



# The Detective Kubu Newsletter

## *Launch of Death of the Mantis*

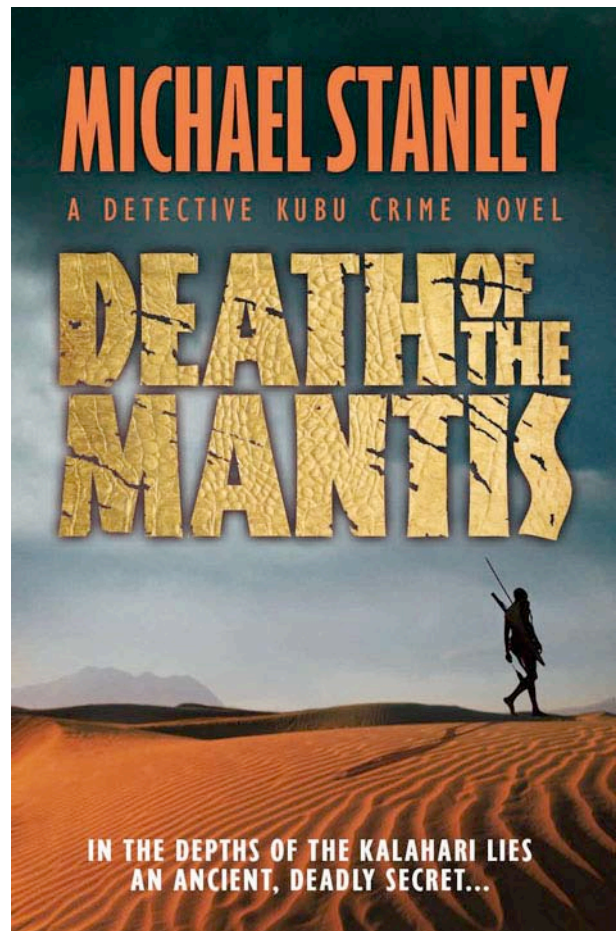
For the first time in the Detective Kubu series, the worldwide launch will take place in South Africa. In the first week of May, the third Detective Kubu mystery, *Death of the Mantis*, will hit the shelves. The US launch will once again be at the wonderful Once Upon a Crime bookstore in Minneapolis on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. The mass market paperback edition will be released in the UK about a year from now, although the ebook will also be out in September.

So far we've been overwhelmed by the positive early reviews. Tim Hallinan – author of the popular Edgar-Award nominated Poke Rafferty series - wrote:

"DEATH OF THE MANTIS is the best book yet in one of the best series going: a serious novel with a mystery at its core that takes us places we've never been, thrills and informs us, and leaves us changed by the experience. I loved this book."

Wow! We can only hope others feel the same way!

*Death of the Mantis* is set in the Kalahari Desert. The Kalahari is a huge area which covers 350,000 square miles of the west of southern Africa including much of Botswana. It ranges from dramatic red sand dunes in the heart of the desert to acacia scrub-veld which supports a surprising variety of life. It is also the last refuge of the San or Bushman peoples. The oldest inhabitants of southern Africa, these nomads with their diverse cultures and languages, have developed a lifestyle in tune with the arid environment, but one which requires them to move with the seasons and the intermittent rainfall. Few of these nomadic Bushmen remain; most Bushman now live in



South African cover

towns or in settlements established by the Botswana government around the Central Kalahari Game Reserve where they can obtain food and water and medical and school services. But where their traditions are rapidly fading...

In the north west of Botswana is Tsodilo – a UNESCO world heritage site, home to one of the most remarkable collections of rock paintings in the world. A group of four rocky hills rises dramatically and in isolation from the desert and is venerated by the Bushmen as the site of creation.



In *Death of the Mantis*, a ranger is discovered at the bottom of a ravine, surrounded by a group of Bushmen. At first it is assumed that he fell, but it turns out that he was attacked. Although they claim to have chanced upon the injured man, the Bushmen are arrested.

Khumanego, Kubu's Bushman school friend and now an advocate for the Bushman people, approaches Kubu and asks him to intervene. Khumanego claims the men are innocent and that their arrest is due to racist antagonism from the local police. Kubu investigates the case, resulting in the release of the suspects. But then another man is found murdered in a similar fashion – this time a visitor from neighboring Namibia. The body is discovered by another touring Namibian – an odd coincidence in Kubu's view – motivating him to follow the clues to Namibia.

Then a third man is murdered and Kubu realizes that the key to the mystery must lie in the depths of the Kalahari itself. And there it is unravelled in a most unpleasant way...



You can read the beginning of *Death of the Mantis* by going to <http://www.detectivekubu.com/MantisPr&ch1.pdf>

## Upcoming Events

### Johannesburg:

Tuesday 3 May, 5.30 for 6pm  
Love Books, The Bamboo Centre, 53  
Rustenberg Road, Melville  
RSVP: [andream@jbp.co.za](mailto:andream@jbp.co.za) or 021 707 5731

### Cape Town:

Thursday 5 May, 5.30 for 6pm  
The Bay Bookshop, The Square at the Cape  
Quarter, Level 1, Green Point  
Michael Stanley will be in conversation with  
crime author Mike Nicol.  
RSVP: 021 421 1301

### Friday 6 May, 6:00 for 6:30pm

Kalk Bay Books, 124 Main Road, Kalk Bay  
Michael Stanley will be in-conversation with  
crime author Sarah Lotz.  
RSVP: [books@kalkbaybooks.co.za](mailto:books@kalkbaybooks.co.za) or 021 788  
2266

### Knysna:

Friday 27 May, 5:30 for 6:00  
Wordsworth Books, Knysna Mall, Main Road,  
Knysna  
RSVP: [knysna@wordsworth.co.za](mailto:knysna@wordsworth.co.za) or 044 382  
2349



Tsodilo Hills

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## *The Empty Chair by Graham Greene and ...*

Over the last several months The Strand Magazine has been publishing an intriguing unfinished novella by Graham Greene titled *The Empty Chair*. It's a "country-house" style mystery. A group of guests are invited to a manor and spend a week together. One morning one of the guests fails to take his chair for breakfast and is discovered dead in his bedroom with its door locked from the inside. All the guests have reason to dislike the victim and clues abound.

Strand ran a competition for the best ending to the story, and we decided to have a go. It wasn't easy. Greene had left clues around as though they were going out of fashion. And we had to get into his characters. But it was great fun and after a hectic week, we sent in our offering. At the end of February Strand Magazine posted the following on their website:

### **The Writing Team of Michael Stanley Completes *The Empty Chair* by Graham Green**

After sifting through countless manuscripts, the writing duo of Michael Sears and Stan Trollip came up with the best ending for Greene's novella. We tip our hat to and salute two great writers!

You can reach Strand Magazine's website by going to <http://www.strandmag.com>.

## *Eichborn releases the second Detective Kubu book.*

The second Kubu book will be coming out in May in German. Titled: *Kubu und der zweite Tod von Goodluck Tinubu*, it has a striking cover. The German books took a big jump in sales following the publication of Peter Muender's article in the Sueddeutsche Zeitung last month. It's the story of Kubu and our trip with Muender through Botswana. Our take is in the last Kubu newsletter.

We'll be visiting Germany later in the year and look forward to meeting German Kubu enthusiasts and the great team at Eichborn again.



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