

# Michael Stanley introduces Detective Kubu

## *Kubu's Second Adventure Launched Worldwide*

On the evening of June 2 in Minneapolis, Detective Kubu returned with a different mystery, different villains, and a different setting in *THE SECOND DEATH OF GOODLUCK TINUBU*. Again the wonderful **Once Upon a Crime** bookstore was the venue. Pat and Gary put on a great spread and display as usual (well, twice now), and we emerged grateful to them and all our supporters for another thrilling launch. This time the scene was less wintry (well, it is June), but the warmth generated by our supporters was just as strong.

offering a frequent-buyer program for Kubu books; several friends seem to be candidates already. We love them!

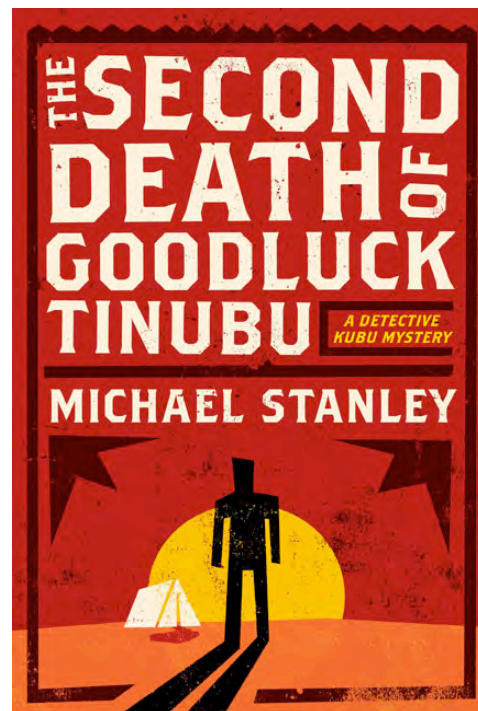


Michael and Stanley have their say at Once Upon A Crime

The book in its rest-of-the-world guise as *A DEADLY TRADE* made its South African debut at Wordsworth Books in Knysna. Anton Alberts hosted the launch, and we were delighted with the turn out. Perhaps Knysna hasn't seen too many worldwide launches, but once again the enthusiasm and support was overwhelming. Johannesburg – not to be outdone – turned out in strength at The Old Johannian Club to join the authors for a celebration. Copies of *A DEADLY TRADE* were snapped up, and the newly released paperback of *A CARRION DEATH* was also in demand. We are thinking of



The team at Once Upon a Crime - From the left: Chris Everheart, Michael, Gary Bush, Stanley, Gary Shulze



## Reviews for THE SECOND DEATH OF GOODLUCK TINUBU

### \*Starred\* Review!

“ . . . a brilliant sequel to last year’s *Carrion Death*. . . . Stanley (the pseudonym for the writing team of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollip) is not content with a single plot line, effectively juggling the murders with cross-border drug smuggling and the circumstances surrounding an upcoming African Union meeting. Kubu, a dedicated gourmand, is just one of many fully fleshed and charmingly realistic characters. From slightly annoying sister-in-law Pleasant to Kubu’s intense and acerbic boss Mabuku to Scottish pathologist MacGregor, each character is memorable and adds depth to this tense and involving police procedural. Suggest to fans of *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* series, who will appreciate Kubu’s laid-back style and happy home life, and to Henning Mankell fans, who will respond to the complex plots and palpable sense of place.”  
- *Booklist*, May 1, 2009

"Following his spectacular debut, *A Carrion Death*, Stanley comes roaring back with an even better tale. Bringing a love of Africa similar to Alexander McCall Smith's popular "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" series, the author has created an excellent new venue for those who love to read about other cultures while enjoying a good mystery. Highly recommended."  
- *Library Journal*, April 1, 2009

"Kubu’s second case is as leisurely and wellappointed as the first (*A Carrion Death*, 2008), with maps, glossary and a helpful cast of characters. Stanley—actually the SouthAfrican team of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollip—should satisfy all armchair travellers and most mystery fans."  
- *Kirkus Reviews*, April 15th, 2009

[Click here to read the first chapter of THE SECOND DEATH OF GOODLUCK TINUBU.](#)

## Michael and Stanley Hit the Road

With activities for the book tour of *Second Death* hotting up with launches, signings, visits, TV and radio appearances scheduled, it was almost relaxing to fly to Minneapolis from Johannesburg for the weekend to enjoy the Minnesota Book Awards. It was a wonderful gala occasion, and meeting authors like William Kent Kruger and Julie Kramer was enough to make the trip worthwhile.

The eventual winner of Genre Fiction (all four were crime novels) was *Stalking Susan* by Julie Kramer, who was generous in her praise of the other contenders. The Readers Choice award (across all categories) went to *The Late Homecomer* by the young author Kao Kalia Yang, who was overwhelmed. Her book also won the non-fiction category. Many thanks to everyone who supported us and voted for us.

After the weekend, it was back to Johannesburg and Knysna to catch our breath and get ready for the round-the-world book tour for THE SECOND DEATH OF GOODLUCK TINUBU (A DEADLY TRADE outside north America). The first stop was Australia, where we toured most of the major cities meeting booksellers and readers. A highlight was meeting Karen and Adam Chisholm of Austcrimefiction for an enjoyable chat and an excellent lunch (which Kubu would have highly approved for quality and quantity). Our only regret was not sampling their cider! Karen’s take on the event is at [www.austcrimefiction.org/node/5162](http://www.austcrimefiction.org/node/5162).

Then it was on to Auckland to meet more booksellers, chat on half a dozen radio stations and appear on New Zealand TV One’s Breakfast Show. Stan then went south and gave a talk to patrons of the Palmerston North library.

East across the international date line to arrive in Los Angeles before we left. Then on to New York for BookExpo America, which was held on three levels of the Jacob Javits Convention Center. It is quite an event with big displays from major and minor publishers. The focus is mainly on book-sellers and publishers, but some authors were also in attendance. Eager readers snapped up fifty copies of each of our books, and a few hopefuls were disappointed. It was a great start to the book tour.

Please share this newsletter with friends.

## More Mysteries for Kubu?

Even though Botswana is a peaceful country, we think there is still work for Kubu. So we have started work on a third mystery, which will be set in the southwest part of the country around the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. A Park ranger is found in the desert by three Bushmen. He's suffering from a head wound and dies on the way to hospital. Local police arrest the Bushmen on suspicion of murder. Kubu's old Bushman friend, Khumanego, enlists Kubu's help to ensure justice is done.

## Exciting Research

One of the pleasures of writing is the research. For example, Bushmen hunt with poison-tipped arrows. The poison gets into the animal's bloodstream and slowly kills it.

The poison comes from a nondescript beetle that inhabits the marula tree. The beetle's larvae crawl down to the roots of the tree, a foot or two underground, where they pupate, surrounded by a casing of sand, invisible unless the soil is dug up. To get the poison, the head must be twisted off and the innards squeezed out like toothpaste.

It is hard to imagine how this poison was ever discovered. The source is below ground and difficult to see even when dug up. If someone were to eat the poison, nothing would happen since the poison only works through the bloodstream. If it did get into someone's bloodstream, it might take two days for the person to die, so the link back to when the poison was introduced would be weak at best.

Nobody knows how the poison was first found and how its properties came to be recognized. It's a mystery that may never be solved. However, its discovery must have been pivotal to Bushmen.

## NEWS FLASH!

A CARRION DEATH has just been nominated for the Mystery Readers International Macavity Award for Best First Novel in 2008. The winner will be announced at Bouchercon in October.

This follows A CARRION DEATH being a finalist for the 2008 Best Genre Fiction Award in the Minnesota Book Awards and for Strand Magazine Critics' Award for best debut crime novel of 2008. The Los Angeles Times selected the book as one of their top ten best crime fiction novels of 2008, and Mystery Book listed

## United States Events

Tuesday, June 09, 2009, 7:00 PM  
BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSELLERS  
2100 N Snelling Ave, Roseville MN

Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 7:30 PM  
COMMON GOOD BOOKS  
165 Western Ave N, Suite 14, St. Paul MN

Thursday, June 11, 2009, 7:00 PM  
BORDERS  
802 West Town Center Blvd, Champaign IL

Friday, June 12, 2009, 7:00 PM  
CENTURIES AND SLEUTHS  
7419 W Madison St, Forest Park, IL

Saturday, June 13, 2009, 11:00 AM  
MYSTERY ONE BOOKSHOP  
2109 N Prospect Ave, Milwaukee WI

Saturday, June 13, 2009, 2:00 PM  
BOOKS & CO  
1039 Summit Ave, Oconomowoc WI

Sunday, June 14, 2009, 2:00 PM  
BORDERS  
34300 Woodward, Birmingham MI

Monday, June 15, 2009, 7:00 PM  
AUNT AGATHA'S  
213 S Fourth, Ann Arbor MI

Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 6:30 PM  
MURDER BY THE BOOK  
2342 Bissonnet St, Houston TX

Friday, June 19, 2009, 7:00 PM  
MYSTERIOUS GALAXY  
#302 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego CA

Saturday, June 20, 2009, 2:00 PM  
MYSTERY BOOKSTORE  
1036-C Broxton, Los Angeles CA

Sunday, June 21, 2009, 1:00 PM  
MYSTERIES TO DIE FOR  
2940 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks CA

Tuesday, July 07, 2009, 6:00 PM  
KATE'S MYSTERY BOOKSTORE  
2211 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge MA

Friday, July 10, 2009  
MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP  
58 Warren St, New York, NY