



The Detective Kubu Newsletter

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

South African launch 28th July

The fifth Detective Kubu mystery—***A Death in the Family***—will be on the shelves in South Africa on Tuesday, the 28th of July. We hope you will join us at one of the events we have planned (see the schedule below).

As with all our mysteries, the back story is a contemporary issue affecting Botswana—and in this case, the whole of Africa—namely the ever-increasing presence of the Chinese.

Charles Todd, the award winning author of two wonderful series set around World War I, wrote this about our new book: “*Kubu returns with a vengeance – but what is prowling in the darkness of Botswana is more dangerous than the four-legged predators. Then there are the Chinese who just may be the most dangerous of all ... I love it!*”

Yrsa Sigurdardottir, one of Scandinavia’s most popular writers, chimed in: “*Under the African sun, Michael Stanley’s Detective Kubu investigates crimes as dark as the darkest of Nordic Noir. Call it Sunshine Noir, if you will – a must read.*”

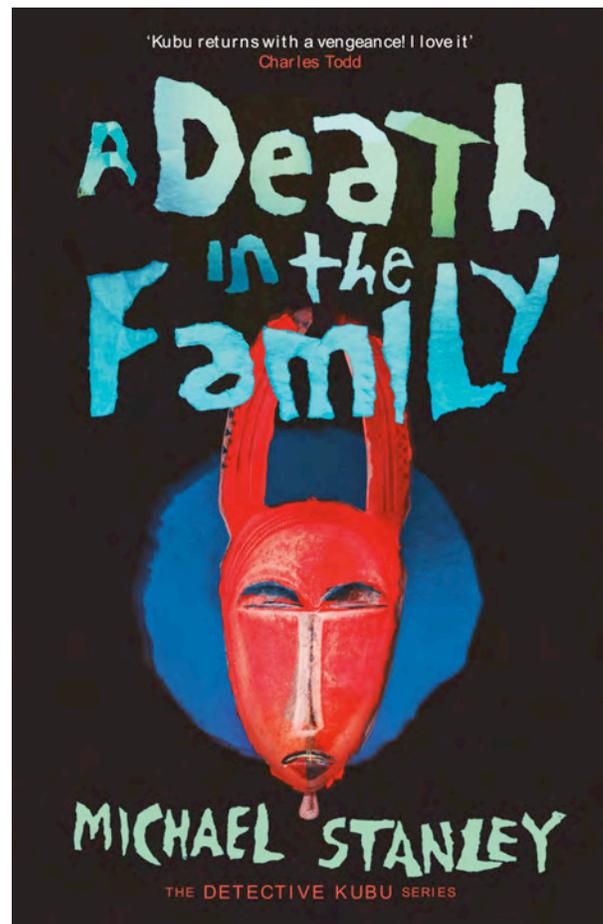
We love the term *Sunshine Noir*! It puts Nordic Noir in the shade.

A Death in the Family takes Kubu not only to the historical town of Shoshong, where mine violence and unrest is threatening the stability of the country, but also as far afield as New York.

Faced with the violent death of his own

father, Kubu is baffled. Who would kill such a frail old man? And his boss, Director Mabaku, tells him to keep out of the case, adding frustration to his grief.

The picture becomes even murkier with the apparent suicide of a government official. At least Kubu is allowed to work on that case. The threads lead him to the US embassy and to the Chinese owners of the Shoshong mine. And eventually to the reason for his father’s murder.



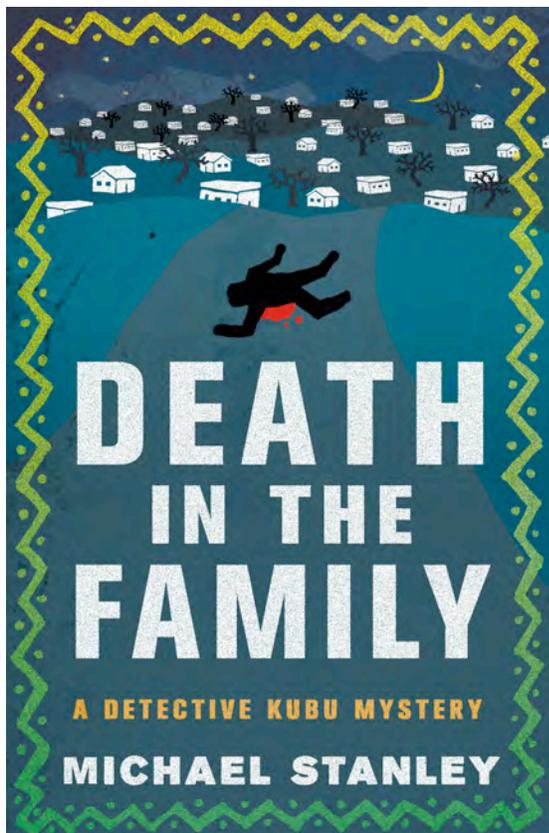
Visit <http://www.detectivekubu.com>
for more about
A DEATH IN THE FAMILY
And a sneak preview of the first chapter!

TWO NEW PUBLISHERS

As we reported in the last newsletter, in the United States and Canada, Kubu is now with the Thomas Dunne imprint of St. Martin's Press, a division of Macmillan. Needless to say, we are thrilled.

The North American release of *A Death in the Family* will be on Tuesday, the 27th of October at our favorite Minneapolis bookstore, Once Upon a Crime. Following that, we will set off on a mini tour to promote the book.

The cover below is the one for our North American edition. It is fascinating to us how two such different covers can both be very appealing. Which do you prefer?



We now also have a new publisher for the English-language editions of *A Death in the Family* outside North America.

We met publisher, Karen Sullivan of London-based Orenda Books, on a bus between Keflavik and Reykjavik, Iceland, last November. After a number of discussions, she invited us to be part of her group of authors.

Orenda Books is a new house specializing in mysteries with foreign settings and already has a lineup of great authors. So we're delighted to be joining them!

Orenda Books has bought the rights to *A Death in the Family*, Kubu #6, which is nearly finished, as well as the fourth Kubu mystery, *Deadly Harvest*.

We are very fortunate to have the prestige and clout of St. Martin's in North America, and the nimbleness and marketing energy of Orenda Books elsewhere.

HELP RELIEVE THE BOOK FAMINE IN AFRICA

Books are scarce in many parts of Africa. A Minnesota non-profit organization, Books for Africa, has been trying to rectify this situation for over 25 years. In that time it has sent over 30 million books to schools and libraries in 49 different countries.

In the last year alone, it sent over 2 million books, as well as computers and other items helpful to literacy and learning.

We recently released a paper version of our popular book of recipes that Kubu, his family, and we, love. It's called *A Taste of Africa – a KUKBUK*.

It has recipes for drinks, including his favorite, the Steelworks; appetizers, including chicken liver peri-peri; main courses, including chakalaka, bobotie, rump steak with monkey gland sauce (no monkeys are hurt in its

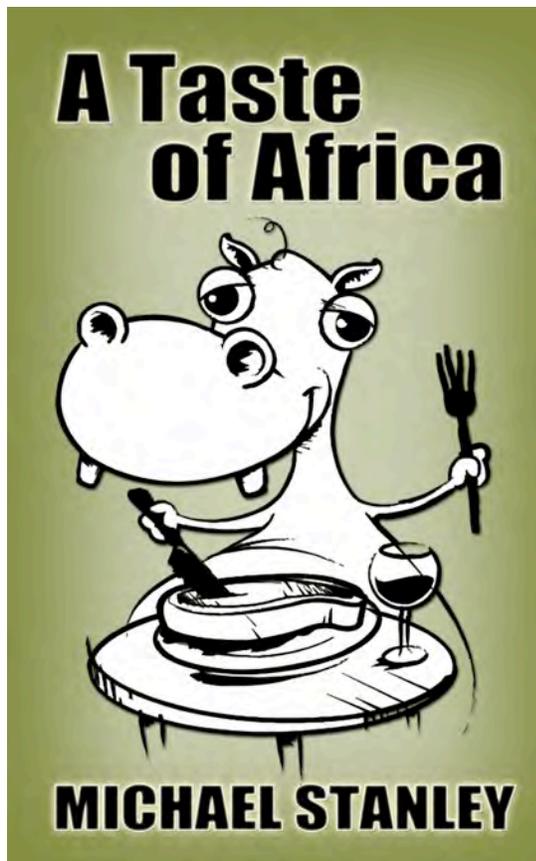
preparation), and beef seswaa; and desserts, including melktert and malva pudding.

Yummy!

Between now and the end of the year we will donate all royalties from *A Taste of Africa* – a **KUKBUK** to Books for Africa.

We earn the biggest royalty from CreateSpace, so that's a good vendor to buy from (<https://www.createspace.com/5463343>). The book is also available from US, UK, and European Amazon websites. The price is \$4.99 or the equivalent.

Please buy several copies of *A Taste of Africa* to help send books to needy schools and libraries in Africa. We also encourage you to make a donation to Books for Africa, through its website <http://www.booksforafrica.org>.



[Tweet](#) us at @detectivekubu

SOUTH AFRICAN EVENTS

Both of us will be at the following events for the launch of *A Death in the Family*. Please join us at one of them.

Tuesday, July 28, 12:00 PM

Le Soufflé Book Club

Pineslopes Shopping Centre, Fourways. 011 465 4116

Tuesday, July 28, 6:00 PM

Love Books

The Bamboo Lifestyle Centre,
53 Rustenburg Road, Melville, Johannesburg
011 726 7408

Wednesday July 29, 6:00 PM

SKOOPS

Montecasino
011 513 2800

Friday July 30

Signing at the South African Book Fair

Turbine Hall, 65 Ntemi Poliso Street,
Johannesburg

Saturday August 1, 2:00 PM

Indulgence Café

225 Beyers Naude Drive, Johannesburg
011 782 5063

Tuesday August 4, 2:00 PM

Looking Up

Live interview with David Block on
Cliffcentral.com

Thursday August 6, 6:00 PM

& Saturday August 8, 10:00 AM

Exclusive Books Gaborone

Riverwalk Shopping Centre, Tlokweng Road
+267 3700 130

Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 PM

Bargain Books Knysna

To be confirmed.

Saturday September 5

Gorry Book Lunch

Cape Town. Details to follow

Monday September 7, 6:00 PM

Pendock Wine Gallery

Taj Hotel, Wale Street, Cape Town
021 819 2000

THE AMAZING QUAIS DU POLAR

In February, we received an invitation to some event or other in France called *Quais du Polar*.



Not likely, we said. The most recent of our French translations came out four years ago and would likely be unavailable anyway. And flying to and from France would be very expensive. Not to mention the food and wine we'd be forced to taste.

Then we took a closer look. It turned out that the invitation came with airfares and all expenses for four nights in Lyon.

Stan emailed Cara Black, a friend who sets her mysteries in Paris, saying we had been invited to *Quais du Polar*. Her response was "Wow!"

So Stan accepted the invitation. Michael unfortunately couldn't make it.

Stan picks up the story: "So, let me tell you a little about this festival we'd never heard about. Did I say 'little'? This year the attendance was expected to be about 65,000. Bouchercon is the biggest mystery-writer conference in the States and, until now, we thought it big with its 2,500 to 3,000 attendees.

US EVENTS (PRELIMINARY)

US LAUNCH: Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 PM

Once Upon a Crime

604 W. 26th St, Minneapolis, MN

(612) 870 3785

Friday-Sunday, October 30-November 1

Magna cum Murder

The Columbia Club - Indianapolis, IN

<http://cms.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/e/eball/magnacummurder>

Monday, November 2, 7:00 PM

Aunt Agatha's

213 S. Fourth, Ann Arbor, MI

(734) 769 1114

Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 PM

Centuries and Sleuths

7419 W. Madison St, **Forest Park**, IL

(708) 771 7243

Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 PM

Mystery One Bookshop

2109 N. Prospect Ave, **Milwaukee**, WI

(414) 347 4077

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 PM

Mystery to Me

1863 Monroe St, Madison, WI

(608) 283 9332

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Murder and Mayhem

Potawatomi Hotel and Casino, Milwaukee, WI

<http://www.murdermayhemmilwaukee.com>

Saturday, November 14, 9:00 AM–4:00PM

Men of Mystery

Marriot hotel, Irvine, CA

<http://www.menofmystery.org/index.html>

Wednesday, November 18

Valley Books

Totally Criminal Cocktail Hour

217 Main Street North, Stillwater MN

(651) 430 3385

“*Polar* means thriller in French. So this is a festival devoted to mysteries and thrillers. It is now eleven years old and comprises a variety of events.

“As with most such festivals, there are author panels. This one had simultaneous translations into French and English. Most of these were held in the gorgeous Palais du Commerce.



Spring at the Palais du Commerce

“I was on a panel entitled *Enfer et damnation* or Hell and Damnation – how one writes about countries that have endured substantial trauma. There are also individual interviews with famous authors – Michael Connelly, Elizabeth George, John Grisham, Val McDermid, and Ian Ranking were some of the English-writing authors you will have heard of. Of course, there were huge names from France and other countries too.

“There is also a film festival, mainly of films based on mysteries and thrillers. These are often introduced by the author of the original book. So Michael Connelly, for example, introduced *The Lincoln Lawyer*.

“There are visits to related places in Lyon, such as police headquarters and the forensics lab. There are plays, lectures, master classes, and a city-wide murder mystery to be solved

which, I was told, attracted 10,000 participants. There is also a whole series of events just for children.



The ceiling of the main Hall in the Palais du Commerce

“I was blown away!

“From an author’s perspective, it is an opportunity to get in front of a huge reading public. Only about 80 authors are invited from around the world and, in addition to any panels, each author gets about 8 – 10 hours to sign books or chat to interested readers.

“For readers, it is an opportunity to browse hundreds of titles, and meet and talk to authors. And buy books – tens of thousands of books. I must have signed 150 of them, and the English language editions, of which there were only a few, sold out quickly.



Readers waiting patiently to be admitted to the hall

“French readers, it seems, take their time before deciding to buy a book. They read the whole back cover to find out about the story and the authors, and they often browse inside as well.

“Some also asked questions. It was fun, and sometimes embarrassing, to try to answer in French. But then, most people who asked questions could also speak English.



The Great Hall filled with readers



Piles of our books were constantly replenished

“There were a few other benefits to accepting the invitation: Lyon is a gorgeous city, founded by the Romans, situated at the confluence of the Saône and Rhône rivers. It is known as the gastronomic capital of France – how bad can that be? – and I got to ride the TGV trains at 200 miles an hour, quiet and smooth. How I love trains!

“Probably one of the most famous statues in the whole of France is situated in a fountain in front of Lyon's City Hall. This massive bronze structure is the work of Frédéric Bartholdi, whose name you probably know! He began work on the statue after finishing New York's Statue of Liberty.



Lyon



Frédéric Bartholdi statue

“Of course, the best part of such events is the people. I met a variety of authors from different parts of the world including Gunnar Staaleson from Norway, Paulo Lins from Brazil, who wrote *City of God*, and Claude Mesplède of France, known as *le pape du polar* (the Pope of thrillers). I happened to enjoy three meals at his table and was amazed that almost everyone who walked past came and paid respects to him. He is a literary icon in France.

“There were also agents and journalist to schmooze with. As well as publishers. I was



Jennifer Platt of the Sunday Times

fortunate to meet and dine with Jennifer Platt from the South African Sunday Times. I learnt a lot about the South African book scene at that dinner.

“So, if you happen to be in France when *Quais du Polar* is taking place, take the TGV and enjoy a lovely city, great food, and a world of mystery and thriller authors.”



Click on the link below to become a Kubu fan on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook.com/MichaelStanleyBooks>

How to help your favorite authors

The most difficult thing for authors is getting known. The best referral is from readers who like their work.

There are three things you can do. One: tell your friends about an author's books you like. Two: ask your local library to buy the author's books. And three: write a review of one of the authors' books on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, BooksLive, 4MA, DorothyL, or any other online forum, or send a review to a local newspaper or newsletter.