

Launch of *A Carrion Death*

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of the *Once Upon A Crime* bookstore in Minneapolis, Detective Kubu made the sort of debut on April 1st that you would expect from someone of his size and presence. Replete with Kubu collared shirts, the authors shook hands and greeted old and new friends. Pen nibs ran hot as joint signatures whipped from book to book.

Fortunately, store owners Gary Shulze and Pat Frovarp had doubled the number of books they had ordered, otherwise we would have run out. Presented with Kubu T-shirts, they immediately pulled off their elegant evening clothes and put on the T-shirts instead! That's the sort of people they are. Wine flowed, cheese was chewed, and hippo-shaped biscuits chomped. Alas, no steelworks! The ingredients haven't managed to cross the Atlantic as yet.

A few days earlier, we had an interview with Mary Ann Grossman of the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Her enthusiastic article pulled in intrigued readers. A review in Minneapolis' City Pages had also generated interest. And, of course, we had the wonderful support of friends and fellow writers. We will never forget that cold spring evening in South Minneapolis!

The next day, we had to get back to the real world of sales and reviews. Surely this rush



The launch site

Photo: Terry Mace

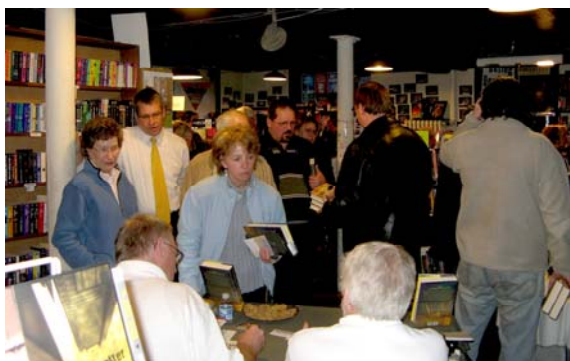
couldn't continue? But *Once Upon A Crime* had out-of-town orders for us to sign, and Bonnie Nelson and Bob Taylor hosted a wonderful launch party, so the champagne flowed and the hype continued.

Then on to readings at *Magers and Quinn* and *Bookcase* bookstores. Each generated questions, discussion, and excitement. We had to order more T-shirts...

The next day we headed for Chicago through the snow and sleet of a late midwestern spring. *Centuries and Sleuths* made us welcome and several friends showed up. The next morning we were off to Milwaukee to the *Mystery One* bookstore, where we met a great group of mystery fans whose knowledge of the genre left us breathless. We were thrilled by the enthusiasm of such an expert group – including people from influential *Crime Spree* magazine.

Joseph-Beth bookstore in Cincinnati followed, where we stared down a Kubu-sized poster of *A Carrion Death*. Was this really us?

We started with a stack of pre-ordered books to sign and continued from there. Breathlessly on to New York where we visited *The Mysterious Bookstore* and *Partners and Crime* and had a delicious lunch at the Century Club with the people

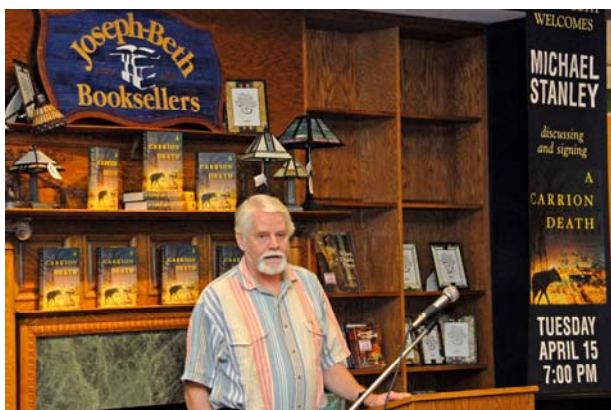


Once Upon A Crime was packed

Photo: Terry Mace

who made it all happen: Marly Rusoff and Michael Radelescu – our wonderful agents. By that time we were stunned by the great reviews in the New York Times (it reported on the book twice), the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, the New York Post and multiple websites and blogs. The signings ended across the pond in Cambridge at the amazing Heffer's bookshop.

It's amazing; it seems people are having as much fun reading this book as we had writing it! As our English friends would say: we are gobsmacked!



Michael fields questions in Cincinnati Photo: Nelson Markley

A New Challenge for Kubu: An Issue of Women and Money

A man is found stabbed through the heart outside a local bar in Gaborone after a fist fight. Is the culprit the man he fought? Detective Kubu believes it's more complicated, but he has to convince his boss – the dour Director Mabaku. He suspects one of two women, but they seem to have the perfect alibi – each other. Read about Detective Kubu, his family and colleagues, and his puzzle-solving ability by downloading this complete short story from

www.detectivekubu.com.

Kubu T-shirts a hit

Designed by Polish designer Anna Wrzesien, the Kubu T-shirts were much admired during the launch. The logo has also become the signature of this newsletter. Gary Shulze shows one off.



Reviews

Readers may be lured to Africa by the landscape, but it takes a great character like Kubu to win our loyalty. **New York Times Book Review, April 13**

The police procedural story line is superb with a strong obstinate hero. **Genre Go Round Reviews.**

This is a marvelous debut, and with any luck, Kubu's next outing will be as filling and tasty as one of the large man's dream meals. **Boston Globe, April 14**

A CARRION DEATH is a rip-roaring read. **Eurocrime**

... when [Kubu] lets his jovial nature recede and talks instead of how murder "never works out quite the way you expect," it forces the reader to look alongside him for the complete picture -- one that should take shape over several series installments. **Los Angeles Times, April 13**

The intricate plotting, a grisly sense of realism and numerous topical motifs ... make this a compulsively readable novel. **Publishers Weekly, starred review, Feb 25**

[A] fast-moving story... Rich with the atmosphere of modern Botswana, and peopled with interesting and well-drawn characters, ... an exciting debut... **Booklist, February 1**

Upcoming Events

- May 27 South African launch. Exclusive Books, Hyde Park. 6:00 for 6:30 pm. Shop U30, Hyde Park Corner, Jan Smuts Avenue, Craighall. 011 325 4298
- May 30 Signing at Wordsworth Books, Knysna. 6:00 for 6:30 pm. Knysna Mall, Main Road. 044 382 2349
- June 14 Cape Town Book Fair