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"A peculiarly thrilling and vigorous tale of adventure." _Andrew Lang

"It goes and it grips and it moves with all the freshness of youth." _Rudyard Kipling

When Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* was first published, H. Rider Haggard made a five-shilling bet that he could write a better adventure tale. In 1885, he created *King Solomon's Mines*, a story in which Allan Quatermain, a gentleman adventurer, is hired to locate a man who had disappeared into the heart of Africa while hunting for the legendary lost diamond mines of King Solomon. The book became an instant sensation and has remained popular ever since.

Tales of adventure in exotic settings were the hallmark of Haggard's art; and *King Solomon's Mines* was no exception. Here were all the elements for which his novels were famous: a gripping tale in a foreign setting, supernatural adventures, terror, passion, and discovery. Praised as "the most amazing story ever written," the book went on to become one of the best-selling novels of the nineteenth century