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Nota di contenuto	The "emperor" strikes back. Invitation to a beheading -- A conflict of memories -- Histories made by bodies -- Tropical gothic -- Storms the headhunter. Remembering the dismembered. The rise of a colonial macabre -- Art evo on the Chaussee d'Ixelles -- Lusinga's lasting laughs -- Composing decomposition -- Defiances of the dead.
Sommario/riassunto	A Dance of Assassins presents the competing histories of how Congolese Chief Lusinga and Belgian Lieutenant Storms engaged in a deadly clash while striving to establish hegemony along the southwestern shores of Lake Tanganyika in the 1880's. While Lusinga participated in the east African slave trade, Storms' secret mandate was to meet Henry Stanley's eastward march and trace "a white line across the Dark Continent" to legitimize King Leopold's audacious claim to the Congo. Confrontation was inevitable, and Lusinga lost his head. His skull became the subject of a sinister evolutionary treat