

WHO DONE IT?

Volume 21, Issue 6

June 2018



MICHAEL SEARS

July 23

Michael Sears and
Michael Stanley

August 27

A bit of 19th Century

Sept 24

The Khans
Ausma Zehanat and Vaseem

Oct 22

Looking Back
10 and 20 Years

November 26

Award Winners of Books
Published in 2017

Vital Details

Meeting Time

2 PM except for special
events,

Meeting Day

4th Mon. except on holidays

Meeting Place -

Community Room of Library
except June and July
then in Children's theatre

Location -

18181 Imperial Highway
Yorba Linda, CA

News Editor

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All author information can be
found by googling the author's
name on the internet.

Michael Sears is the author of *Black Fridays*, a thriller with a financial twist, released by Duckworth in the UK and by Putnam in the US. It has been nominated for five major awards in the US as Best Debut Novel. Sears was a Managing Director for two different Wall Street firms, where he worked in the bond market for twenty years and, earlier, in foreign exchange and derivatives.

Series **Jason Stafford**

1. [Black Fridays \(2012\)](#)
2. [Mortal Bonds \(2013\)](#)
3. [Long Way Down \(2015\)](#)
4. [Saving Jason \(2016\)](#) Library does not have

Part of a longer Conversation with Michael Sears about his first book

Q: Jason's son in your novel, known as the Kid, has autism, how did you research that aspect of the story? Do you have personal experience with autism?

A: I am not the father of an autistic child, and out of respect for the privacy of my extended family I do not discuss specifics. But I have known children on various points along the autism scale, and I have done my research. When I began the book, the incidence of autism had recently been announced to be 1 in 105 nationally, a jump from the previous 1 in 115. As the book comes to press, we have just learned that it is now affecting 1 in every 88 children in America. And we still have no clear idea of why this is happening.

Q: How does Jason's relationship with the Kid change over the course of the story?

A: Jason barely knew his son when he went away to prison, and he knows him no better, really, when he makes the commitment to take care of him. He has no idea of what he is taking on. But Mamma's advice – that he must learn to hear – is what saves them both in the end.

Q: Do you, like Jason, ever miss the adrenaline of working on Wall Street?

A: Adrenaline is a drug and it is easy to get addicted to it. I loved it when I was there and I love that I am not there anymore.

(Continued on page 6)

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READER'S REVIEWS

SUSAN FASSNACHT

BLOOD OF THE PRODIGAL SON by PL Gaus 3.0 stars
Pastor Caleb Troyer and Professor Michael Branden help out their friend, Sheriff Bruce Robertson, find the missing grandson of an Amish man, who had previously banned/shunned the boy's father. Interesting insight to the ways and customs of the Ohio Amish.

BROKEN ENGLISH by PL Gaus 3.0 stars
From the book cover: "The peaceful town of Millersburg, Ohio, in the heart of Ohio's Amish country, is rocked by the vicious murder of one of its citizens at the hands of an itinerant ex-convict. When a local reporter covering the story ends up dead as well, with the convict already behind bars, suspicion falls on David Hawkins, father of the first victim. But Hawkins is nowhere to be found, not even among the protective Amish colony that has taken him in as one of their own regardless of his shadowy past."

THE FALLEN by David Baldacci 4.75 stars
Amos Decker accompanies partner Alex Jamison on vacation to visit her sister in an Ohio rust belt town on Baronville. The first evening there he sees light flickering on and off in the deserted house behind the sister's house. He walks over to find out why and discovers two bodies. Kiss off the vacation. He and Alex are drawn into a huge web of hate, deceit, opioid overdoses and despair in order to find the murderers and deceivers.

THE GREAT ALONE by Kristin Hannah 4.75 stars
In 1974 a Vietnam POW, his wife and daughter go to Alaska, looking for a new beginning. They are woefully not prepared for the transition to living off the grid. When the long winter comes, it brings out the best and worst in people and for the damaged POW vet, it is a very bad thing. This tale follows the struggles of the wife, enduring beatings and abuse from her husband, but protecting her child. Or is she? What lessons is she teaching her daughter? The coming of age of the teenaged daughter in a rough and ready land that demands your full attention, .

KAREN

Laukkanen, Owen - **GALE FORCE** - 2018 5.0 -
McKenna Rhodes, captain of a salvage boat takes on the hunt of a disabled container ship from Japan. They arrive second to the scene, but a heavy winds snap the lines from the other boat's attempt to capture the prize... which may be worth 30 million or more. Outstanding.

Paris, B.A. - **THE BREAK DOWN** - 2017 - 4.0 -
Cass observe a woman in some distress on a dark rainy road and soon finds she is losing her mind... or at least memory..... she is medicated to a stupor ...but thinks the person who killed the woman on the dark road is after her. Late in the game she is given a cell phone of her best friend and finds all is not what she expected.

Miller, Emma - **PLAIN MURDER** - 2014 - 2.5
Rachel own a bed and breakfast in a rural town near an Amish community. Her plain uncle is charged with the murder of a person found buried on his farm. Rachel saves her uncle, but bores me with details

Lansdale, Joe R. - **JACKRABBIT SMILE** - #11 - 3.5 -
Hap while having a party after his wedding is approached by two white racists and asked to find their daughter/sister. Which case the team undertakes. Gets rather violent by the end. but smart talking keeps the book moving. AND it is short

Perry, Anne - **TWENTY-ONE DAYS** - #1 - 2018 - 3.75 -
Thomas Pitt's son is a new lawyer and the protagonist of this new series. He saves his first case with the use of fingerprints on a bullet casing. The second one where he is working second chair (resolution far too easy). Action takes place in 1910

Meltzer, Brad - **THE ESCAPE ARTIST** - 2018 - 3.75 -
Jim "Zig" a mortician in DC for incoming military dead or accidents. Finds his first body is not who they tell him she is. Nola turns out live - not dead. Government involvement with connections to a special ops involving Houdini and his 3 associates and money moving Starts with a plane crash and has a plane trip later - to Alaska. Jumps from present time to Nola's youth (6 to 17)

ANNE

Harrison, Mette Ivie - **THE BISHOP'S WIFE** - (#1) - 4.0
A young Mormon wife and mother disappears and Linda, the Bishop's wife is suspicious and gets involved, although her husband asks her not to, Inspired by a true crime and written by a practicing Mormon.

Castillo, Linda - **HER LAST BREATH** (\$5) - 3.5
Kate Burkholder, Chief of Police, investigates a deadly accident of an Amish father and his 3 children. Only the son survives (but is in intensive care and can't communicate). Experience leads Kate to the killer.

THE BOOK CARNIVAL

Easley, Warren C. - NEVER LOOK DOWN - 4.0
Oregon lawyer Cal Claxton and a young "tagger" who has witnessed a crime. The killers and police are both looking for her and she comes to Cal for help.

PAM TANCORDO

Harper, Karen - DARK ANGEL - 3.75

Leah Kurtz, an Amish single mother, awakes one morning to find her adopted infant daughter missing. She is convinced her baby has been switched with another child. She enters into a personal liaison with Dr. Mark Morelli, who has opened a practice dealing with genetic illnesses that plague the Amish. Together they must uncover a conspiracy, deal with their feelings for each other, as well as the feelings of the Amish about not involving the outside world.

Finn, A.J. - THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW - 2.75

Dr Anna Fox sits by her window overlooking a house across the street day and night. One night she believes that she saw the woman get murdered by her husband. She becomes friendly with the couple's son and invites him to her house. Figured out the ending halfway through and decided this was a female version of "Rear Window".

Crais, Robert - THE WANTED - 4.0

A single mother hires Elvis Cole and Joe Pike to find out how come her teenage son is suddenly flashing cash and possibly dealing drugs. Cole and Pike find a teenage burglary ring, which turns deadly when one of the teens is murdered. The teens stole the wrong thing from the wrong man, who is determined to get it back. Elvis and Joe eventually prevail.

Patterson, James (with Candice Fox) - FIFTY - FIFTY - 3.0

A novel in the Harriet Blue series. Her brother, Sam, is on trial for the killing of three women. Harriet is determined to clear his name. At his hearing she unleashes her fury which earns her reassignment to the Outback. She lands in a small town of 75 where a young woman has recently been kidnapped. During her search she finds a diary which outlines the massacre of the entire town. Meanwhile in Sydney a young woman is being held hostage that holds the key to crack Sam's case.

UPCOMING SIGNINGS

Tuesday June 26 at 7:30 Paddy Hirsch THE DEVIL'S HALF MILE and Matt Goldman BROKEN ICE
Hirsch's book is about Wall Street in 1799 and Goldman's book is set in a hockey town of MN.

KEITH McCAFFERTY, A Death In Eden Monday, July 9, 7:30 P.M. A favorite author -series set in Montana

JOE R. LANSDALE & KASEY LANSDALE, Terror Is Our Business: Dana Robert's Casebook of Horrors -and the possibility of some singing going on! Thursday, July 12, 7:30 P.M. Another favorite with a wide range of books -

CRISTINA ALGER, The Banker's Wife Saturday, July 21, 2:00 P.M. a thriller about international finance

CAROLA DUNN, The Corpse At The Crystal Palace Saturday, August 4 at 2:00 P.M. -Daisy Dalrymple series set in the 20's in London

MICHAEL BRANDMAN, One On One Saturday, August 18, 2:00 P.M. -2nd in Buddy Steel series -looks to be an up and coming series compared to Chandler, Parker, Grafton and Connelly.

CRAIG JOHNSON, Depth of Winter Saturday, September 8 - two events on the same day! 3 and/or 5 P.M. - Need I say more?

PETER BLAUNER, Sunrise Highway Sunday, September 9, 3:00 P.M. 2nd in series with NYPD Detective Lourdes Robles

WARREN EASLEY, Moving Targets Saturday, September 22, 2:00 P.M. - another favorite - Lawyer in Oregon who lives near my hometown.

The highlighted ones are on order at the library I will be requesting the final four to be ordered too... but Lansdale, Alger and Dunn don't interest me so if you want them ordered you too can make a request. Actually I will probably buy Johnson's and Easley's book the day they are released.

A writer is congenitally unable to tell the truth and that is why we call what he writes fiction **William Faulkner**

One always tends to over praise a long book because one has got through it. **E.M. Forster**

DUE IN JULY

Abbott, Megan. *Give Me Your Hand*. Two women who were unlikely friends in high school until a life-changing secret destroyed their relationship are locked in a competition for a high-level scientific position, a competition that might destroy them both.

Alger, Cristina. *The Banker's Wife*. When her financier husband dies in a plane crash in the Swiss Alps, his widow is left with an encrypted laptop, his shady client list, and the knowledge that the crash was no accident, while a journalist on the verge of marrying into New York's social elite comes across evidence implicating some of the top men in the financial world, including members of her new family in a suspenseful thriller of rich people behaving very badly indeed.

Arsenault, Emily. *The Last Thing I Told You*. The policeman investigating the murder of a therapist discovers that he was looking at two patient files the night he died: that of a young man convicted of a mass shooting and a woman who violently attacked a teacher years before.

Bauer, Belinda. *Snap*. A woman in a suburban community awakens to find a knife and a note on her pillow, but doesn't want to involve the police because she is herself involved in a string of burglaries and the murder of a woman three years before — psychological suspense

Bowen, Gail. *The Winner's Circle*. When a triple homicide rips apart the lives of the lawyers who work with her husband, Joanna Kilburn investigates.

Brookmyre, Christopher. *All Fun and Games Until Somebody Loses an Eye*. A comic thriller that includes all the necessary suspense elements: intrigue, espionage, violence, and vacuuming.

Camilleri, Andrea. *The Sacco Gang*. A novel based on the lives of two brothers who found themselves battling both the authorities and the Mafia in 1920s Italy.

Castillo, Linda. *A Gathering of Secrets*. Police Chief Kate Burkholder is called in when a young Amish man's body is found in the ashes of a burned barn, and her investigation reveals a dark secret from her own past.

Coes, Ben - *Bloody Sunday* (Dewey Andreas #8) North Korea, increasingly isolated from most of the rest of the world, is led by an absolute dictator and a madman with a major goal—he's determined to launch a nuclear attack on the United States.

Corby, Gary. *Death on Delos*. Athenian investigator

Nico is asked by Pericles to solve a murder during a visit to the sacred island of Delos to move the treasury to safety in Athens.

Coulter, Catherine. *Paradox*. When a psychopath and criminal mastermind escapes from prison, he sets his sights on FBI agents Savich and Sherlock in his quest for revenge, but while investigating a murder at a Maryland lake, they discover evidence that connects him to a series of murders.

Davis, Lindsey. *Pandora's Boy*. #6-Flavia Albia investigates the death of a teenaged girl who is suspected of having been poisoned by a love potion, but she discovers that the girl was not the innocent she appeared and hung out with a vicious gang.

Doiron, Paul. *Stay Hidden*. Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch has a case of murder when a woman thought to be shot accidentally by a deer hunter was, in fact, not, a case complicated by the fact that the supposed victim turns up a day later ready to solve "her" murder.

Dunn, Carola. *The Corpse at the Crystal Palace*. Daisy Dalrymple investigates the murder of a nanny during a family outing to London's Crystal Palace, a case that becomes more personal when her children's nanny is attacked.

Ford, G. M. - *Soul Survivor* (Leo Waterman -#11).

French, Nicci. *The Day of the Dead* #8. The final in the series featuring London psychotherapist Frieda Klein who is forced to confront her nemesis, the psychopath Dean Reeve, who has begun killing again.

Hotchner, A.E. *The Amazing Adventures of Aaron Broom*. When a 13-year-old boy witnesses a robbery/murder in Saint Louis during the Great Depression, the police do not believe him, and, after his father becomes a suspect, he joins forces with a lawyer, a neighborhood friend, a paperboy, and an aspiring teen journalist to find the evidence to free his father.

Johansen, Iris, and Roy Johansen - *Double Blind* - (Kendra Michaels #6)

Kellerman, Jonathon and Jesse Kellerman. *A Measure of Darkness*. Alameda County Deputy Coroner Clay Edson is called in in the middle of the night when an Oakland party ends in a bloody gun battle.

JULY (CONT.)

(Continued from page 4)

LaPlante, Alice. *Half Moon Bay* A woman devastated by the death of her teenaged daughter moves to the seaside town of Half Moon Bay where she tries to start her life anew, but a series of murders of young girls in the area focusses the attention on her..

Maine, Sarah. *Women of the Dunes* . An archaeologist excavating a site on the west coast of Scotland is hunting for the burial of a ninth-century Viking woman when she uncovers a nineteenth-century body of a woman who was clearly murdered, she finds a disturbing relationship with her own ancestor.

Martin, William - *Bound for Gold* (Peter Fallon-California Gold Rush)

Massey, Gale. *The Girl from Blind River*. A gritty country-noir debut about a girl who is in debt to her crooked uncle and must help him dispose of a body only to find her younger brother accused of murdering the relative of a powerful local judge.

McCafferty, Keith. *A Death in Eden* . Montana fishing guide and sometimes PI Sean Stranahan is hired to guide a fishing party down the Smith River, the site of a proposed new copper mining project vehemently opposed by environmentalists, and he discovers that two of the party, while on opposite sides of the issue, share a dark history.

McCall Smith, Alexander. *The Quiet Side of Passion* . Isabel Dalhousie finds herself ensnared in domestic problems when she sees the mother of her son's friend in the company of an unscrupulous man and wonders if she should intervene.

Rindell, Suzanne. *Eagle and Crane* . Two stunt pilots—one Japanese-American—in the Depression-Era West find their friendship strained after Pearl Harbor, and when one of the planes crashes with two bodies aboard, the consensus is that the Japanese flyer was helping his father escape from an internment camp, a view not held by the FBI agent assigned to the case.

Rosenfelt, David. *Rescued* Andy Carpenter is torn about defending the man accused of murdering the driver of a truck transporting over 70 dogs from the South to the more rescue-friendly north—especially because the accused is the ex-fiance of his wife.

Silva, Daniel. *The Other Woman* Gabriel Allon returns in another thriller of espionage, action, betrayal—and art.

Skariton, Jonathan. *Séance Infernale* . A dealer in movie memorabilia is hired by a collector to find a copy of the first ever film, leading him to Edinburgh, home of the Victorian-era filmmaker, and tying in to a series of gruesome murders in the present day.(Debut)

Spann, Susan. *Trial on Mount Koya* In the latest in the series set in sixteenth-century Japan Hiro Hattori journeys to a remote mountain village with a Portuguese priest where the residents begin dying in bizarre ways.

Thor, Brad. *Spymaster* Counterterrorism operative Scot Horvath is called in when a secret organization begins targeting diplomats all across Europe.

Tracy, K.A. *Dead Knock* . Palm Springs crime reporter Sam Perry blurs the line between reporting and investigating when a serial killer leaves Bible verses written in the victim's blood.

Tremayne, Peter. *Penance of the Damned* . Sister Fidelma is sent to investigate when the King's trusted advisor is killed in a locked room, with the commander of the King's bodyguard standing over the body.

Verdon, John. *White River Burning* . Retired NYPD detective Dave Gurney is called in when the upstate town of White River explodes in racial violence on the anniversary of the killing of a black motorist by police, violence that leads to first the killing of a police officer, and then further killings that may be retaliation..

Missed the June list and the library has:

DeMille, Nelson. *The Cuban Affair*. In the first of a new series, a fishing boat captain in Key West, a U.S. Army veteran, is hired by a Cuban-American woman to take her to Cuba to hunt for a fortune her father left there before the Revolution.

Harrison, Colin. *You Belong to Me*. An NYC immigration lawyer and his beautiful neighbor attend an art auction, their lives are changed completely after a mysterious man whisks the woman away and the lawyer loses his bid for a map he coveted—and then the bodies start to pile up....

Hawley, Noah. *A Conspiracy of Tall Men* professor of conspiracy theory is stunned when he is told by the FBI that his wife was killed in the crash of a plane flying from New York to Brazil, so he and two friends decide to investigate only to find themselves in danger.

MICHAEL SEARS (CONT.)

Q: Before going to graduate school at Columbia Business School, you worked as a professional actor on the stage. Why did you decide to move to business? How helpful was your acting experience in your Wall Street career?

A: I loved the theater. I still do. I also love to write. Someday, I might even write for the theater! Who knows? But I needed new challenges back then, and I traded the rewards of one career for the other. My people skills came in quite handy. There are just as many divas, drama queens, and self-promoting wannabes on Wall Street as there are on Broadway – maybe more.

Q: Your novel is set primarily in New York City, but also partly in Louisiana's Cajun country. Do you know that area well?

A: I've visited often enough to know that New Orleans and Louisiana are not the same thing at all. I'd like to take Jason back there some day. There's a hazy beauty to that part of the world – along with the alligators, fire ants, and drive-through frozen daiquiri stands.

Q: How does it feel to have your first novel published at 61? Did you always want to be a writer?

A: I'm still waiting to wake up from all this. I have always

loved to write, but never before allowed myself the chance to be a writer. To be welcomed into this community of fellow writers, agents, editors, publishers, and fans at this point in my life is nothing short of amazing. AND, my wife has taken to referring to me as The Author in Residence.

Q: During the time you were writing this novel, the Bernie Madoff story broke. Your next novel will feature many of the same characters as this one, but it will focus on a Ponzi scheme much like Madoff's. What appeals to you about it as background for a novel?

A: Two things. The first is personal. I know people, some of whom I admire and like very much, whose lives were upended by Bernie Madoff. But, as an ex-actor – a role player – I have always been fascinated by con men, and Bernie was possibly the best ever. I can hate him for the pain he caused, and yet be in awe at the scope of his crime.

Q: What do you hope readers take away from this book?

A: Keep rooting for the Kid.

MICHAEL STANLEY

Michael Stanley is the writing name of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollip. Both natives of Africa, we have traveled regularly together to Botswana and Zimbabwe over the past twenty years to experience the country with its wide diversity and interesting peoples. Our books reflect the authentic Africa of the 21st century: not merely the politically unstable, desperately poor Africa of the nightly news, but also the emotional conflicts of people with one foot in traditional culture and the other in Western-instigated globalism. The new Africa is not the safari jungle, but a collection of diverse groups and nations struggling to find their way in a rapidly changing context.

Series **Detective Kubu**

1. [A Carrion Death](#) (2008)
2. [The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu](#) (2009)
3. [The Death of the Mantis](#) (2011)



4. [Deadly Harvest](#) (2013)
 5. [A Death in the Family](#) (2015)
 6. [Dying to Live](#) (2017)
- [Michael Stanley Bundle](#) (omnibus) (2011)
[Detective Kubu Investigates](#) (2013)

Novels

- [Swiss Conspiracy](#) (1976)
[Dead of Night](#) (2018)

MICHAEL STANLEY (CONT.)

DYING TO LIVE - released in October 2017 - is the latest Kubu mystery. An extraordinarily old Bushman is found dead in the Kalahari and the amazing youth of his organs sets off a hunt for a mysterious plant purported to extend life. The resulting greed leads to murder, as Kubu tries to deal with personal problems at the same time as reaching the heart of the case. Publishers Weekly gave the book a starred review and said it was the best in the series so far!

It was at the lion research center in the Savuti, an ancient dried-up lake in Botswana's Chobe National Park, that we realized how to conceal a perfect murder. We watched hyenas team up to drive lions off their fresh kills, then devour everything in sight, bones and all. By the next morning, no evidence remained of the carcass. Botswana offered the ideal setting for such a literary revelation. This was the kernel of the idea that led to our first book, A CARRION DEATH.

Our detective is Assistant Superintendent David Bengu of the Botswana criminal Investigation Department. His nickname is Kubu because of his size - "kubu" being the Setswana word for hippopotamus. Hippos in the wild spend most of the day in pools or rivers, with all but their eyes and ears under water; they look deceptively docile, belying the fact that they kill more people in Africa than any other mammal, trampling whatever lies between them and their objective. So with Kubu. On the surface he appears harmless; a convivial man with a sly sense of humor who loves his wife, and is passionate about wine and music. But Kubu is a capable, wily policeman determined to rid Botswana of crime, no matter what gets in his way.

In A CARRION DEATH, Kubu is faced with a vicious plot involving blood diamonds, greed, and corruption, with a touch of the supernatural. The book is set in the arid south of Botswana and in the capital city, Gaborone.

A CARRION DEATH was a finalist for best debut mystery novel for the BARRY, MACAVITY and STRAND MAGAZINE CRITICS' awards. It was also shortlisted for the UK's Crime Writers Association DEBUT DAGGER award, and for the Minnesota Book Awards Genre Fiction.

In THE SECOND DEATH OF GOODLUCK TINUBU, Kubu has to investigate the murder of two supposed tourists at a camp in the lush north of the country along the beautiful Linyanti river. Across the river lie

Namibia and Zimbabwe. Kubu has to delve into the past and the Rhodesian Bush War to unravel the mystery of the modern day killings.

DEATH OF THE MANTIS is set in the Kalahari and the back story is the plight of the Bushman (or San) peoples of the area. When a game ranger is found dead in a dry ravine, his corpse surrounded by three Bushmen, the local police arrest the nomads. Kubu investigates the case and is reunited with his old school friend Khumanego, a Bushman and advocate for his people. Khumanego claims the nomads are innocent and the arrests motivated by racist antagonism. The Bushmen are released, but soon after, another man is murdered in similar circumstances. Are the Bushmen to blame, or is it a copycat murder? Then there is a third murder. Again it points to the Bushmen. Kubu journeys into the depths of the Kalahari to find the truth. All his powers of detection are tested as well as his ability to stay alive...

DEATH OF THE MANTIS was a finalist for the ANTHONY and EDGAR awards for best paperback original mystery of 2011, as well as for Minnesota Book Awards Genre Fiction. The book won the BARRY Award for best paperback original mystery.

DEADLY HARVEST - the fourth Detective Kubu mystery - revolves around the pervasive belief in black magic in southern Africa and the potions of witch doctors who still produce great fear in many of the local people. It was a finalist for an ITW thriller award.

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY has as backstory the growing role of the Chinese in Africa and the pound of flesh they want for their aid and support. For Kubu it's very personal because his father is the death in the family - he is murdered apparently for no reason. Kubu battles with his grief at the same time as violence and corruption at the highest level.

We enjoy both a local and transglobal collaboration, mainly via e-mail and Skype. Michael lives in Johannesburg, South Africa; Stanley spends half the year in coastal South Africa and half in Minnesota.

For more about us, our books and Botswana, see <http://www.detectivekubu.com> or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MichaelStanleyBooks/> and on Twitter @detectivekubu

RADIO MOCHUDI INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DAVID "KUBU" BENGU

Interviewer: *Today we meet one of Botswana's top detectives, Assistant Superintendent David Bengu of the Gaborone CID – that's the Botswana Criminal Investigation Department. Superintendent Bengu, welcome to our Personality Profile programme.*

Kubu: Thank you for inviting me.

Interviewer: *I believe your friends and colleagues call you Kubu. That means hippopotamus in Setswana. Where does the nickname come from?*

Kubu: (Laughs) Well, I'm a very large man, and some people think I'm slightly overweight. Actually, my wife thinks I'm quite a lot overweight! And I'm a friendly soul...unless I'm crossed. Call me Kubu; everyone else does.

Interviewer: *Well, Kubu, congratulations on solving the Linyanti murder case. Here in Mochudi, it is very big news! How did you go about it?*

Kubu: It's important to realise that police work is team work. We have an excellent team at the CID. My boss – Director Jacob Mabaku – is a brilliant leader. (Laughs again) Well he might be listening to this interview! We worked hard on it together – the CID, pathology, and forensics. As I'm sure you know, most cases are solved through boring hard work and patient sifting of clues. Nothing escaped us. Eventually all the pieces fell into place.

Interviewer: Some people make their own luck, Kubu. But what attracted you to the career of a detective in the first place?

Kubu: It goes back to when I was quite young. I had a good friend from school in Mochudi – a bushman boy whose name is Khumanego. One day he took me into

the desert, drew a rough circle with a stick, and asked me what I could see. "Sand, stones, and some dry grass," I replied. He pressed me, and I looked harder but saw nothing more. He said I was blind, and showed me. In that small circle thrived a teeming world - ants, plants that looked like stones, beetles, and even a fascinating trapdoor spider. I love those desert plants cunningly disguised as rocks; I have some in my garden in Gaborone now. After that I vowed that I'd never be blind again.

Also I've always loved jigsaw puzzles. My father used to buy them and worked on them with me. We still do one together occasionally. Solving crimes is about fitting pieces together. Not necessary physical pieces, but they have to fit together.

Interviewer: What has been your most difficult case?

Kubu: Well, they all have hard parts. I think the hardest case was when a corpse was found in the desert, half eaten by wild animals, and deliberately mutilated to be unidentifiable. The case was choked by politics, and powerful people high up. And one of the country's biggest companies was involved. And the stakes kept escalating with one vicious killing after the next. But that's another story.

Interviewer: Yes, indeed. We've run out of time now, but we must have you back on another occasion! I'm sure our listeners have found this fascinating and would like to know more. Thank you very much for joining us this afternoon, Detective Kubu.

Kubu: My pleasure! By the way I missed lunch – well, it was curtailed. Is there a good place to eat somewhere near here?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

1. Which Characters did you find most likeable? Least likeable? Were there relationships you cared about in this book?
2. Did settings and locations convincing and authentic setting play a significant role in the story? Were they to you?
3. Were there any elements of the author's writing style that you found particularly enjoyable or particularly irritating? i.e. Use of tense? Short chapters? Italics for the perpetrator's voice?
4. Did the plot work for you? Was there a "theme" or agenda? Was the pacing even or did the book bog down anywhere?
5. Were you satisfied with the resolution of the book?
6. Are you planning to read more by this author?