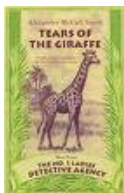


The “No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency” series By Alexander McCall-Smith



The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency [1998]

In contemporary Botswana, sleuth Precious Ramotswe decides to go against tradition and start her own business – a detective agency. Soon, she is in the thick of several perplexing cases. This delightfully engaging first title in the new mystery series introduces Mma Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to help people with problems in their lives. She's immediately hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, follow a wayward daughter, and find a missing 11-year-old boy.



Tears of the Giraffe [2000]

Precious Ramotswe is the eminently sensible and cunning proprietor of the only ladies detective agency in Botswana. In Tears of the Giraffe, she tracks a wayward wife, uncovers an unscrupulous maid, and searches for an American man who disappeared into the plains ten years ago. In the midst of resolving uncertainties, pondering her impending marriage to a good, kind man, Mr. J.L. B. Matekoni, and the promotion of her talented secretary (a graduate of the

Botswana Secretarial College, with a mark of 97 per cent), she also finds her family suddenly and unexpectedly increased by two. Meanwhile, her betrothal to Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni provokes a hostile reaction from Mr. Matekoni's unscrupulous maid, who quickly begins plotting the disintegration of the engagement.



Morality for Beautiful Girls [2001]

Precious Ramotswe, founder and owner of the only detective agency for the concerns of both ladies and others, investigates the alleged poisoning of the brother of an important “Government Man,” and the moral character of the four finalists of the Miss Beauty and Integrity Contest, the winner of which will almost certainly be a contestant for the title of Miss Botswana. Yet her business is having money problems, and when other difficulties arise at her fiancé's Tlokweng Road

Speedy Motors, she discovers the reliable Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni is more complicated than he seems.



The Kalahari Typing School for Men [2002]

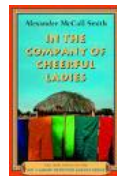
Now that her business, the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, is firmly established, the agency's founder, Precious Ramotswe, can look upon her life with pride: she's reached her late thirties (“the finest age to be”) and she has a house, two adopted children, a good fiancé, and many satisfied customers. But life is never without its problems. Mma Ramotswe is asked to locate two women. Her adopted son has a somewhat troubling hobby. Her assistant wants a husband

but can't find one, and is starting a typing school for men. Meanwhile, the Satisfaction Guaranteed Detective Agency has opened up across town and seems to be getting all the attention. In this latest volume from Alexander McCall-Smith's The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series, Precious manages to cope with these and other more serious problems with her customary mix of insight and good-heartedness



The Full Cupboard of Life [2003]

In this fifth novel in The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, we are once again transported to Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, and enter the world of Mma Precious Ramotswe and her friends. Mma Ramotswe is engaged to Mr. J. L. B. Matekoni. She wonders when the wedding date will be set, but she is anxious to avoid putting too much pressure on her fiancé. For, indeed, he has other things on his mind - notably a frightening request made of him by Mma Potokwane, the pushy matron of the Orphan Farm. And there is the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency to tend to. Mma Ramotswe has been hired to determine whether the several suitors of a wealthy woman - who made her fortune in hair braiding salons - are really interested in her, or only in her money. A difficult task, but no one can match Mma Ramotswe in resourcefulness and spot on intuition



In the Company of Cheerful Ladies [2004]

Precious Ramotswe finds herself overly beset by problems. She is already busier than usual at the detective agency when added to her concerns are a strange intruder in her house on Zebra Drive and the baffling appearance of a pumpkin. And then there is Mma Makutsi, who decides to treat herself to dance lessons, only to be partnered with a man who seems to have two left feet. Nor are things running quite as smoothly as they usually do at Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors.

Mma Ramotswe's husband, the estimable Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, is overburdened with work even before one of his apprentices runs off with a wealthy woman. But what finally rattles Mma Ramotswe's normally unshakable composure is a visitor who forces her to confront a secret from her past. All this unfolds against the sunlit background of Mma Ramotswe's beloved homeland, Botswana - a land of empty spaces, echoing skies, and an endless supply of soothing bush tea



Blue Shoes and Happiness [2006]

In this latest installment in the beloved series, there is considerable excitement at The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency. A cobra has been found in Precious Ramotswe's office. Then a nurse from a local medical clinic reveals that faulty blood-pressure readings are being recorded there. And Botswana has a new advice columnist, Aunty Emang, whose advice is rather curt for Mma Ramotswe's taste." "All this means a lot of work for our heroine and her inestimable assistant, Grace Makutsi, and they are, of course, up to the challenge. But there's trouble brewing in Mma Makutsi's own life. When Phuti Radiphuti misses their customary dinner date, she begins to wonder if he is having second thoughts about their engagement. And while Mma Makutsi may be able to buy that fashionably narrow (and uncomfortable) pair of blue shoes, it may not buy her the happiness that Mma Ramotswe promises her she'll find in the simpler things - in contentment with the world and enough tea to smooth over the occasional bumps in the road

The official Alexander McCall-Smith website: www.mccallsmith.com

Other Series by Alexander McCall-Smith (as of January 2007):

The Sunday Philosophy Club series [3 volumes to date]

The von Igelfeld series [3 short volumes]

The Scotland Street series [3 volumes to date]