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# **The Lost World**

**An Alien Voices Production**

**Adapted by  
JOHN de LANCIE**

**From a script by  
NAT SEGALOFF and JOHN de LANCIE**

**Original story by  
SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**



**Dramatic Publishing**

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Radio Play Manuscript)

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# **The Lost World**

A Radio Play  
For a flexible cast  
(playing multiple roles, if desired)

VOICES (in order of speaking)

Announcer  
Copy Boy  
Roxton  
Gomez  
Malone  
Summerlee  
Challenger  
McArdle  
Beaumont  
Dr. Meldrum  
Illingworth  
Voice  
Attendant  
Gladys  
Ape King  
Chief  
Barman

# The Lost World

Adapted by John de Lancie  
From a Script by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie  
An Alien Voices Production  
Original story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

ANNOUNCER

“Dinosaur.” The very word evokes a nightmare – a nightmare both repulsive and...mesmerizing. What is the enduring appeal of these great beasts who lived millions of years before Man?

Is it the ferocity of their life? Or the mystery of their death? Come with us now as we make our way down treacherous rapids and across steaming jungles in search of...the Lost World.

**SOUND: Horse-drawn carriages.**

COPY BOY

Extra! Extra! Read all about it.  
Scientific mission approaching deadly rapids! Extra! Extra!

EXT. RAPIDS—SEQUENCE

1

**MUSIC: Rhythmic.**

ROXTON

Hold on!

GOMEZ

Paddle with the current!

MALONE

Watch out for the boulders!

SUMMERLEE

There's a whirlpool!

CHALLENGER

Look out.

SUMMERLEE

We hit something.

ROXTON

Just a glancing blow.

MALONE

They're shooting at us!

CHALLENGER

Jolly good ride!

SUMMERLEE

We're going to capsize!

MALONE

We can't make it! We can't make it!

ALL

Watch out!

INT. NEWSROOM

2

**SOUND: A telephone rings! Manual typewriters.**

COPY BOY

Mr. McArdle, it's the telegraph room. Malone's latest story has them in mortal danger. They're caught in the rapids and Sir George Beaumont wants a word with you!

MCARDLE

You let Sir George climb those stairs?

COPY BOY

I couldn't stop him, Mr. McArdle, he...

**SOUND: Walking up stairs.**

BEAUMONT

(entering)

So there you are, Angus! Explain to me these expenses!

MCARDLE

We have Malone's next story, Sir George.

BEAUMONT

More silly bird-watching reports?

MCARDLE

Not at all, Sir George! Rapids and cannibals with drums and poison arrows and piranha fish...

BEAUMONT

Monsters, man! You promised me monsters as big as our headlines!

MCARDLE

*Big* rapids! *Big* drums! And *big* cannibals with *big* poison arrows!

BEAUMONT

And *BIG* expenses! How did you bewitch me into paying for this expedition?

MCARDLE

Well, if you'll recall, Sir George, it all began when young Ned Malone decided he was tired of chasing fire engines...

**MUSIC: Transition (harp glissando).**

INT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE—EARLIER

3

**SOUND: Knock on door.**

MALONE

Mr. McArdle, do you have a minute?

MCARDLE

What's on your mind, Malone?

MALONE

I'd like to report on something more exciting than charity events, Mr. McArdle. Perhaps a mission like Stanley and Livingston. Something with adventure and danger – the more, the better.

MCARDLE

You seem very anxious to risk your life.

MALONE

To justify my life, sir.

MCARDLE

Let me hazard a guess – it's about a girl, isn't it? What's her name?

MALONE

Gladys. Gladys Hungerton.

MCARDLE

Well, laddie. I don't know if I have any "new worlds" for you to discover but I do have something of a mission – have you heard of George Edward Challenger?

MALONE

Professor Challenger? The famous zoologist?

MCARDLE

Right. Two years ago, Challenger went on an expedition to South America. He came back with stories. Big stories about a land lost in time, untouched for million of years. He actually claims to have seen dinosaurs.

MALONE

My God! Dinosaurs?

MCARDLE

That's right laddie...“dinosaurs”...in a “lost world”...don't you love the sound of it? There's a meeting tonight at the Zoological Society. Challenger is going to be there. I want you to go and sniff around. If you find something – I'll back you up.

MALONE

Thanks for the tip, Mr. McArdle.

MCARDLE

Think nothing of it! And be careful!

INT. ZOOLOGICAL HALL – NIGHT

4

**WALLA/SOUND: Gavel. Smattering of applause.**

DR. MELDRUM

Thank you, thank you, and now I would like to introduce our featured speaker, Doctor Emil Illingworth.

**WALLA/SOUND: Bigger smattering of applause.**

ILLINGWORTH

Thank you, Dr. Meldrum, Esteemed society members, Ladies and Gentlemen. As we climb the evolutionary ladder, what captivates us most are the saurians – the dinosaurians: that frightful breed of reptile that appears to us in the fossil record, but which has been extinct before the coming of Man...

CHALLENGER

(o.s., in audience)  
Hogwash!

**WALLA: Ohhhh!**

ILLINGWORTH

...To be sure, extinct *millions* of years before the coming of Man...!

CHALLENGER

(o.s.)

Moron!

**WALLA: Ooooooh!**

MELDRUM

Would Professor Challenger please contain himself...?

ILLINGWORTH

...Evolution is not a spent force. It is at work here, even today...

CHALLENGER

(o.s.)

...Not within these walls!

**SOUND: Gavel.**

MELDRUM

Stop this disruption, sir! This is a distinguished assembly...

CHALLENGER

(o.s.)

...Would you accept, sir, a reasonable opinion?

ILLINGWORTH

I should like to hear you utter a reasonable opinion, sir!

CHALLENGER

(o.s.)

Very well. The reasonable opinion is: you are an idiot.

**WALLA: Blasphemy! Intolerable! That does it!**

**SOUND: Gavel hitting wood.**

**WALLA: Derisive.**

**SOUND: Gavel pounding.**

**Challenger comes on stage (or closer to mike).**

MELDRUM

Professor Challenger, really...! I must ask you to leave the hall so that the good doctor may continue his speech, and if that is not acceptable...

CHALLENGER

Just because Dr. Illingworth has never seen prehistoric animals, does that mean they don't exist? No! In fact they do exist and I have seen them!

**WALLA: *Skeptical.***

VOICE

(o.s.)  
Liar!

CHALLENGER

Am I a liar?

VOICE

(o.s.)  
Liar!

**WALLA: *Yes! Liar!***

MELDRUM

(ad lib)  
Some decorum, please! Order!

**WALLA: *Self-shushing.***

SUMMERLEE

(o.s.)  
Question! Question, Professor!

CHALLENGER

Aha! There is a woman who seeks a cure for ignorance!

SUMMERLEE

(o.s.)

Your findings in the Amazon run completely counter to established explorers. How do you account for this?

CHALLENGER

Very simple. What the others missed, I discovered.

SUMMERLEE

(o.s.)

Will you divulge the exact location of your so-called discovery?

**WALLA: Titters.**

CHALLENGER

I shall not! That information is proprietary.

**WALLA: Boo!**

SUMMERLEE

(o.s.)

And unpublishable – which makes it unscientific!

CHALLENGER

You raise the same stale argument as my chief critic, Professor Summerlee.

SUMMERLEE

(o.s.)

That is because I am Professor Summerlee!

CHALLENGER

Why, good God, man – you're a woman!

**WALLA: Whoa! Aha!**

SUMMERLEE

(o.s.)

I invite Professor Challenger to prove his contention with a proper investigation – that is...if *I* participate.

**WALLA: *Buzzing; gafuffa.***

CHALLENGER

I accept that challenge and dare the Zoological Society to finance such an expedition.

MELDRUM

Well...I...I don't know...

MALONE

(o.s.)

Ladies and gentlemen, I am Edward Dunn Malone of the *Daily Gazette*. I shall ask my editor, Mr. McArdle, to underwrite this expedition!

**WALLA: *Bravo! Jolly good! Light applause.***

But only if I too may participate!

**WALLA: *More cheering.***

CHALLENGER

Wonderful! Are there any other volunteers?

ROXTON

(o.s.)

Right here, Professor Challenger!

CHALLENGER

And your name, sir?

ROXTON

(o.s.)

Lord John Roxton.

**WALLA: *Recognition – Oooooo!***

ROXTON (cont'd)

(o.s.)

I have been up the Amazon and I have special qualifications for this expedition.

MALONE

(o.s.)

Lord John Roxton's reputation as a sportsman and explorer is world-famous. He would make a welcome addition.

**WALLA: *Muttering.***

CHALLENGER

(grandly)

So be it.

**WALLA: *Applause.***

***Everyone comes on stage (to mike).***

Ladies and gentlemen, please recognize Lord John Roxton, Professor Summerlee, Edward Dunn Malone and myself – as the official expedition that will bring back unassailable proof of my Lost World!

**WALLA: *Hip hip hooray! And more applause.***

ILLINGWORTH

Just a moment! Just a moment, please! Only an objective expedition can confirm such findings, Challenger. Therefore I move that you not accompany the others.

**WALLA: *Gasp!***

CHALLENGER

You would bar me from my own expedition?!? This is an outrage! An insult!

**WALLA: Boo! Hiss!**

**SOUND: Gavel pounding.**

MELDRUM

It is moved that Professor Challenger withdraw from the expedition. All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

**WALLA: Many ayes.**

CHALLENGER

How dare you! How dare you!

MELDRUM

All those opposed, "nay."

CHALLENGER

Nay!

MELDRUM

Well, I suspect the "ayes" have it. The motion is carried. This meeting is adjourned!

**SOUND: Gavel pounding once.**

**WALLA: Hear! Hear!**

ROXTON

Quite a turnabout, eh, Malone?

MALONE

It certainly is!

ROXTON

Since we're to travel together, I think we need to understand one another.

MALONE

Why, of course.