.

Jen gets up to go. She walks a few yards before Maxwell speaks.

MAXWELL

He is not going to sleep. No one is. We have work to do.

Jen shrugs her shoulders and continues on toward her tent

MAXWELL

(to Webb)

Time you were starting work on that shelter son.

Webb drops his chin lower on his chest as if he has fallen into an even deeper sleep. Maxwell continues addressing him through the back of his hat.

MAXWELL

Fifteen yards by ten should be plenty! Build it well in the shade!

Maxwell gets up and walks to his tent his tent.

INT. MAXWELL'S TENT - DAY

Nancy whom we see up close for the first time as paraplegic. She is wheeling herself around the tent sorting things out.

MAXWELL (O.S.)

Nancy! Jen and I are going scouting. Make sure they make us something to eat.

NANCY

What about Webb?

Maxwell lifts a water container.

MAXWELL

He will be building shelters.

Maxwell pours water into a basin and comes out of the tent carrying the basin of water, puts it on a crate and submerges his head in it, snorting and snuffling for several seconds, he shakes his head like a dog, dashes his eye brows, and wrings what is left of his hair and shakes his hands to dry them. He walks by Webb who is now fully awake with his hat squarely on his head.

MAXWELL

In the shade!

WEBB

When are you aiming to start catching?

MAXWELL

Tonight maybe. I don't know.

Maxwell in the jeep spurting and pulling up by Jen's tent.

MAXWELL

Jen!

JEN (O.S.)

Stop beating up my jeep.

MAXWELL

Well come and drive it yourself then.

JEN

Why?

MAXWELL

I want to have a looksee.

JEN

Okay, give me a second.

MAXWELL

Come on, you can do one in the bush.

Maxwell climbs out of the driver's seat and swings into the back of the jeep. Jen wriggles out of her tent walks to the jeep barely containing her enthusiasm and takes the wheel, and Maxwell jumps in the back of the jeep.

MAXWELL

Head towards the river!

The drive to the river showcases African wild life in different forms, and sizes and SOUNDS. Occasionally, Maxwell instructs which way to go through the hatch. They talk above the noise of the jeep.

MAXWELL

Watch those little buggers!

Jen swerves and narrowly misses some WARTHOGS that are curiously running towards the jeep. She stops at the river. There is a HERD OF HIPPOS floating in the river.

MAXWELL

Stop!

Jen stops.

MAXWELL

(to Jen through the hatch window)
They were right about the hippos.
There are bloody hundreds of 'em!

JEN

I don't see any totos!

MAXWELL

They would be pretty hard to spot
from this distance. They are
probably afloat in the middle of
the pack close to their mother.
There is one!

JEN

Well he is not much use to us on
that side of the river!

MAXWELL

Too big anyway, I am after real
young ones!

JEN

P'raps they have sold us a dud,
just like them!

MAXWELL

Not them. Not Alex Ritchie and his
National Park. They want us to
deliver our end of the bargain.
Besides where there are so many
hippos, there are bound to be bags
and bags of calves!

JEN

All I can see are adults, I bet
they have sold us a dud and you
have dragged us all this bloody
awful way for nothing.

Maxwell ignores Jen's rants, he stands up and looks at the
hippos through binoculars.

MAXWELL

Come move on. Let's see what sort
of catching country we've got.

JEN

You think this thing can swim?

MAXWELL

It won't have to. When we come back tonight, the hippos will be ashore having their dinner. Now come on let's get going. Watch how you go on this stuff. It could be soft.

Jen slips the truck in four-wheel drive low with lightening speed and quickly gets the truck out. Maxwell spills and bumps into the tailboard.

MAXWELL

Watch the ground!

JEN

Well we won't be able to catch near the river that is certain!

They notice another HERD OF HIPPOS floating nearby.

MAXWELL (O.S.)

We won't have to. Here, this is the lot we want. Hold it! Jen stops the Jeep.

MAXWELL (O.S.)

Those are ours.

JEN (O.S.)

Will they stick around?

MAXWELL

Should do. I reckon this is their home. Go down into the riverbed, but don't go too close to them.

Jen drives down slowly on a steep gradient

MAXWELL

This is the ideal place, just look at their tracks. The hippos use this as a main road to their grazing grounds. (waving at the hippos) We will come back for you later! (to Jen) If you follow this riverbed, it should get us a fair way back to camp.

INT. CAMPSITE - EVENING

Maxwell, Nancy, Jen, and Webb are just finishing their supper

MAXWELL

If we follow the dried riverbed
that Jen and I came back on, we
should be able to find our herd.

Webb finishes his tea and sits back trying to look cute.

WEBB

How many totos?

MAXWELL

Eight our size, maybe more. Anyway,
lots more along the river.

WEBB

Good we will catch a dozen.

MAXWELL

The deal was for six

WEBB

Hell, we are not dealing with our
Game Department.

MAXWELL

No, we are dealing with their National
Park. Just look at their record.

NANCY

Their Park record is pretty good.
Don't you forget they are their?
animals in the first place and they
paying us to shift them.

MAXWELL

Look sonny, you let me worry about
the flipping animals, and Nancy
take care of the money and you look
after trucks, lassoing and
building That should keep you
busy. Finished that shelter yet by
the way?

WEBB

Sort of. One side left.

MAXWELL

Well, you'd better find some way
of because in a couple of hours,
I'll be bringing in the first of
our six hippos.

WEBB

What is the drill?

MAXWELL

Hippos aren't something we have tried before. So, we will stick to our usual routine. Did you get the lassos ready?

Webb nods his head.

JEN

How many do you hope to catch to night?

MAXWELL

Maybe none, we are learning with hippo. It might be so easy to catch all the six. They are pretty stupid creatures.

WEBB

Ever tried annoying a young hippo's mum.

MAXWELL

Sure, no mums are so stupid when it comes to standing up for their young ones. So be prepared for anything.

JEN

Do we catch from the jeep?

MAXWELL

The fifteen hundred weight.

JEN

Hell, we have handled full-grown giraffes from the jeep.

MAXWELL

Giraffes do not have a ton and half to argue the toss with.

JEN

Well I am not staying here in camp.

MAXWELL

You are not. We want your headlights to rope by.

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - NIGHT

The catching expedition is on. Maxwell is driving the catching truck followed by Jen in the jeep. Nguru, a tall

and stocky man with the build of a Masai is crouched and the cab of the Mercedes truck next Webb who is in the driver's seat. Other catchers are in the back of the truck, singing. Webb is leaning over the cab lasso in hand. Maxwell pulls up next to Webb who is has come to a sudden stop.

MAXWELL

Webb! Tell them to belt up now and tell Jen not to give us her lights yet.

WEBB

(to the crew)

Cut out for Pete's sakes!

The crew stops in abrupt silence. Maxwell noticing a hippo signals to Jen to drive along side him.

MAXWELL

(to Jen) I want you to give us your lights all the time. Stay clear. A big hippo will wallop that thing flat.

JEN

(sarcastically)

That is scary!

MAXWELL

I will go for the first calf I see and cut him out. When you see I've picked one, give me all the light you can. (shouting to the whole crew) Remember all of you, it is dark!

WEBB

We will remember.

MAXWELL

Good. Let's go!

Maxwell moves ahead with full lights on.

WEBB

There's one!

Maxwell's truck gets stuck in the mud.

MAXWELL

Everyone out and push like hell!

They try to push but to no avail. They hook it up to the jeep and soon after Jen pulls it out

MAXWELL

We will have a blow for ten
minutes, and then we'll go after (Continued)
them on the flats.

They drive on the flats, There is a herd of hippos in deem
light browsing on the grass. Among the herd are a couple of
young ones. Maxwell blasts the horn. Jens jeep suddenly
appears with lights at high beam and zeros in on one calf as
the other hippos disperse in confusion.

Maxwell cuts the calf off from the rest of the hippos.

Webb lassos it as Maxwell stops the truck.

Maxwell jumps out of the truck, runs towards the calf with a
short length rope in his hand. He dives for the calf in a
flying tackle and slips the rope around one leg, but the hippo
slips out and disappears.

He gets up jumps back in the truck continues the pursuit.
They catch up with the calf again. He stops the truck.

Webb and Nguru jump out to try and lasso the calf. After
several tries, they manage to lasso him.

WEBB

Come on we have got him.

MAXWELL

look out! Here comes mum!The jeep
comes in, heading off the charging
hippo.

WEBB

(to Nguru)

Flee!!

They both jump to opposite sides. The jeep keeps coming. The
hippo shoves the little one into the bush and disappears
into a thicket behind the jeep that is now near the catching
truck.

MAXWELL

(drawing near)

Nice going Jen. That old girl
wasn't too pleased!

WEBB

(jumping back onto the truck)
Thanks.

JEN
Don't mention it.

WEBB
You are bloody quick.

JEN
I will do the same for you some time.

WEBB
I thought you did it for me that time.

JEN
I didn't single you out separately for rescue. Why didn't you brave boys catch the little one by the way.

MAXWELL
These damned things beat anything I've seen. To begin with, they are the wrong shape.

WEBB
But we almost had that one.

MAXWELL
If it hadn't been for its devoted mother.

WEBB
She would've had us if it hadn't been for our devoted Jen.

JEN
I thought, Ted, I heard you saying back in camp that you would be bringing in the first calf in a few hours.

MAXWELL
You're right Jen, it's getting late. There will be some more ashore further along. Let's have another try!

Some more catching commotion follows. At last they manage to catch their first one by 'sphaghetting' it with rope. They quickly load it up.

INT. HIPPO SHELTER - DAY

Six young hippos, except the smallest one, are briskly eating the grass being fade to them by Maxwell's and Webb's hands.

MAXWELL

Webb get him out and crate him.

Jen approaching curiously

JEN

Going to keep him separate or something?

MAXWELL

(looks up at Jen, then down)

JEN

Oh, for Pete's sake. After all that?

MAXWELL

(without looking at her)

JEN

Well, I think you are nuts.

MAXWELL

Maybe, but back to his mum he goes.

JEN

Why crate him? Why not just let him go here?

MAXWELL

(with outrage)

In his state a lion or leopard will get him if he doesn't die of shock.

JEN

So, what. There are plenty more where he came from.

MAXWELL

True enough, but back to his mama he goes.

JEN

You are mad alright.

Nancy appears around the corner of the hippo shelter.

JEN

No wonder this half-baked outfit
never makes its keep. Just as long
as it's run by a flaming philanthropist.
We could make a fortune at this, if
someone with a bit of brains...

Nancy wheels herself in between Jen and Maxwell.

NANCY

(to Webb)

You heard what Ted said Webb. Crate
him.

Jen storms off and jumps into the jeep and drives off
furiously. She is all tense and uptight as she is driving
through the grassland. She comes to a halt as some thing
attracts her attention.

She dismounts and comes to a bush and picks up a chameleon
off a branch, brings it back to the jeep and puts it on the
dash. The chameleon seems to mollify her temper.

INT. CAMP - NIGHT

Maxwell, Webb and the crew are getting ready for the catch.

WEBB

Now we have them taped! Pity we
can't get extra ones.

MAXWELL

Son you can't have animals taped,
we have just been lucky so far.
Besides our contract is for six.

Jen pulls up exuberantly.

JEN

About a mile away. A place we have
never tried before. There is a big
lot of them with at least three
calves.

MAXWELL

(throwing away his cigarette)
Fine Jen lead the way. How is the
ground?

JEN

The ground is hard and open inland
where the hippos are feeding.

MAXWELL

Okay let's go. Jen Lead the way.

Jen is drives excitedly far ahead of the other trucks. She runs smack in the middle of HIPPO HERD. Initially they all scatter but one turns around as Jen shuts off her lights. The other trucks come around with their lights.

A spooked hippo heads straight for the fifteen hundred weight truck being driven by MPANJI, a stubby but jovial character. Jen turns around shouting to warn the other catchers. But it is too late the hippo rams into the truck sending the passengers bundled at the rear.

The hippo turns and heads for the jeep and smashes full impact into it sending Jen flying in the air. The hippos stampede past her being protected by the over turned jeep.

Maxwell and Webb blow their horns. Maxwell jumps out yelling at the hippo that has taken off. Catchers are shouting and yelling.

MAXWELL

Jen, Jen for God's sake.

There is a GROAN in a bush, and Maxwell heads for it and discovers Jen sick and throwing up.

Webb jumps into the catching truck, which is still idling, and turns a little to shade light on the jeep, Jen and Maxwell.

Maxwell helps Jen get up (visibly shaken). They both rush to the catching truck. Jen gets in the front while the rest of the crew examines the damage to the other trucks.

MAXWELL

The bastard certainly wrote off the jeep.

WEBB

This truck isn't exactly any better.

MAXWELL

Well time we went home, everybody jump into the Merc.

They all jump in one truck and Maxwell hits the top of the cab to signal Webb to start moving.

JEN
(grabbing at Webb's arm)
Wasn't that something, Webb? Wasn't
that something?

Webb smiles and looks at her hand on his arm.

JEN
(continuing)
Did you see the way she came in?
Was I lucky? I just saw her coming
out of the corner of my eye and got
going. If I hadn't turned three
quarters on towards her... well
then boosh!

WEBB
Well then boosh is about it.

Pause

Ever had a close one like that
before?

JEN
(shakes her head)
No. Have you?

WEBB
No. You forget I'm fairly new at
this, but it often crosses my mind.

JEN
Never crosses mine, besides I've
been around catchers ever since I
can remember. My dad was a catcher.
One of the first. He used to be
partners with Maxwell.

WEBB
I didn't know. What happened?

JEN
Dad got the bug one safari. No
antibiotics then, (shrugging her
shoulders) so, he pegged out.)

WEBB
Where's your mum?

JEN
She died before that pneumonia.

WEBB
Then Maxwell adopted you?

JEN

I'm legally his ward.

WEBB

Because he was fond of your dad?

JEN

I suppose so, though I've been told he was fonder of my mum. I just can remember him fighting like hell with dad.

WEBB

By the way whatever happened to Mrs. Maxwell?

JEN

She was flung out of a catching truck long before I was born, and she has never walked ever since.

Ahead of them there is flicker the fires of the camp drawing near and can make out Mrs. Maxwell waiting to greet them. Maxwell jumps out before the truck comes to a complete halt. He approaches Nancy

NANCY

Trouble?

MAXWELL

Yes.

NANCY

How bad?

MAXWELL

Pretty bad. The jeep is a write off and the catching truck is in a bloody bad way.

NANCY

Oh, those. What about the crew?)
What about Jen and young Webb.

MAXWELL

Jen got thrown clear when a hungry mother hit the jeep. I imagine she is shaken up a bit.

NANCY

Shaken up a bit!

Jen appears, limping a bit but smiling. Maxwell heads for

the mess tent.

NANCY

I told you that you would catch it one day. You seem to be damn lucky.

JEN

I have a sore backside and my ribs ache a bit if that is anything.

NANCY

That is nothing.

JEN

I must have hit the ground a fair wallop.

NANCY

I can imagine. Now let's hope you pack it in.

JEN

Pack it in? Pack it in? What on earth for?

NANCY

What for? You silly little cow. Because you don't want to end up no good from the waist down.

JEN

catches the handles of the wheel chair and starts to push it towards the mess tent.

JEN

Come on Nance I want a stiff drink

NANCY

I can imagine, but thanks all the same, I'll be there just as soon if you don't push me.

INT. MESS TENT - NIGHT.

All but Nancy are having a drink. Jen's shirt is open a shade too low. Maxwell's eyes keep straying on Jen's exposed skin.

NANCY

There's nothing all of you can do tonight. We have got five hippos. And we've still got the big lorry to get them to the coast. The rest

of it is something we'll sort out
when everyone has had some sleep.

Nancy pushes her chair towards her tent and disappears in the dark. Maxwell gets up too and walks in the direction of his wife but suddenly stops and changes direction towards the hippo shelter.

Maxwell picks some grass and holds it out to the hippos. One of them responds gets the grass with his mouth. He looks up and sees Jen walking with stiff strides past the shelter. After a second's hesitation, he throws the grass and follows her.

He finds Jen in a clearing facing him but looking up the trees. Reluctantly, as if he has no free will, Maxwell puts his hand softly on a blood stain on her face.

JEN
(almost inaudible)
Not often.

Jen still does not look at him but places her right hand under his torn loose shirt, running the fingers round and up his spine.

MAXWELL
Not often, but tonight.

Jen pulls him down into the grass.

JEN
Yes

Next, Jen is lying on her back sleeping. Maxwell buttons her shirt and picks her up and carries her to her tent and covers her up. He leaves and gets to his tent and enters

MAXWELL
(undressing)
Hippos are settling down.

NANCY
Oh, then that is a good thing. I
hope that girl is all right.

MAXWELL
She'll be alright.

NANCY
Of course.

MAXWELL
She must be sleeping by now.

NANCY

Oh, then that is a good thing. Time you slept too. You look like... you look like you had a hell of a night.

INT. JEN'S TENT - DAY

Jen opens her eyes flings her blanket and looks disgustedly at her soiled clothes in which she slept. The buttons on her pants are still undone. She rummages frantically in her trunk for clean clothes and a towel. She bolts out of her tent to shallow pool in the nearby stream.

She tears off her soiled clothes and hurls them into the water and throws herself into the deepest part of the pool, rubbing her body with her hands. Then she becomes calmer and standing up she begins to soap herself obsessively.

She washes her face and her hair with soap and lies down letting the current run over her. Then she gets up walks to her towel rubs her body with it. The bruises on her arm and legs and beneath her ribs are now dark. She prods them and grimaces.

She stands on one foot and with the other she flicks the sodden bundle of clothes out into the current. She watches them as whirl away down stream. She then puts on her clean clothes, picks up her towel and walks back to her tent

CUT TO

Maxwell emerges shirtless from his tent and walks to a converted five-gallon drum. Bit by bit he pours cold water over his head pausing to snort and splutter and rub the drops out of his eyes. Then he walks to Webb's tent putting his shirt on, on the way. He finds Webb sleeping, he flips some water from his dripping hair at Webb.

MAXWELL

Growing boys need a lot of sleep but this is ridiculous. We've got work to do.

WEBB

(sitting up dazed)
Work?

MAXWELL

You are the mechanic around here. We've got two wounded trucks.

WEBB

Last night.

MAXWELL

You've got it

WEBB

I was so damn sound asleep. Nguru!

NGURU (O.S.)

Bwana!

WEBB

Working party on the Merc.

NGURU

How many Bwana?

WEBB

The lot.

MAXWELL

Hey, steady on. We want some bloody breakfast when we come back.

WEBB

Everyone except the cooks... And Nguru! We want ropes, blocks, tackle and planks.

MAXWELL

You sound bloody cheerful. Anyone would think the whole show hasn't just gone down the pipe.

WEBB

Has it?

MAXWELL

Well hasn't it?

WEBB

(obviously enjoying this roll as the one on whom the rest of the expedition depends) I dunno. Until I look at the wreckage again. Anyway, we have got our five hippos.

MAXWELL

That is probably the easiest part of this operation.

The Mercedes truck drives off followed by a trail of heavy dust, Jen is walking towards the mess tent.

INT. MESS TENT - DAY

Nancy is seated drinking tea as Jen walks in.

NANCY

Feeling okay now?

JEN

Sure, feel fine this morning.

NANCY

(looking at Jen's wet hair)
You have been swimming?

JEN

(pouring herself some tea)
I just thought I needed a good wash.

NANCY

Not afraid of bilharzia?

JEN

No. Should I be?

NANCY

I should think that stream is okay.
Plenty flow. No villages around.
Still it is a bit of a risk.

JEN

I know but I needed that bath
badly.

Nancy looks at Jen fixedly as she is making herself tea and settling down to drink it.

NANCY

What was he like?

JEN

What do you mean?

NANCY

Ted.

JEN

I don't know what you are talking
about.

NANCY

He used to be damn good, or so I
remember.

JEN

I don't know how the hell you can talk like that.

NANCY

No? Well let us say, I have or rather had first hand knowledge.

JEN

It's disgusting that you can sit, here and talk to me like this.

NANCY

Yes, well I suppose you could say that though, I don't really see on what grounds, just remember I'm in no state to stop you hiring the hall, but God help you dearie, if you get the idea that you own it.

JEN

If you only knew the circumstances.

NANCY

But I know he's a hell of a great man. I can't blame you, even if you are damn nearly his daughter. Ted's got needs and who am I to stop him?

CUT TO

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - DAY

The work party arrives at the scene of the previous day's accident. The scene looks like a battlefield. They examine the wreckage.

WEBB

The best thing is to heave the whole boiling jeep onto the back of the Merc. for parts.

MAXWELL

(Fine go ahead.)

WEBB

NGURU! Put the jeep onto the Merc.

MAXWELL

(looking at the fifteen hundred weight truck) Now for the real trouble. How about trying to start (Continued)

her up?

WEBB

Not much good in that. The petrol pipes are fractured. The whole engine must have shifted.

MAXWELL

Well let's know the worst.

Webb wriggles on his back under the truck. Maxwell is smoking furiously watching the work party hoisting the jeep onto the Merc. A few minutes later Webb surfaces.

WEBB

It is a major workshop job.

MAXWELL

Nearest decent workshop's four hundred miles from here and then, they might not have the parts. Can't you fix her up?

WEBB

This is the way I see it. The engine bearers have shifted, front axle is bent, radiator is damaged, and one brake drum is smashed.

MAXWELL

Brakes! We never needed brakes yet?

WEBB

No, but you will need the rest of the gear, if you hope to go catching.

MAXWELL

I do. Can't you patch it up?

WEBB

Some. I might just about get her going, but she'll be no damn use for catching. In fact, I doubt if I can make her derivable. Firstly, I must drag her to camp.

MAXWELL

What is the drill.

WEBB

We lift her with the aid of rope and planks, and tie to the back of the Merc, as if we were a garage (Continued)

break down service.

MAXWELL

Son at times you're a bloody pain
in the neck. At others I'm fairly
glad you came along.

INT. MESS TENT - NIGHT

WEBB

(with his mouthful) I will get the
truck going, but who knows what
will happen to the transmission, or
the crown wheel, or the half shafts (Continued)
if we drive it.

Jen opens a small box and gets out the chameleon and places
it on the table beside her. The little dragon like creature
immediately starts rocking back and forth. Webb glares at
the chameleon as he continues.

WEBB

The harsh treatment will finish off
the clutch pressure plate.

JEN

(ignoring Webb.) They do it to
pretend they're waving about like
leaves of a tree.

WEBB

Oh, for goodness sakes...Of
course, there might be a hole in the
radiator in which case we are done
for.

NANCY

All we want to know is can you get
the damn thing going again.

WEBB

Going, yes.

NANCY

How long will it take you?

WEBB

With good luck. Forty-eight hours.
With bad luck, three or four days.
With very bad luck never! Thank God
we have got lots of gas for the
welder.

NANCY

Then start working on it as soon as it is daybreak with all the labour you need. We need to get to Makole at least.

JEN

Makole!

MAXWELL

(speaking for the first time) Sure, that is where we get the rest of the griff for moving the rhinos.

WEBB

For God's sake we've got our hippo.

MAXWELL

Sure, that's why we have to carry out the rest of the deal, I've explained that, haven't I?

WEBB

But surely now the things are different. We can't catch the way it is, certainly not rhino. And here we are with several thousand quid worth of hippos.

JEN

(lifts the chameleon onto her arm.)
Look he caught a fly.

WEBB

Oh, for God's sake.

JEN

For once I agree with Webb. For one little time in our lives, we've got a chance of making some money.

MAXWELL

(stands up.) I will tell it as it is mates. The damn hippo calves are not ready to travel. They haven't settled down yet. If they do travel, they won't arrive alive at the other end, all squeezed up in the Merc.

JEN

All I ask is that when we do get going, we take them straight (Continued)

through to the coast and collect our money. I am tired of wearing the same stinking three pairs of slacks and shirts.

MAXWELL

Mates, as you may have guessed I'm not in this business entirely for the gold. I intend to catch those rhinos and shift them to a safer place, because moving them into a Park is about the only chance the buggers have got of staying alive in this part of Africa.

Jen scoops the chameleon and puts it back in the box.

MAXWELL

(continues)

The whole species is in danger of being wiped out and to my way of thinking that would be a disaster. No one can replace them. I think this place is marvellous. I have lived here all my life. And everything that makes it what it is, will soon disappear. Soon there will be no bloody animals left. That is why I'm going to shift those rhinos. Nobody is going to get a damn bean from this trip until we have shifted them.

JEN

You really like animals better than humans.

MAXWELL

Sometimes yes, I think they are more important.

JEN

(taking the chameleon out of the box again)

I suppose that is not surprising really. There are times when I reckon you belong up in the trees yourself.

NANCY

(clears her throat in admonition)

uhm, uhm.

INT. MAXWELL'S TENT - NIGHT

NANCY

That was a fine speech you made
about saving rhinos

Maxwell smoking does not answer

NANCY

Do you think you carried them both
along with you?

MAXWELL

Oh hell, how can I tell? They
signed up for the job as I did.
What about you?

NANCY

You forget I am married to you.
Besides what else can I do except
come along for a ride What about
Webb?

MAXWELL

He will come. As long as there is a
puncture to mend. He beefs a bit,
but he can't help it.

NANCY

Be nice if they could be paid
though, wouldn't?

MAXWELL

I suppose so, but then I never make
a damn thing out of these safaris,
so why should he worry? He is
learning the job.

NANCY

And Jen, what about Jen?

MAXWELL

She will come. She's got to. She is
my ward.

NANCY

Your What?

MAXWELL

Alright so you know. Do you object
so much? What else do you expect me
to do all my life. Turn into a nun.

NANCY

Get your sexes right... Monk

Maxwell takes a heavy draw from his cigarette stub and crashes it into the ground.

MAXWELL

In some ways she is so damn much like you.

NANCY

Were. Like I was.

MAXWELL

Yes, if you like

NANCY

I don't like, but I haven't much choice.

MAXWELL

What is this suddenly? And why just now?

NANCY

Just now because of the state that girl was in today.

MAXWELL

So now all of a sudden you are vitally concerned for Jen.

NANCY

No Ted I am vitally concerned for all three of us. I know that what happened last night does not happen often. But it's happened two or three times before.

MAXWELL

Look you have to believe me. I had no intention last night. It was just something that happened after the accident. She needed someone.

NANCY

And you?

MAXWELL

Okay It was the same. In the old days after a bit of excitement, there was always you.

NANCY

(bitterly) I remember

MAXWELL

I wouldn't have felt so strung up if it had been somebody else, but Jen who nearly bought it last night.

NANCY

All right I accept that. Now leave her alone.

MAXWELL

That goes for her too

NANCY

It is for you to put a stop to it. That girl has been around you since her old man died. She nearly takes you for her parents died. You are about the only thing she has any feelings for, and then you come along and put her on her back just for a bash!

MAXWELL

Don't be bloody ridiculous.

NANCY

You don't even behave as if you like her.

MAXWELL

I admire her. She's the guts of a man. It is so complicated Nance, you just have to believe me. She is the nearest I can get to you, but at the same time, it isn't. Jen wouldn't understand why the hell I want to move those bloody rhinos. It is just thrills for her. When the thrills run out, she's got no further interest.

NANCY

Then send her back to Kenya when we get to Makole

MAXWELL

I can't, I need her to drive

NANCY

Drive what!

MAXWELL

We will get transport in Makole

NANCY

Then get a driver too and send her
back home.

MAXWELL

You don't have to worry for
yourself Nance.

NANCY

I know. I am not, not all that
much. I just think you are going to
damage her.

MAXWELL

As I said I need her to drive. She
drives damn near as well as you
did.

NANCY

Yes, and look where that got me.

Maxwell reaches out across the tent and puts his hand on
hers, and stares blankly at the roof of the tent. He only
withdraws when she has fallen asleep.

EXT CAMP - DAY

Webb is working on the damaged truck. Jen walks towards him

JEN

(smiling)

How is it going?

WEBB

(speaking from under a pit
over which the truck is
astride)

So so. Got the radiator out. I
reckon we can seal off the damaged
part.

JEN

Is there anything I can do to lend
a hand?

WEBB

(in great surprise) What?

JEN (O.S.)

You don't have to be so bloody
rude.

Webb climbs out of the pit wipes his hands on some cotton
waste

WEBB

Hang on a mo'. I didn't mean it
that way at all. It was just that
this is pretty damn dirty work. I
am not sure that there is anything
you could do.

JEN

That wasn't it at all. You just
couldn't believe I'd offer to help
you.

WEBB

Well maybe a bit of that. I could
certainly use some help, but if you
want to help why don't you help
Ted. He's got a handful cutting
those crates down to size. You
could hold a nail or bash with a
hammer.

JEN

To hell with Ted. Let him build his
own crates.

WEBB

(in disbelief) Okay if you say so.

JEN

I do say so.

WEBB

Okay, but what can you do? You
can't weld or lift weights.

JEN

I could stay up here, while you are
down there below in the pit. I
could hand you the tools. I do
recognize what a spanner is.

WEBB

(putting his arm on her shoulder)
You are hired.

JEN

Your hands are dirty!

MAXWELL (O.S.)

Jen, I need an extra hand with the crates!

JEN

Sorry I am helping Webb.

MAXWELL

What the hell can you do to truck?

NANCY

(intervening)

Let her alone, I'll come out and look after your crates for you.

MAXWELL

But she is more damn use to me.

JEN

You have often told me that I am a big girl now. I can do what I damn well please.

MAXWELL

Not in my camp you can't.

NANCY

Pack that in Jen. It is my job to plan who does what. And I say you'll help Webb, and I will help Ted.

MAXWELL

(in a lower voice to Nancy) What's got into that girl... and you.

NANCY

I told you she'd had enough of you. And it is better if she hangs around Webb.

MAXWELL

She don't like Webb.

NANCY

No, and at the moment she DOESN'T go much on you. Now come on Ted, you have work to do.

CUT TO

Webb is trying to undo a nut in a difficult tight spot. This takes quite a while, but he finally does it. Rain starts falling. Webb gropes for another wrench slightly out of his reach. Jen picks it up and hands it to him.

WEBB
(startled)
Thanks.

The rain intensifies and starts pouring into the pit. He bolts another nut and comes out of the pit. He stands in the rain facing away from Jen. He takes off his shirt and throws it with whoop of joy.

WEBB
It is done!!

Maxwell is running to his tent but stopping momentarily to look at Webb and Jen. Maxwell's P.O.V. Jen at this very moment rips her shirt off and joins Webb enjoying the rain. Maxwell continues.

INT. MESS TENT - NIGHT.

MAXWELL
Well Webb... is it fixed?

WEBB
The radiator is back in but I must find a way to give her more water to play with. Maybe I can make a sort of a reservoir for her with an oil drum. I could lash it on the front low and connect it by a length of hose.

MAXWELL
When will she go?

WEBB
Fer Pete's sakes

MAXWELL
Never mind him. I am worried about them hippos.

WEBB
Not about us by any chance

MAXWELL
You are living, and breathing aren't you.

WEBB

Certainly, but not much else.

MAXWELL

There ain't much else

NANCY

Ain't for crying out loud. You don't have to talk like that. You can say aren't can't you.

MAXWELL

There aren't much else sounds bloody silly to me.

NANCY

For Pete's sakes

MAXWELL

To morrow we crack off.

WEBB

Don't be funny Ted.

MAXWELL

I am not. Time is running out.

WEBB

Then have the crates ready. We might just get away by to morrow evening. Unless we have complications.

EXT.CAMP - DAY

Webb with the help of the crew is just finishing attaching the 44-gallon drum of water to feed the radiator. Maxwell is loading the hippos. They have already broken camp. There are some abandoned possessions, which they cannot fit in the two trucks. The jeep is covered nicely with a flysheet under a tree. Nancy is already in the Mercedes while Jen is in Webb's truck.

WEBB

Okay we already.

MAXWELL

I will lead

WEBB

Don't go too fast.

As the trip progresses Webb is grimaces at the punishment the truck is getting as if he is experiencing the pain. He flashes his only good lamp to signal that he was going to stop. He stops and gets out and opens the hood to reveal the steam all over the engine.

MAXWELL
(strolling back)
What is up.

WEBB
Over heating.

MAXWELL
How long will she take to cool down?

WEBB
Ten minutes, but she will boil again quicker next time

MAXWELL
What gear were you in?

WEBB
Second most of the time.

MAXWELL
Try her in third.

WEBB
That will knock the daylights out of the steering.

MAXWELL
Maybe but we can't stop every two miles. I want to be on Makole Road by eight to morrow.

WEBB
Okay but I don't think we will be with you.

MAXWELL
You got one hippo I've got four.

WEBB
Oh, sure we we're expendable.

MAXWELL
Well, try to keep up. We'll notch the speed up a bit and see how she goes.

WEBB

I still think it will kill her.

Show another travelling scene with some animals scampering for cover, but Webb is oblivious to all this.

INSERT

Webb's hand shifting gears back and forth from second to third. JEN is sleeping. Webb signals again. Maxwell stops and walks back again.

MAXWELL

Same again?

WEBB

Same again only different this time.

MAXWELL

Smells bloody awful

WEBB

Just been on fire that's all.

MAXWELL

Any damage

WEBB

To the truck?

MAXWELL

What else?

WEBB

Who else?

MAXWELL

Well fix her up, must see how the hippo are getting on

WEBB

Yes, you can't forget him.

Webb gets out a grease jar from under his seat and smears some of the contents a small burn on his hand. Maxwell disappears to the back of the truck, looking intently at the hippo. Then he walks back to Webb.

MAXWELL

Change of plans

Maxwell looks at Jen who is still sleeping in the truck
unconcerned with what is going on

MAXWELL

About ten miles ahead and five
miles to the east. There is a big
wallow. I am going to make for it.
We'll spend a day there and move on
tomorrow night. It'll give the
hippos a break. Follow behind
slowly and stay on the track so I
can find you if something happens.

They continue travelling.

INSERT

Webb's hand falling on Jen's arm.

JEN

For Pete's sakes. If you want to (Continued)
paw me, why don't you?

Webb suddenly stops the truck and clumsily grabs her

JEN

Oh my! just pretend I'm a bloody
piston ring or one of those damn
things you waste your time on. Here.

Jen slides up to him putting her mouth to his. They stay
like this for about a minute. Webb makes no further move.
Then retreats for breath.

WEBB

Jen, I didn't expect.

JEN

Well don't just expect. Come on I
am fed up. Let us get moving.

WEBB

But...

JEN

I said lets us go.

WEBB

(pleading)
Next time, next time I won't be so
clumsy.

JEN

What next time?

WEBB

I don't get you at all. You go on
as if... I don't get you.

JEN

Very likely not, lets move on.

Webb starts the engine and they drive in silence for a
while.

WEBB

Sometimes you seem to want me.

JEN

And do you?

WEBB

Don't be bloody silly

JEN

Everyone is so stiff! Can't you be
gentle Webb?

WEBB

Huh I tried to be gentle back
there. You made me feel like a damn
fool.

JEN

Was that being gentle?

The truck starts KNOCKING and CLANKING as they bounce up and
down.

WEBB

I don't know about that, but I know
that there is a term for what you
are doing.

JEN

I know the last word is teaser.

WEBB

Well you said it!

The truck suddenly stops with steam shooting out on all
sides of the hood.

JEN

Sod the truck! Here come here (she
moves closer towards him.)

WEBB

I don't understand you. You don't even like me.

JEN

(looks at him expressionlessly)
Have you got something?

WEBB

Hell, this is a time and place to ask.

JEN

Well have you?

WEBB

Yes, as a matter of fact I do in my wallet (starts fumbling around)

Next Webb and Jen are naked from the waist up. Jen is sobbing.

WEBB

I am sorry it wasn't any good for you.

JEN

It wasn't any different. I thought it might take away the feel of the other. But there is no gentleness in this damned land.

WEBB

The other! What other?

JEN

Never mind.

WEBB

gets up half naked. Goes to the back of the truck to check on the hippo.

EXT. CLEARING - DAY

The Mercedes towing the five hundred weight. Nancy propels herself to meet them. Jen climbs out stiffly down and runs towards Nancy. Nancy and Jen embrace for a minute or so. Jen then takes the handle of the wheel chair pushes Nancy slowly to the fly-sheet. Webb remains sitting deflated behind the steering wheel of the disabled truck.

MAXWELL
(leaning into the cab)
Where do you want her?

WEBB
Eh! what did you say?

MAXWELL
Where do you want me to drop off
the tow rope?

WEBB
What's the odds?

MAXWELL
Sonny Jim the odds are yours to
work out. Sooner or later, you've
to get stuck into her. So, would
you find it easier to strip the
engine, if I dropped her in the
riverbed.

WEBB
It is all one to me. She's had it (Continued)
anyway.

MAXWELL
Mechanics! You can't live with
them, and you can't live without
them.

WEBB
Oh, stick it over there. Under that
tree if you like.

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

Webb approaches the others who are drinking tea. Jen is
reading a book.

WEBB
Any chai?

Maxwell hands him a mug and blackened kettle.

WEBB
Thank you. (pours some tea into the
cup) Well what now?

Maxwell tilts his canvas chair back and impassively sips his
tea.

WEBB

(continues)

Well, can't anyone tell me what we do now? I say let's flog the five hippos we've still got, and call the whole thing quits.

JEN

I personally no longer care what you do or don't do about the hippo or the money Nancy. I want you to know that I don't include you in this. He is your husband, so God help you, you are stuck with him. But Ted I am talking to you, and you too Webb. You both live in a great make-believe boy's world. With Webb it's his bloody trucks But I give you this Webb. Dumb as you are, you do actually know that there are other human beings on this earth.

(pause)

But you Ted Maxwell, you know more about animals and care about them more than you do about people. As for love and tenderness, well you belong to the trees or beneath them just like bloody rhinos Well, mate that's about your level. You are with them, only you are not so good at it. They at least rub their noses before they begin. You man are just a bloody animal without refinedness.

(pause)

I've lived with this travelling circus ever since I can remember. This trip with its charm has cured me once and for all. The first chance I get I am leaving. And the first thing I will do when I get among human beings is to turn myself into a woman, not that you would understand the need for that. Jen starts sobbing the crying and runs into the darkness to her tent.

MAXWELL

(putting down his mug)

I am going to find us transport in
Makole tomorrow.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Maxwell enters a town. At first, he passes by make shift housing structures. The structures are made of iron, aluminum, wood any such materials. Some of these are advertising known corporate names such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi and exotic beers.

This eyesore is made tolerable by the profusion of vegetables growing everywhere. Here and there are women with loads on their heads. Ahead Maxwell comes to a police post, which separates the African side from the "European" side of Makole. Maxwell's POV straight ahead is a throng of men carrying placards with political slogans demanding UHURU now.

As Maxwell approaches, they begrudgingly give him way while at the same time shouting profanities at him. Right ahead past this throng are armed troops about 10 strong. An AFRICAN POLICEMAN waves him through. Now the bungalows begin with their manicured lawns and gardens.

The signs outside proclaiming what some of the buildings were for: TSETSE FLY CONTROL; NATIVE AFFAIRS. There are policemen posted front and back of these official buildings

MAXWELL

(to himself)

Some bloody thing is up.

He travels on through the commercial part of Makole. An armored truck with white troopers comes around Maxwell turns around the corner. Right in front of him is a sign reading: ALEXANDER RITCHIE: NATIONAL PARKS DIRECTOR. This sign is defaced with an "x".

Maxwell GRINDS to a halt in the driveway of a large "Scottish mansion". He jumps out, and enters the house and finds BESUHA (15, the 'house servant' snoozing in one of the plush armchairs. Maxwell prods him, the boy leaps to his feet.

MAXWELL

Wapi bwana?

BESUHA

Shamba bwana

RITCHIE
(calling from outside)
Ted!

Maxwell walks in.

MAXWELL
For a minute I thought the wogs had
taken over.

Ritchie throws the hat to the Besuha who catches it with
practiced skill.

RITCHIE
They damn near have. Have a Shandy?

MAXWELL
No thanks Alex. Nice to see you in
one piece.

RITCHIE
Not that bad yet.

MAXWELL
You do not seem too worried about
it all.

RITCHIE
Worried! I'd go bonkers if I
worried. Not as long as I keep
slightly ahead. Anyway, you haven't
come to talk about my troubles Ted,
have you?

MAXWELL
Well, not yours maybe, Alex. Ours.
The Parks', rhinos.

RITCHIE
Oh yes, the rhinos. (sipping his
Shandy and looking over the top of
his glasses.)

MAXWELL
I have run against a bit of
trouble.

RITCHIE
You have, have you? Well that is
too bad. But the sad thing is I am
not sure if it is that important
now. To the Parks, that is.

MAXWELL

Now look Alex stop beating about the bloody bush. What's happening here? What is the meaning of that paint all over your signboard? Have you been chucked out of the Parks?

RITCHIE

Well, now laddie no. Not officially, anyway. But what is this about the signboard.

MAXWELL

Someone struck your title off. According to that you are no longer headman of the national parks.

RITCHIE

They have done that, have they? Well of course that is the local lads' idea of a joke. They have probably done it to every official.

MAXWELL

They probably have.

RITCHIE

I don't imagine they've got my removal from office, from highly placed government officer.

MAXWELL

Oh, Alex I wish you would sound a bit stirred up about it. I suppose you know that there is a riot in Makole.

RITCHIE

Well now, I haven't been in town for a couple of days... Did you catch those six young hippos?

MAXWELL

Five, one died.

RITCHIE

Bad luck Ted. Still five is something.

(Pause)

As long as I am head of the National Parks I ought not to suggest this, but maybe I can (Continued)

anticipate my own imminent demotion just a little. In which case I will give you a wee word of advice. Flog your hippos, Ted. Flog 'em and get the hell out and go back to Kenya just as soon as you can.

MAXWELL

What the hell are you talking about?

RITCHIE

Besuha!

BESUHA

Bwana!

RITCHIE

More Shandy, quick

MAXWELL

Balls to Shandy! Drink more of that mosquito pee and what's left of your blood, will turn into Shandy, if it hasn't already.

BESUHA brings two-pint tankards. Maxwell takes his and hurls it through the window. Besuha vanishes.

RITCHIE

(as cool as ever) Must keep up the intake

MAXWELL

What I want to know is why you are abandoning your idea of shifting the rhinos to a safer place. You said "let us save what is left of the bloody animals before it is too late."

RITCHIE

You obviously haven't heard.

MAXWELL

I suppose we're now getting to it.

RITCHIE

The authorities are granting this country immediate *uhuru*. Independence.

MAXWELL

But independence wasn't due for another 18 months, and that would be five hundred years too soon.

RITCHIE

Maybe you cannot stand in the way of progress. However, the authorities are not sure which political party to relinquish power to.

MAXWELL

What kind of progress is that?

RITCHIE

I suppose they have realised now that, they must sort out the mess they have created. The Magungas claim that the colonial authorities have marginalized them in favour of the Ashotas.

MAXWELL

And you think the Magungas will try and settle old scores.

RITCHIE

The Mugungas suspect the government intends to leave power to a party led by Ashotas.

MAXWELL

I think it is all a bloody (Continued) disaster. And the National Parks?

RITCHIE

Anyone's guess, there is a fair risk they'll either let them rundown, or else they'll wade in and clobber the rhinos for horn, elephants for ivory, antelope for an immediate free meal.

MAXWELL

But that's a bloody tragedy!

RITCHIE

I agree, but there are worse things. a few settlers are going to lose everything they have worked for. Some are probably going to get killed. Some locals will get carved up too.

MAXWELL

To hell with locals and settlers for that matter. But you must care about the National Parks. You have put half of your life into building this thing up.

RITCHIE

I do care about it, but not on its own. I care about it along with this shamba, and the house my old man built, and the people I have worked with, white and black.

MAXWELL

What are you going to do Alex?

RITCHIE

A lot of people are getting out at once. The authorities are preparing a special airlift and all that sort of thing. I reckon I'll just stay on for a bit.

MAXWELL

And get your throat cut?

RITCHIE

Whoever runs the place, they will need food and I grow quite a bit here.

MAXWELL

Sure, they will pinch the shamba straight away.

RITCHIE

Some of the African politicians are pretty bright, you know. Give'em time and they'll sort their own country out. One or two of them will realize that chaps like me get more out of a piece of land than the local lads can ever do. I am staying in Makole because running this shamba is all I really know how to do.

MAXWELL

Sure, and catching animals with the faint hope that we'll end up with a few brutes left in Africa is all I know how to do.

RITCHIE

Very noble, Ted

MAXWELL

Not noble. Just plain sense. I like what I do. I happen to think that it's important. Profits. People. (Continued)
They can go screw themselves.

RITCHIE

Well, if you do this job you may be lucky if you don't end up as powdered rhino horn yourself.

MAXWELL

Oh, grow up. What's so different about this country? We lived through the Mau Mau in my part of Africa. I am asking officially, as the head of the National Parks, for transport or at least for spares so that I can go and finish the job.

RITCHIE

Ted, you are right. You are a big boy you can look after yourself. I don't doubt that. You probably wouldn't come against any real trouble anyway.

On the other hand, we may shortly have a full-blown civil war. I'd agree (Continued) with you. The rhinos have a better chance of survival in the Mafuwe Park.

MAXWELL

I better get busy then and look around. Someone here must have a heavy, medium-sized truck with a bit of urge in it.

RITCHIE

The best I can do is to offer you a Diesel Land Rover.

MAXWELL

Thanks Alex I can use a Land Rover, but don't you have something slightly bigger?

RITCHIE

There is a chap, a monkey catcher. Name of Ryan. Michael Ryan. Got a five-tonner and fifteen hundred weight. He came from the Cape Town a month ago. Caught a wagonload of monkeys-velvets and baboons chiefly for zoos and pet shops. He calls himself a big game trapper. Ever heard of him?

MAXWELL

Where's he camped?

RITCHIE

Along the Bembo road about five miles out of town.

MAXWELL

Well, why the hell couldn't you tell me that earlier?

RITCHIE

He may not be quite as crazy as you are.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Maxwell arrives at Ryan's Camp. He screeches to a stop, gets out of the truck to meet Ryan who is in khaki shorts and topless. Ryan advances to meet and extending his hand to meet

MAXWELL.

Hi. are you Ryan?

RYAN

(smiting his well-developed chest)
Me. Mike Ryan (pointing at the name on Maxwell's truck) You. Ted Maxwell?

MAXWELL

That's me

RYAN

(abandoning his Tarzan impressions)
I have heard of you. I catch animals too.

MAXWELL

Where are you from?

RYAN

South Africa in the first place.
I've just worked my way over from
the West Coast.

MAXWELL

Catching monkeys?

RYAN

(laughing) Well there is demand for
them. Let's sit down here in the
shade.

Ryan leads way the to improvised bench

MAXWELL

Catch anything else?

RYAN

Anything else, why?

MAXWELL

Ever caught a white rhino.

RYAN

They are pretty docile I hear.

They sit on a bench

MAXWELL

They are not as liable to charge as
the black bastards, but you start
chasing one from the truck that is
another story.

RYAN

Well to tell you the truth, I've
only chased the black variety with
a truck they can be pretty nasty.

MAXWELL

We have given up chasing black
rhinos. We just show them the
catching truck and let them chase
us.

RYAN

What brought you here? Was there
something you wanted to talk about?

MAXWELL

I heard you have a fifteen hundred weight, but I don't see it here.

RYAN

It's in Makole getting stores

MAXWELL

Is it any good?

RYAN

It does me okay. Look if you have some proposition or something come across and talk about it.

MAXWELL

I have. I want to buy your truck.

EXT.NEW CAMP - DAY

Another camp is just set up. The supplies are assembled in one location awaiting distribution.

NANCY

Transport sounds enough even though the idea is crazy.

MAXWELL

Are you worried?

NANCY

What is the use? You will do whatever you want anyway

SOUNDS of approaching trucks Webb crawls out of his tent under the flysheet, shading his eyes with his hands and staring unbelievably at the approaching trucks. Maxwell also comes out of the flysheet.

MAXWELL

(shouting to Webb) Unfortunately, Webb it is just trucks, and not a troop of dancing girls!

NANCY

Well let us have a look at wonder boy Ryan, so we know what we are in for.

The trucks arrive, and Ryan dismounts and walks towards Maxwell and Nancy with a swagger.

NANCY

(under her breath to Maxwell)
Bloody hell, he looks like a fallen
angel

MAXWELL

More like a Durban beach boy, if
you ask me.

Maxwell advances to meet Ryan and walks back with him to his
wife.

MAXWELL

Nancy, this is Mike Ryan.

Nancy adjusts her wheels so that she can face Ryan squarely
and not bothering to shake his outstretched hand

NANCY

Ted told me about what you propose.
Two rhinos worth 10,000 pounds for
you.

Ryan converts his intended handshake into a different
gesture

RYAN

You agree with my proposal then?

NANCY

My husband agrees. He makes the
decisions I help him carry them out.

RYAN

(sitting down)

I see. Let me know where I come
into your husband's plans then.

NANCY

I will Mr. Ryan.

RYAN

Just call me Mike.

NANCY

No doubt we'll come to that stage
naturally. Here I have drawn up a
short agreement between us. There
are two copies. I'd be glad if you
sign both and give one back to me.

Nancy hands Ryan two sheets of paper from a ruled exercise
book.

RYAN

Well, aren't you the girl! (he starts to read) Seems straight forward though I don't suppose it would be exactly binding in a court of law.

NANCY

I don't think that particularly matters. For one thing this is a thoroughly illegal arrangement and (Continued) for another, there isn't liable to be much law and order around here for a bit. Now here is what my husband proposes.

MAXWELL

(taking the cue)

The very first thing is to get those five hippos to the coast. We will use the Merc and one of your lorries. I would like you to drive your lorry and take your boys as the loading party.

RYAN

What will you be doing all this time?

MAXWELL

To morrow morning I will tow the catching truck to Ritchie's house. You know, like one of those garage breakdown services.

RYAN

How do I know where to offload the hippos?

MAXWELL

Mrs. Maxwell will go with you

Ryan sighs.

MAXWELL

Nguru will drive her in the Merc.

Ryan relaxes. He signs both sheets of the agreement and hands them back to Nancy who signs them too. She hands Ryan back one copy.

EXT. NEW CAMP - DAY

Nguru is organizing the trip with Ryan's workers, they are loading the hippos carefully onto the two trucks.

WEBB

(behind Maxwell)

Guess I'll come rhino catching.

MAXWELL

All right then. You may not get paid though.

WEBB

Then I'll sign up with Ryan. I hear he earns big money.

MAXWELL

(contemptuously)

Catching monkeys.

WEBB

Or rhinos

MAXWELL

If you're coming, I can do without the humorous remarks.

WEBB

All right so long as I don't have to try to make that old bastard of a catching truck go again. What'll we do with it?

MAXWELL

We could just leave it here.

WEBB

Leave it here, hell. There are still a good few spares on her.

MAXWELL

That's my boy. Tell you what we'll do then. We'll tow it up to Alex Ritchie's shamba and dump it on him. He can keep his chickens in it. We can pick up the Land Rover he promised me at the same time.

WEBB

What kind is it? Long -wheel base?

MAXWELL

Short arsed and diesel.

WEBB

Well, good for catching dung beetles may be. When are we leaving?

MAXWELL

Just as soon as we've got the hippo convoy off towards the coast. So, get your tent struck and gear loaded.

Next Maxwell is standing to see them off.

MAXWELL

(shouting)

Four days maximum!

Jen suddenly comes out from behind a bush with a suitcase waving Ryan's truck down for a ride. It stops, and she hands the suitcase to the men in the back and she jumps in on the passenger's side. Maxwell shows signs of surprise and stops waving. He takes one step forward then he checks himself and walks back to Webb who is rigging up the tow truck.

EXT.TOWN - DAY

The two trucks are pull in Ritchie's yard. Maxwell is driving Ryan's truck and Webb is keeping the catching truck under control behind Maxwell. Ritchie comes down the steps to meet them. He scans the neatly stencilled name on the truck door. Mike Ryan, Big Game Trapper.

RITCHIE

(Pointing to Ryan's truck)

So, you succeeded.

MAXWELL

He agreed to team up.

RITCHIE

Excellent I'm delighted. Is Ryan coming along just for the fun of it

MAXWELL

Is that likely?

RITCHIE

On the whole I should say not.

MAXWELL

(relieved that Ritchie does
not persist)

Alex, I want to dump this wreck on
you until we come back.

RITCHIE

Of course, anywhere you like.
Better stick it under the mango
trees over there perhaps.

WEBB

(leaning out of the cab)
Good idea. We don't want to blister
the paintwork.

MAXWELL

(to Ritchie)

Ron Webb. He keeps the transport
going.

Pause

Where is this Land Rover of yours?

RITCHIE

It is down at the National Parks
office. I've had it checked for
you. Do you still want it?

MAXWELL

Better have it. We don't know what
sort of fix we'll be in up there.

RITCHIE

Well drop that wreck over by the
tree and come in for a shandy.

MAXWELL

I'd much rather be moving. We've
got a long way to go. Besides, this
Makole place stifles me.

Maxwell ROARS the engine to signal to Webb to put his truck
gear in drive. He pulls up further between two giant trees.
By the time they unhitch the tow rope, Ritchie is back on
the Veranda with three pints of shandy in his hands. Webb
rushes towards Ritchie and accepts the shandy eagerly.

RITCHIE

Come on Ted. You must keep up the
water table.

Ritchie offers them mugs from a cupboard on the veranda.
Maxwell reluctantly joins them and takes his shandy also.

RITCHIE

Are you sure you want to go on with this?

MAXWELL

Would I be doing other wise?

RITCHIE

You do know that it is quite unpredictable, what may happen here in the next few weeks? No one will be able to help you up there.

MAXWELL

I'm a big boy.

RITCHIE

Okay if you insist. Your wife...

MAXWELL

Gone to the coast with the hippos.

RITCHIE

Good. I wouldn't want any women on this safari if I could help it.

MAXWELL

She'll be back in four days' time

RITCHIE

You are crazy. Well watch her and watch yourself, and you young man, any damn thing could happen. Here is the map of the area and the location of Mafuwe National Park.

Maxwell accepts the map and tucks it under his arm.

EXT. NEW CAMP - DAY

Maxwell comes out of his tent stands upright squints his eyes. He goes back into the tent and comes with binoculars. We can hardly discern the dust afar off. Maxwell strolls to Webb's tent.

MAXWELL

Hey, Webb, they are coming. Get those bloody cooks out and get some breakfast cracking.

The trucks are barely visible through the dust. They come closer and closer. Nguru and Nancy pull in first. Nancy is strapped in the chair upright, Nguru is grinning from ear

to ear. Ryan turns around and stops with his back towards the camp. Before Maxwell could say anything to his wife,

(Ryan leaps out of his truck. He is wearing only bright blue shorts. He runs around the hood of the truck to open the passenger's door. He puts up his hand to help someone out. Jen steps down and stands holding Ryan's hand, she looks fresh and feminine in a dress.)

JEN

(waving to Maxwell)

Didn't expect to see me back, did you?

MAXWELL

You'd better get out of that thing now you're here. We're going to start catching after breakfast.

JEN

(Jen slips her arm through Ryan's and looking at him appealingly.)

Shall I Mike? or would you like me to stay like this?

RYAN

Bush baby, I like you any way, any way at all.

MAXWELL

For Pete's sakes. So that's why you came back.

JEN

Well you didn't think it was to catch rhinos or join the he-men, again did you?

(Pause)

Mike persuaded me.

MAXWELL

Yes, I can imagine. Get some breakfast, then some sleep. We've work to do. Ryan, your tent is over there. We'll put one for bush baby over there. (pointing in the opposite direction)

RYAN

Yes, that will be very nice. Very nice.

INT. MAXWELL'S TENT - MORNING

Nancy is lying back on her safari bed looking exhausted.
Maxwell walks in.

MAXWELL

Well?

NANCY

You have seen her.

MAXWELL

Yeah.

NANCY

Ryan. She went for him right away.

MAXWELL

She is a big girl now.

NANCY

I agree I thought you might not see
it that way, though.

MAXWELL

(ignoring the obvious jab)
Ryan? How was he?

NANCY

Charming, that is what did it.
Right from the start he treated her
like a woman, a pretty woman. You
saw the dress he bought her.

MAXWELL

Yes. Do you reckon they...?

NANCY

Oh, be your age Ted. Anyway, why
should you care? Why shouldn't the
kid have a little fun? What have
you done for her, and, tell me why
you should suddenly act so
prudish, or should I say bloody
jealous?

MAXWELL

Jealous! Jen is damn nearly my
daughter.

NANCY

(facing the wall of the tent)
In that case I've heard damn nearly
everything about the upbringing of

children.

MAXWELL

(standing looking at her)
You could have told me what kind of trip you had.

NANCY

I didn't exactly hear you ask

MAXWELL

Okay, well now I am asking. What was it like?

NANCY

It wasn't a rest that is for sure.

MAXWELL

I can imagine.

NANCY

We damn nearly didn't get there.

MAXWELL

Trouble on the coast?

NANCY

No. It was pretty quiet. The African Police almost refused to let us go any further, but just then a white soldier in an armoured car came along and wanted to know who we were. I showed him the papers from Ritchie that we under contract to deliver the hippos to the coast for export to the European zoos he let us through.

MAXWELL

Glad we had those.

EXT. MESS TENT - DAY

Maxwell, Nancy, Webb, Ryan, and Jen are having their lunch meal together. Ryan and Jen are sitting at the end of the table. Jen is wearing new cream linen slacks and a candy-striped blouse. Ryan is still topless in his bright blue shorts. The rest are in their usual bush clothes. They eat in silence as Ryan waits on Jen hand and foot. Pouring the tea for her, passing this and that to her. After a while Ryan is the first to get to his feet.

RYAN

Well, let's go and catch us a rhino
or two. (starts shadow boxing nimbly
away from the table)

Jen gives out an infatuated laugh.

MAXWELL

(speaking to Jen)

If you are coming you can follow us
in the Mercedes.

JEN

I go with Mike.

MAXWELL

That's right in the Mercedes,

RYAN

Who says I go in the lorry?

MAXWELL

I do

RYAN

(turning to Jen)

I'm catching this first one, eh,
bush baby?

JEN

(looking squarely at Maxwell)

Well any objection? It's Mike's
transport. You wouldn't be catching
at all but for Mike.

MAXWELL

He'll get plenty of a chance to
show you his muscles later.

NANCY

(cutting in)

Now let's get this straight. I told
you all before we started that what
Ted says everyone else does.

Maxwell puts his hand on Nancy's shoulders

MAXWELL

No. Changed my mind. Let Ryan
drive. We might as well find out if
he's got the stuff. Webb and I will
catch up top. Nguru can bring up
the Merc.

JEN

There Mike we get to ride together.

Jen and Ryan walk together hand in hand to the catching truck.

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - DAY

The whole crew is mounted and ready to go. Maxwell strolls up to Ryan.

MAXWELL

There is a cow and calf about a mile up that way (pointing in a certain direction) I'll direct you through the hatch until we find them. After that you are on your own.

RYAN

(smiling) Nothing to it.

MAXWELL

They are not flipping monkeys you know.

RYAN

For crying out loud.

Maxwell runs his eyes over entire outfit. Webb and some of the crew are standing above him in a catching position.

There are two eight-foot long bamboo catching poles with heavy nooses attached to them, balanced on top of the cab.

Satisfied that everything is in order Maxwell jumps in the back and stands beside Webb, and bangs on the roof of the cab.

WEBB

(shouting above the whistle of the wind)
Why the hell did you let glamour-pants drive?

MAXWELL

Give the lad a chance! They drive for a while.

Maxwell is banging on the cab for more speed. Ryan speeds up suddenly. He hits a patch of elephant grass which swallows up the truck completely.

Ryan's vision is completely obliterated. He takes his foot off the accelerator and they stop suddenly.

MAXWELL

If you can't drive the bloody thing
for Pete's sakes, why not say so?

Ryan changes gear and gets out of the grass onto fairly level ground and puts his foot well down.

Two hundred yards ahead are rhinos trotting. He gives chase, They begin to gallop. He increases speed to thirty, then forty miles an hour.

A tree suddenly appears in front of him. He ducks instinctively. The tree folds and disappears under the truck almost as fast as it had appeared.

MAXWELL

C'me on Webb give him hand signals.

Webb can see a wallow ahead and sticks his hand in Ryan's face with fingers pointing to the floor.

Ryan instantly puts his FOOT on the brakes. The catching truck bounces and noses down into the wallow.

The truck comes to sudden stop with the front wheels buried in the soft mud.

Maxwell sorts himself out from the pile of the catching crew who have slid on top of him. He jumps down.

MAXWELL

All right, now that we have had the
comedy, turn over we will start
catching.

RYAN

(trying to look unabashed
with an obvious effort)
How did I do?

MAXWELL

Much as expected. (walks around and
opens Jen's door) Down you come.

JEN

You bastards you never gave him a
chance.

MAXWELL

Suit yourself about that. (to

Ryan) Ryan you'll drive the Mercedes this time. I want Nguru for roping. (back to Jen) You'll get in the Mercedes with him.

JEN

Like hell, I will.

Maxwell raises his hand slowly and brings it down with an almighty CRACK across the seat of her cream pants.

RYAN

Easy dad!

MAXWELL

Ryan just one more thing. If either of you don't do what you are told on a catch, from this moment on, (Continued) you haven't a chance of getting your rhinos.

RYAN

(grinning)

As you say dad.

Ryan and Jen walk to the Mercedes with Ryan caressing the seat of Jen's pants.

Webb jumps in the truck as the crew jumps into the muddy wallow and push the truck out. Maxwell takes over the catching truck from Webb.

The crew jumps back into the truck. Maxwell drives in the direction of the rhinos.

Ryan and Jen are following at a distance. Jen is upset. The Rhinos suddenly appear galloping at twenty miles an hour.

Maxwell swings the wheel to the right to avoid hitting them. He runs behind the CALF who is running behind the mother.

The little animal gives a SQUEAL and spurts away to the right leaving a momentary gap between itself and the mother.

Almost gently Maxwell taps the MOTHER on the flank with his left front mudguard (fender).

She swerves away, and the gap gets wider, allowing the truck to separate the calf from the mother.

The truck moves into the gap at full throttle until he has the calf running and SQUEAKING close by his door. The next instant he sees Webb's lasso-pole dip and the rope drop neatly over the calf's tiny horn.

Maxwell slows down to let the calf go ahead and tighten the noose which is now around her neck.

He keeps going just slightly slower and the same time, he is keeps an eye on the cow.

The cow comes charging with a wild uppercut and, but Maxwell swings the truck at the last moment so that the blow hits empty air.

The crew up top shout to keep her at bay.

Maxwell turns his concentration onto the calf again. he eases the truck down so that Webb shorten the rope and twists around the pole upright rigged onto the truck.

Webb and Nguru jump out and down to the ground at the lassoed calf, which is kicking its rear end around.

Maxwell continues keeping his eye on the mum.

She hangs around tossing her head angrily.

Ryan drives up in the Mercedes to drive her off.

She lingers for bit and rhino edges away.

Everyone jumps and helps with the tying as the baby rhino fights with all her quarter ton weight

MAXWELL

Tie him up really good onto that tree, we go for mum now. Ryan... come up onto the catching truck also. You can hold the lasso for Webb and Nguru now.

RYAN

I want to rope them.

MAXWELL

There will be time for that. For now keep the lasso tight all the time when they are roping. Hey! Mpanji!

MPANJI

Yes Bwana

MAXWELL

Drive Merc.

Ryan walks to towards the Mercedes and retrieves Jen and walks back to the catching truck, and both mount the back. Maxwell mounts the cab and STARTS the engine.

RYAN

(to Webb as the truck starts moving)

I want to go over and rope this one.

WEBB

Are you nuts?

RYAN

Yes. I watched you. Doesn't seem much to it. I'll go down and help tie her up.

WEBB

You don't have to you know.

RYAN

Old stone face made a monkey out of me.

WEBB

I reckon you asked for it.

RYAN

Maybe I did, but I won't let him have that on me for the duration.

WEBB

Just forget about it

RYAN

Pause

Any suggestions?

WEBB

This baby will need two lasso ropes on her anyway.

RYAN

All right!

WEBB

I'll will be playing yo-yo up here for a bit. Nguru's going to tie this one on.

RYAN

Then I'll help him.

WEBB

Yes. Let Nguru go over the side first and tie the back feet. You get the second rope on. That is the one on the front legs.

RYAN

Okay.

WEBB

And if anything goes wrong, for crying out loud hang on to the rhino's tail. It's the only hope you'll have.

They drive for few minutes, we see the cow ahead of the truck, and Maxwell speeds up to catch up with it. Soon he is driving along side of it. Maxwell watches the lasso beginning to dip by side window.

MAXWELL

Not yet, for Pete's sake. Not yet.

Webb continues, but he is having problems getting the ROPE OVER THE LONG HORN. He withdraws the lasso for a bit.

Maxwell continues driving along the rhino leading to it smoother ground. He shoots his hand out to signal Webb to lasso.

Webb obliges but the rope gets caught on the rhino's horn and does not go over the snout.

Nguru crosses over on the other side of Webb as Jen ducks under him. He dips his lasso, which succeeds in going over the rhino's snout. It, at the same time, catches Webb's end of the lasso handle.

Maxwell slows down. As Nguru's lasso noose tightens it pulls the lasso handle out of Webb's hand. The handle sticks on the side of the rhino's head like an antenna.

The cow jumps up and down frantically trying to dislodge the 'antenna'. The free rope from Webb's lasso gets tangled up around a tree trunk.

Ryan jumps out and runs and starts tying one of the hind legs. The rhino is still preoccupied with the thing on and around her head.

She flings her head and swings it sideways with terrific power. Webb's lasso handle loosens the noose of the lasso and slips down from her snout.

Ryan is tries to tie up the leg unaware that the rhino is free.

Webb bangs on the sides of the truck to scare her off.

Maxwell jumps down from the cab and doubles round the front of the radiator to draw the rhino's attention.

Jen takes a flying leap in front of Maxwell to the ground.

WEBB

Stay down!

Jen instead gets up on her feet and runs back towards the tailboard of the truck. The cow sees her, puts down its head and charges, tearing its foot-rope free.

Ryan tries to make a second lashing around its free leg, when he realizes for the first time that the rhino is free. He grabs its tail and holds on.

Nguru runs across with a new lasso with a long line that is extending all the way to Webb on top of the catching truck.

The cow changes course from Jen's direction to this new attacker.

Nguru cleanly drops the noose around the rhino and disappears under the truck.

The cow with Ryan in tow hooks the truck just above where Nguru disappeared. Ryan lets go the rhino's tail and runs behind a tree.

Webb takes in some of the slack of the lasso and let the rhino bash the truck for a while.

Nguru reappears from the other side and climbs onto the truck.

Maxwell regains the driver's seat, and Jen climbs in beside him. He drives slowly to tire out the rhino.

JEN

(tearing at Maxwell's arm
through the hatch)

He will be killed!

MAXWELL

His only bloody fault. He near
killed all of us.

JEN

Mike was the only one who had the guts to go over and start tying.

MAXWELL

Stupid bastard just didn't know what he was doing.

JEN

If the other rope goes, he will be (Continued) killed.

MAXWELL

Well, I'm not stopping now we want this one.

Jen peers back and sees Ryan a fair distance from the rhino behind a tree. She relaxes.

The cow keeps bashing at the truck getting tired with every blow She gives the lorry a sideways buffet that hurls one of the catchers over the tailboard.

MAXWELL (O.S.)

Nguru, rope her before she bashes herself to pieces.

Nguru and the whole crew move in and pile up on the rhino tying. getting both hind legs tied.

Maxwell moves to the side and lights an untidy cigarette. When he looks up Jen is kissing Ryan smack on the lips.

INT. MESS TENT - NIGHT

Maxwell, Nancy, Webb, Ryan, and Jen are eating in silence there are the usual African night sounds of crickets and birds.

Ryan and Jen sit with their knees touching each other and waiting on each other.

RYAN

(breaking the silence)

Down in the Union they're perfecting dope darts for rhinos. Soon you won't have to chase them. (looking squarely at Maxwell) You'll just shoot them with a crossbow and walk up to them and lead them into the cage.

Pause

Old Ted here and his Wild West antics will be out of business. I wonder what he feels about the darts. Hey Ted, how do you feel about them darts when your life's work disappears?

MAXWELL

The point may not strike you Ryan, that doping will make it far easier on the rhinos.

RYAN

Right on the button the good old humanitarian as always.

NANCY

Funny enough, Ryan that's what he does worry about. The animals

RYAN

Just the animals Nancy... sorry Mrs Maxwell?

WEBB

Wrap it up Ryan

RYAN

No seriously I'm just interested. I like to know the people I'm working with. You see, I don't think this big tough reputation we've heard about old Maxwell is quite deserved. If it is, why then was he running around inviting the rhino to charge him this afternoon just to save my miserable skin?

WEBB

Oh, wrap it up. I suppose if I'd thought quicker, I'd have done the same too. You do it automatically.

RYAN

But you didn't

WEBB

Now look.

RYAN

Oh, I am not saying you were sacred or anything, so don't worry. You just were mentally tougher or more sensible, you thought: if that stupid clot wants to get down there and risk his neck, the that's not my affair. And I confess I'd have thought the same too. As for bush baby here (turning to Jen) She jumped down, bless her...because she likes me.

Pause

But old Ted staged a diversion because he really likes the whole damn human race. That is why he goes to all this trouble saving rhinos. For him it's not for the money like it is with me. I'll give him that. But here is the big surprise, it is not really the rhinos, either. It's because he thinks the whole damn animal creation, is something put there for the glory of man.

MAXWELL

(gets to his feet and looks down on Ryan trying to remain in character) I don't know what the hell you are talking about, and I don't all much care. Now I'm going to turn in. (he starts to walk away, but stops by Jen's chair) Don't forget your tent is over there.

He heads for the shelters. He arrives at the shelters. He looks in and one of them, a large bull does not look too happy. He picks up some grass hands it to him through one of the spaces in the cage.

MAXWELL

(tossing the grass to the rhino)

It is there when you want it.

He heads out walking to his tent, he hears the Jen's laughter coming out of Ryan's tent. He changes course immediately and flings open the flap. Through the shimmer of the mosquito net he can see that Jen and Ryan are lying together.

MAXWELL

Jen, I told you that your tent was over there.

RYAN

(sits up)

Oh, be your age.

Jen sits up too. It is obvious that the open candy striped blouse is the only clothing she has on.

MAXWELL (O.S.)

(gruffly)

I don't allow womanizing in my camps.

RYAN

Oh no that is not the way I heard things.

MAXWELL

I don't care what you heard. That's the way it is. As long as that girl is here, I'll say what she does or doesn't do.

RYAN

That's what I heard too. Only she doesn't do it, not any more, not with you.

MAXWELL

I'm responsible for her. I'm damn nearly her father.

JEN

And since when have fathers slept with their daughters? I didn't learn much at school, but I've heard of a word called incest.

MAXWELL

(awkwardly)

You are not my daughter. You are my ward.

RYAN

Whether she's your daughter or your ward, you have no right to lay down the law to me.

JEN

(screaming)

He wouldn't care. It wouldn't make any difference if he had a birth certificate proving I was his daughter. Ted Maxwell is with the animals. Bull rhinos have it with their daughters. Cow rhinos are screwed by their sons. So according to him, it's all right for everyone else.

RYAN

(gently putting his hand over Jen's mouth)

Listen Maxwell during rhino catching, cage making, I will take orders because it suits me. But (Continued) what I do in this tent is right outside our deal. Now get out!

Maxwell comes out of Ryan's tent crestfallen

MAXWELL

(under his breath)

Flaming bastard

He walks past other tents up to his tent. He enters his tent. The light is still on. Nancy is quiet. Maxwell takes off his clothing one at a time. He blows the light out and lies there on his camp bed staring at the roof in the semi darkness.

INT. WEBB'S TENT - DAY

Webb is sound asleep. Maxwell opens Webb's tent flap

MAXWELL

Rise and shine, we are going for a recce.

WEBB

What time is it?

MAXWELL

Daytime. We are taking the Land Rover. Meet me there.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY

Maxwell is driving with Webb in the passenger's seat.

MAXWELL

Did you hear what Ryan said last night.

WEBB

Ryan said plenty things yesterday. What exactly are you referring to?

MAXWELL

Doping. Animal catching will be easy.

WEBB

It sounds as if it will be really easy.

MAXWELL

I intend to operate a game farm in Kenya.

WEBB

Retiring?

MAXWELL

You can say that. Ryan was right. There won't be any need for people like me.

WEBB

Where does that leave me.

MAXWELL

You can round up the animals and look after vehicles for me if you wish.

WEBB

I am in. I am in. What about Jen and Ryan?

MAXWELL

I decided last night that if Jen wants to go off with Ryan, who am I to stop her.

WEBB

But she's your ward.

MAXWELL

She will be 21 in two weeks time. After that I am not responsible for her. Look! two rhinos!

WEBB (O.S.)

They are huge.

MAXWELL

King and Queen.

Maxwell stops the Land Rover and observes the rhinos wallowing in the mud from a safe distance.

WEBB

Are you not going to miss her?

MAXWELL

I probably will, but such is life.

WEBB

She is so strong willed. So, determined. She is almost like you. She is like your own daughter.

MAXWELL

(with glazed eyes)

Webb she just might be.

WEBB

What do you mean?

MAXWELL

Elizabeth, Jen's mother was Nancy's friend. She came catching with us. In the middle of the catch Nancy had an accident. We took her to the hospital. Elizabeth and I found ourselves alone.

WEBB

Does she know this?

MAXWELL

Nancy or Jen

WEBB

Both.

MAXWELL

(continuing)

Shortly after, I took on a partner. Samuel Johnson was his name. Liz married him. No, neither of them knows this. The truth is I am not sure of it either. She could be Sam's daughter or mine.

WEBB

Well you ended up raising her any way.

MAXWELL

Not very well I am afraid. No wonder she hates my guts. I am a heel Webb.

WEBB

Ted you are being hard on yourself. You have been a great guardian to her.

MAXWELL

I suppose so except for one thing.

WEBB

(quiet for a bit)

FLASHBACK

JEN

It wasn't any different. I thought it might take away the feel of the other. But there is no gentleness in this damned land.

PRESENT

WEBB

coming to the surface

I see.

MAXWELL

I hope Jen will forgive me.
(starting the Land-Rover) We'll come for the king and queen this afternoon.

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - DAY

Maxwell is driving the catching truck as before. Webb, Ryan, Jen, and Nguru are in their usual positions for the catch. The truck is running beside the Queen.

Webb successfully gets the lasso over the front horn and over the queen's snout. She struggles back and forth hitting the truck a couple of times. It takes a while to tire her out.

Ryan as before jumps out again and gets a rope around one leg and pulls back. Maxwell stops the truck while Ryan ties

his end of the rope around a tree. The crew jumps out and converge on the rhino to tie it up.

RYAN

(to Webb)

What were you waiting for sonny boy?

WEBB

To get the rhino on a short rope, of course.

RYAN

Hell, are you scared or something?

WEBB

Alright so you tied up the rhino. We were tying up rhinos while you were still learning how to catch (Continued) monkeys.

RYAN

(turning to Jen)

Oh, listen to him. just listen to him. Pretty nice and safe and sound up there on his tin fortress. You want to try it down here at ground level, mate.

WEBB

Now listen Ryan...(readying himself to jump out and settle it with Ryan.)

MAXWELL

gets out of the cab and walks between them.

MAXWELL

You listen to me both of you. Webb's job is lassoing. Not because it's safe or because it is dangerous, but because he is best at it.

RYAN

(giving a toothy smile)

Oh sure. I just thought someone else might like to have a go at the dirty work for a change. We monkey catchers have a union, too you know.

WEBB

All right, you clever sod. Next time you put the lasso on. I'll tie.

Maxwell walks to inspect the roped rhino. The catchers are using ropes rigged on pulleys to pull the rhino into the truck via the tailboard.

The catch is on gets underway again. It is almost a replay of the previous one only that Ryan is holding the lasso and Webb the tying rope.

Ryan tries to lasso. He misses. He tries again and succeeds. The rhino bumps the truck.

Webb gets up the top of the cab to get a better view. The lasso rope slips out of Ryan's hand giving the rhino full length of the rope tied to a post.

The king runs across the front of the lorry to charge the left flank. In doing so it sweeps Webb off the roof of the cab.

Webb falls the rhino notices him and charges missing with its horn but catches him with its full weight of its body smashing him against the side of the truck.

The crew jumps out and regain the rope and sling it once around the nearest tree giving the rhino only a short a short rope slack and they sling it around another tree.

Nguru jumps slips another rope around the rhino's nose over the horn. He tightens it and runs around a small tree with the other end and ties it.

The rest of the crew jump on the rhino and complete the roping. Maxwell jumps out and cradles Webb in his arms.

Webb's eyes glaze over and dies in Maxwell's arms.

MAXWELL

No, no, Nooo!!

Maxwell holds Webb for a brief moment and then lets go and walks to his truck and sobs uncontrollably.

Silence befalls the whole crew.

Jen is sobs.

Ryan is sits with his head between his folded knees.

EXT SAVANNAH FOREST- DAY

Everyone is gathered at Webb's grave site.

NGURU

Death is a bad reaper. It does not always go for the ripe fruit. Ron Webb a brave man, a caring person. a good friend of ours. May hi soul rest in peace.

The crew furiously shove dirt on top of Webb's coffin. After the burial everyone slowly walks away leaving Maxwell alone. As he starts to slowly walk away...Ryan materializes out of the bushes and grabs Maxwell's arm.

RYAN

Webb. He didn't have to rope. I tried to draw the rhino off him.

MAXWELL

Not your fault. We are moving on. Tomorrow evening. Can't stick around here. Besides, do you know what happened to day?

RYAN

(no reply)

MAXWELL

Well if you don't, let me tell you. Today was the date set for this country to get independence. Ritchie thinks there will be tribal war.

RYAN

Lovely, maybe I should take my two rhinos now.

MAXWELL

You won't get too far. The only safe way out is through Mafuwe National Park into Northern Rhodesia

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - DAY

The convoy led by Maxwell leaves a camp strewn with dilapidated wooden and grass structures. The rhinos have been methodically loaded, onto four trucks, already crated, among fuel drums and other supplies, The bull that had killed Webb and its consort in the Mercedes driven by Maxwell.

The big cow and its calf in Ryan's three tonner, driven by Ryan himself. Another big cow with its calf in another of Ryans three tonner driven by Nguru. A young half-grown bull and a young cow are loaded in the battered catching truck driven by Jen.

Mpanji and the rest of the crew are in the Land-Rover They finally come to a gravel road. Maxwell stops 100 feet away from the gravel road still in the bushes and waits for the other trucks to catch up. He takes the maps that Ritchie had given him.

MAXWELL

I think we have come to the road to Mafuwe. (He passes them to his wife)

NANCY

Why didn't you tell me we had these?

All vehicles arrive. Ryan goes straight to Jen's truck and helps her down as if she was an invalid.

MAXWELL

We'll have lunch and give the rhinos a rest. The gravel road to Mafuwe is right there

They start getting organized for lunch when they hear the SOUND of a truck. A truck full of men in military camouflage passes by on the road without noticing them.

MAXWELL

Ryan that is what I was talking about.

RYAN

(to no one in particular) Who the hell are they?

MAXWELL

Probabaly Magungas and we have trucks full of Ashotas.

RYAN

What about my crew, Xhosas or us?

MAXWELL

Their quarrel is with the Ashotas and the colonials.

RYAN

To them, I sure don't look any different from Dr. Livingstone

MAXWELL

You are right, if they mistake us for the colonials we fire first. Get your guns ready... How many do you have?

RYAN

Three

MAXWELL

That is plenty. Jen can handle any gun. Can any of your boys shoot?

RYAN

All of them. First thing I teach them is to shoot.

MAXWELL

Good. I had better check on the rhinos.

Maxwell goes from truck to truck to check on the rhinos. They seem to be quiet and relaxed.

CUT TO

An overloaded Ford truck which now is pulling into a one-pump garage some distance up the road. With military style precision two African occupants in military attire dismount with guns drawn. They burst into the office. A turbaned Sikh is standing behind the counter.

FIRST GUERRILLA

Petrol. Give us petrol.

SIKH

(trembling) Yes sir.

SECOND GUERRILLA

Two drums, pronto.

SIKH

(still trembling) Yes sir. They are under that tree over there.

FIRST GUERRILLA

No monkey tricks you hear?

SECOND GUERRILLA

You have never seen us or heard of us, you hear?

SIKH

Yes sir.

The two guerrillas jump back into the truck which advances to the tree pointed out by the Sikh.

CUT TO

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Maxwell's trucks are on the road heading towards the same pump station. Sporadic settlements of villagers are scattered along the road. They come to the same garage at a road junction. The big sign on the side of the road reads. SINGH'S PETROL STATION. Maxwell pulls into the garage followed by the other vehicles. Maxwell and Ryan walk to the garage. It is closed. They SHOUT and BANG on the doors. Sikh peeks through window

SIKH (O.S.)

We are closed!

MAXWELL

(without any preliminaries)

We need petrol

SIKH (O.S.)

I have no petrol. No deliveries for days.

RYAN

You can't have run out. It is not that busy here.

SIKH

(opening the door)

The Magunga Militia came through and commandeered my supplies (spreading his arms desperately) I had no option. They were armed. Automatic weapons.

MAXWELL

White officers with them?

SIKH

Yes

MAXWELL

Wearing Colonial Administration badges?

SIKH

No. No badges.

MAXWELL

No badges eh?

SIKH

Look! They dropped this.

Rummaging in his pockets and produces a crumpled piece of paper) Maxwell grabs and opens it and we see a two spear coat of arms crossed like an X on top of a leopard skin. At the bottom are the inscriptions "Magunga Independence Army".

MAXWELL

Well they gave you no money. I will pay you.

SIKH

But I have no petrol.

MAXWELL

I will pay well for it.

SIKH

I need the petrol for myself and my family so that we can get away should fighting break out.

MAXWELL

(ignoring the remark)

How much petrol can you afford to sell?

SIKH

You will pay double the price.

MAXWELL

How much will you sell?

SIKH

One drum

MAXWELL

And diesel?

SIKH

Ten gallons.

MAXWELL

Double the price is too much. I will pay one and half more.

Sikh grins.

RYAN

Which way did they go?

SIKH

Up that way. (pointing)

MAXWELL

Great. Hope they continue going.

The trucks are on their way again. The sky suddenly gets dark with rain clouds and not before too long it starts to rain lightly at first and then heavily. The trucks start to slide and wallow as they are going down a steep incline. The Mercedes begins to slide as Maxwell tries to straighten it while at the same time pressing hard on the breaks. But it ends up in a ditch on the side of the road onto even softer ground and the truck stops. He dismounts. The other trucks arrive.

RYAN

What did you want to go do that for?

MAXWELL

(wiping the rain from his face)

We'll have to get her out before she sinks any further.

RYAN

Better wait until this blows itself out.

MAXWELL

By that time, you won't even see the tops of the rhino crates.

RYAN

You could have tried to keep on the road.

MAXWELL

I tried. Bring your truck with winch and try to pull me out.

The crew are pushing and pulling. They all get plastered with red mud from the spinning wheels. After several tries the Mercedes gets out of the mire. The rhinos seem more lively snorting and tossing their heads at the rain.

The rain stops as the convoy starts off again. They get to a bridge which is almost overflowing with cocoa-coloured

water. They cross the bridge perilously and finally reach higher ground.

Maxwell stops, dismounts and feels the ground with his foot. He mounts again and eases the Mercedes cautiously off the road and stops in a small clearing. The other trucks follow suit and stop at some distance from each other.

MAXWELL

(to Nancy)

We have done about 130 miles in a little under fourteen hours.

NANCY

According to this map we must be half way to Mafuwe National Park,

Nguru materializes with a wheel chair on Nancy's side Maxwell dismounts. Nguru helps Nancy onto her wheelchair. They quickly erect the camp a fire. Ryan and Jen are constructing a lean-to shelter with a flysheet along side Ryan's three-tonner.

INT. RYAN'S TENT-NIGHT

Ryan and Jen are sitting side by side in the dimly lit lean-to. Ryan is holding a bottle of beer and Jen a glass of something.

RYAN

I can't wait to show you the Cape darling.

JEN

Really?

RYAN

I wonder how Maxwell will take it. You, leaving this outfit.

JEN

I left before, remember? Besides Maxwell knows that after I am 21 I am no longer his ward.

RYAN

I am beginning to like old Ted. He is not that bad after all.

JEN

He seems to be accepting my decision.

RYAN

Hope we can sell our two
rhinos.

INT. MAXWELL'S TENT - NIGHT

Maxwell and Nancy who are lying side by side in the tent.

NANCY

Glad to see you're letting them get
on with it.

MAXWELL

It's much better for her. Ryan's
not my favourite man, but
still...Well what happens after
this.

NANCY

She will get married and live
happily ever after.

MAXWELL

I bet. Ryan'll just disappear. She (Continued)
will never see him again.

NANCY

Then that solves itself.

MAXWELL

Hm. Maybe. Let's get some sleep.

A BLAST sounds in the distance.

NANCY

What is that?

Pause, Another BLAST,

MAXWELL

It is probably lightening.

EXT. SAVANNAH FOREST - DAY

They pull back onto the main road without difficulty. They
travel on for some time.

INT. TRUCK CAB-DAY

Maxwell is driving with Nancy by his side.

NANCY

Hope you know that was the noise of
gunfire we heard last night.

MAXWELL

I do, and I wish I knew who is (Continued)
fighting who. Or if the government
has changed its mind about granting
independence.

NANCY

This is Magunga traditional
territory

MAXWELL

As I was telling Ryan we have no
quarrel with the Magunga. We will
try and protect the Ashota men
though.

NANCY

(continuing with her line of
thought) Not to mention the rhino
horns that would make some them
rich for life.

MAXWELL

Well we don't have much of a
choice, we just have to keep going
I suppose and see what happens. Hey
look smoke. There must be a
village.

Maxwell grabs his binoculars. He surveys and scans the
village he sees scattered bodies of uniformed men and
villagers caught in the cross fire. Charred crates of
supplies and petrol drums are scattered about. He continues
to drive.

MAXWELL

Aerial attack. Independence is
here.

NANCY

And they are settling old scores.

MAXWELL

Likely. We've just got to keep
going.

It starts to rain heavily again. The road is getting
muddier, hilly and windy. Trucks are having difficulty
rising and descending and negotiating tricky corners. The
rain intensifies,

Mpanji's Land Rover is falling behind as the wheels spin
around, even in high gear.

Two Magunga guerillas and two white mercenaries who are the survivors of the air attack are lurking in the bushes above on the slopes of the hill.

They notice Mpanji's Land Rover having problems. One mercenary gives hand signs. The other guerrillas push a large boulder a push down the hill. It rolls down the slippery slope and lodges itself in the middle of the road in front of Mpanji's Land Rover.

MPANJI

Dammit!!

He is just starting to get traction and getting. He slams on the breaks, swerves and ends up high centred on the side of the road. Two Magunga guerrillas and the two white mercenaries converge on the truck.

FIRST GUERRILLA

Out everyone.

SECOND GUERRILLA

How many in there?

FIRST MERCENARY

(opening the door to the cab)

Out you!

Mpanji and others get out and stand some distance from the Land Rover.

MPANJI

We are not Ashotas Sir.

RYAN'S CREW MEMBER

(in perfect Afrikaans) We are Xhosa from the Union.

FIRST MERCENARY

(in Afrikaans) What are you doing here.

RYAN'S CREW MEMBER

Job. Catching and moving rhinos to a protected area.

FIRST GUERRILLA

What is he saying?

FIRST MERCENARY

They are from the Union hired to catch animals. Okay, let us get thing unstuck.

First Mercenary gets into the Land Rover which is still running and presses down the accelerator, The wheels spin.

SECOND MERCENARY

C'mon let's all push. Puu--ush!

Mpanji and others start pushing positions and struggle to get the truck out of the mud, we cut to the animal catchers.

CUT TO

Maxwell and Ryan in the Land Rover turn a come a bend and stop. Maxwell noticing that Mpanji is not with them, turns around

MAXWELL

(to Ryan)

Hey, Ryan, Let's head back, Mpanji and the crew are not with us.

Ryan jumps in the back of Maxiwell's truck. Maxwell coming around a bend stops and looks through his binoculars. He sees the white mercenary at the wheel while the others are pushing. He turns around

RYAN

(through the hatch)

What are you doing now?

MAXWELL

We are too late, look. (handing the binoculars)

RYAN

Magungas and white mercenaries.

MAXWELL

And will try to commandeer all that we have. We are going ahead.

RYAN

What about Mpanji and my men?

MAXWELL

Your men will be spared,
They are not Ashotas. There is only two Ashotas in the group. I hope they will not get identified.

Ryan does not respond.

Maxwell is driving furiously without talking. until they

arrive where they left the others.

MAXWELL

(shouting)

Everyone listen up. Mpanji's Land Rover has been commandeered back there. The Magunga guerrillas are about 50 miles back. They are probably trying to escape back to their bases in Rhodesia. This is the only way out. We will continue non-stop until we get to the park and get ready for them. Ryan, here is the map you lead the way. Jen, Nguru and I will follow you. Drive carefully, yet as fast as you can.

They all scramble back to their respective vehicles without question. The convoy continues as organized. We see them travelling through sandy country now.

NANCY

Perhaps we should release the rhinos here and head out.

MAXWELL

The rhinos are our last line of Defence.

NANCY

What do you mean?

MAXWELL

I have a plan and I hope it works. This is the only way out. Those Magungas will be trying to go through the park off this road, and get to their bases into Rhodesia.

CUT TO

The Land Rover gets unstuck and on the road. The other white mercenary jumps in on the passenger's side. The two Magunga guerillas jump in the back. They drive off leaving Mpanji and others behind.

SECOND GUERRILLA

Bye bye.

FIRST GUERRILLA

Thanks for transport.

CUT TO

Jen's truck has a flat tire. Ryan is busy changing the tire while Maxwell watches on.

MAXWELL

We must be very close now.

JEN

I have been thinking. How the hell are we going to be paid. Mike can't take the two rhinos now.

RYAN

Jen is right. If the country is in such a chaos, how am I going to get to the coast to sell my rhinos?

MAXWELL

Alex Ritchie will pay us.

JEN

That is if the new government does not toss him. We may have done all this for free.

MAXWELL

Well people, we have no time to worry about what ifs. We are close to completing the mission.

Ryan tightens the last nut, kisses Jen and goes to his own truck. The convoy continues again as before. The road is getting less pronounced and narrower They arrive in Mafuwe National Park

MAXWELL

(dismounts)

We are here, everyone let's get going. let us get the rhinos out!

They quickly offload the rhinos crates using ingenious pulley systems and come alongs. Maxwell directs the crew where to place the crates in semi circle. They partially cut the ropes to the doors. The rhinos are in shock and don't immediately run for it.

MAXWELL

(to Ryan) Get your guns. Ryan fetches three guns, hands one to Jen, and another to Maxwell.

Maxwell hands his own three guns to the Nguru and two other crew members. He directs where everyone should be, behind huge two anthills in semicircular fashions to avoid friendly fire.

The two mercenaries in front are smoking and singing war

songs. They come around a bend and find themselves almost surrounded by rhino cages. They slide to a halt.

Maxwell fires in the air. The king bolts out of the cage and heads for the Land Rover and bangs it on the side. The queen also bolts out and hits the Land Rover on the other side.

The Magunga guerrillas and their mercenaries get agitated and confused by this rhino attack. Whenever they try to aim, the Land Rover gets a wallop making them fire wildly. While this is happening, there is a SOUND of a helicopters which becomes louder and louder. All rhinos scatter and disappear.

Ryan addresses the two mercenaries and two guerrillas who are still in the Land Rover

RYAN

You are surrounded, don't even twitch a muscle or I will fill you (Continued) with lead.

Maxwell comes out into the open where he can be seen waving his shirt and looking around if there are any more Magunga guerrillas still around.

RYAN

(with his gun pointed at them)
Now come out nice and slow.

MAXWELL

It is a military helicopter.

A two huge helicopters circle around and goes back a distance the way they came and comes back again. Alex Ritchie is in the front seat beside the pilot. It lands in a clearing.

RITCHIE

(through a loud speaker)
Maxwell! It is me Ritchie!

MAXWELL

For heaven's sakes. Come on everyone. It is Ritchie.

Maxwell quickly helps Nancy onto her wheel chair and propels her to the waiting chopper. There is hurried activity as another chopper lands nearby. The pilots are helping the animal catchers in, and loading their luggage. They all load up and themselves in.

PILOT

(radioing)
Rescue underway. Heading to destination.

The first chopper takes off followed by a second one.
(p.o.v.) The two mercenaries and two guerrillas are all tied up onto trees and the abandoned vehicles. RITCHIE produces a small silver bottle passing it through the communicating window.

RITCHIE

Here Ted have a shandy. Don't worry about your vehicles. They will be retrieved.

Maxwell grabs it takes a long swig.

MAXWELL

Thanks Alex. You came in the nick of time. What the hell is going on.

RITCHIE

The airlift is on. Most Europeans are being evacuated from this country. There are planes to fly you out.

MAXWELL

To where?

RITCHIE

(Northern Rhodesia, There, you can catch a plane north to` Kenya or south to the Union.)

MAXWELL

What about you? Where are you going to end up?

RITCHIE

The Ashota lads do like me. I will stay out of the country a bit may be visit my daughter in Jo'burg. Come back when things are stable. By the way good work Maxwell. How many did you manage to get into the Park.

MAXWELL

Eight.

RITCHIE

Any loses.

MAXWELL

I lost Ron Webb. Big bull killed him. Several of our men got ambushed

RITCHIE

We found them They are shaken up
but okay. They have been picked up
already. They are in the other
helicopter.

MAXWELL

Good stuff.

RITCHIE

(producing a large envelope)
Here Ted, there is enough there to
cover your costs and Ryan's costs,
and for all your employees or their
families. (smiles and winks to
Nancy) Tell this husband of yours
to pack it in. This racket is for
the younger ones like Ryan there.

NANCY

He was going pass it on to Ron
Webb.

MAXWELL

We are intending to start a game
farm, with bed and breakfast Bed
and breakfast, That sort of thing.

NANCY

And Mike may dart the animals and
deliver them to us. (looks at Ryan
who is taken by surprise)

JEN

When did you decide all this?

NANCY

Just now.

RYAN

Bush baby and I are getting married
as soon as we get to the Cape.

NANCY

When did you decide that?

RYAN

Ever since I laid my eyes on her.

MAXWELL

The wedding is on us

FADE OUT

