

KING KONG

(RKO, 1933)

6 page transcript
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FADE IN

EXT. HOBOKEN DOCKS -- NIGHT

The Manhattan skyline looms across the Hudson River.

EXT. ON THE DOCK NEXT TO A FREIGHTER -- NIGHT

A GUARD, 40's, patrols the dock. He holds a glowing lantern.
WESTON, 50's, well-dressed with cane, approaches him.

WESTON

Say. Is this the moving picture
ship?

GUARD

The Venture? Yeah. Are you going
on this crazy voyage?

WESTON

What's crazy about it?

GUARD

I don't know but everybody around
here is talking about that crazy
fella that's a running it.

WESTON

Carl Denham?

GUARD

Guess that's the name. They say he
ain't scared of nothing. If he wants
a picture of a lion, he just goes up
to him and tells him to look pleasant.

WESTON

He's a tough egg alright but why all
this talk about this voyage being
crazy?

GUARD

Well everybody around the docks is
talking about the cargo for one thing.
And I never did see a ship this size
with such a crew.

WESTON

Not enough men to handle it?

GUARD

Not enough?! Three times more than
the ship needs. I don't see where
they're gonna have room enough to
sleep.

A scruffy voice shouts down from the ship's deck.

DRISCOLL (O.S.)
Hey, down there. What do YOU want?

WESTON
Denham aboard?

EXT. SHIP'S DECK -- NIGHT

Driscoll, 20's, in first mate uniform, leans on the deck rail.

DRISCOLL
Well who are you?

WESTON (O.S.)
My name's Weston. The theatrical agent.

Driscoll's tone lightens.

DRISCOLL
Well why didn't you say so? Come on aboard.

BACK TO SCENE

Weston heads toward the ship.

DRISCOLL (O.S.)
Denham's getting wild. Hope you have some good news for him.

Weston walks up the ship's ladder.

INT. SHIP'S CABIN -- NIGHT

ENGLEHORN, the sea captain, 50's, in uniform, sits at the table. CARL DENHAM, 40's, in suit and tie, stands and lights a pipe.

ENGLEHORN
Well, Mr Denham. You know the reasons for hurrying as well as I do. The insurance company has found out we're carrying explosives and the marshall will be aboard tomorrow or next day.

DENHAM
And I suppose if we make a legal case of it, we'll be tied up for months.

ENGLEHORN

With enough ammunition to blow up
the harbor?

Englehorn opens a box and removes a gas bomb. He examines
it.

ENGLEHORN (CONT'D)

What do you think the marshall will
say to these new gas bombs of yours?
According to you, one of them is
enough to knock out an elephant.

Denham takes the bomb and returns it to the box.

DENHAM

We've got to get to where we're going
before the monsoon starts.

ENGLEHORN

Well you can trust me to see me
through a blow, I hope.

DENHAM

Well now don't get sore, Skipper.
But you know what it means to run
into the tropical rainy season when
you're trying to make an outdoor
picture. Months wasted, money gone,
and nothing to show for it.

ENGLEHORN

Still you always bring back a picture
and everybody says, "There's only
one Carl Denham."

Driscoll and Weston enter.

DENHAM

Ah, Weston. I was just going ashore
to call you.

WESTON

If I'd have known that, I would have
waited.

DENHAM

(to Weston)

Uh. This is the Skipper.

(to Englehorn)

Weston. A theatrical agent.

The two shake hands.

DENHAM (CONT'D)

(to Weston)

I guess you met Driscoll, the first mate.

WESTON

Yes.

Driscoll offers Weston a cigar.

DENHAM

Well, Weston, how about the girl?

WESTON

It can't be done, Denham.

DENHAM

What? It's got to be done. Now look here, Weston. Somebody's interfered with every girl I've tried to hire. And now all the agents in town have shut down on me. All but you. You know I m square.

WESTON

Everybody knows you're square, Denham, but you've got a reputation for recklessness that can't be glossed over. And then you're so secretive.

DRISCOLL

You said it.

ENGLEHORN

When even the Skipper and the mate don't know where they're going, why--

WESTON

There you are. I've got a conscience, Denham. I can't send a young, pretty girl, such as you ask, on a job like this without telling her what to expect.

DENHAM

And what is she to expect?

WESTON

To go off on a trip for no one knows how long, to some spot you don't even hint at. The only woman on a ship with the toughest mugs I ever looked at. I mean the crew.

DENHAM

Good Lord. You talk as if I never brought anybody back alive. The Skipper and Driscoll have stuck to me on two trips. They look well enough.

DRISCOLL

Sure. We're healthy.

ENGLEHORN

It's a different thing taking a girl into danger.

DENHAM

And I suppose there is no danger in New York? Listen, there are dozens of girls in this town tonight that are in more danger than they'll ever see with me.

DRISCOLL

Yeah, but they know that kind of danger.

WESTON

You never had a woman in any of your other pictures. Why do you want one in this?

DENHAM

Holy mackerel. Do you think I want to haul a woman around?

WESTON

Then why?

DENHAM

Because the public, bless them, must have a pretty face to look at.

WESTON

Sure. Everybody likes romance.

DENHAM

Well, isn't there any romance or adventure in the world without having a flapper in it?

ENGLEHORN

Well, Mr. Denham. Why not take a picture in a monastery?

DENHAM

It makes me sore.

(MORE)

DENHAM (CONT'D)

I go out and sweat blood to make a swell picture and then the critics and the exhibitors all say, "If this picture had love interest, it would gross twice as much." All right. The public wants a girl and this time, I'm gonna give them what they want.

WESTON

I don't know where you're gonna get her.

DENHAM

I've gotta get her, Weston. We've gotta leave here on the morning tide. We've gotta be gone by daylight.

WESTON

Why?

DENHAM

Well, er, there's a good reason.

WESTON

Everything I hear about this thing makes me like it less. I'm glad I didn't get you a girl.

DENHAM

You are, eh? Well, I'll show you. If you think I'm going to give up just because you can't find me a girl with a backbone-- Listen, I'm going out to make the greatest picture in the world, something that nobody's ever seen or heard of. They'll have to think up a lot of new adjectives when I come back.

Denham puts on his hat and coat.

ENGLEHORN

Where are you going?

DENHAM

I'm going out and get a girl for my picture. Even if I have to marry one!