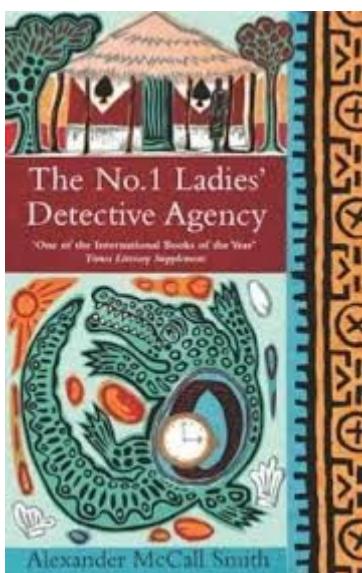
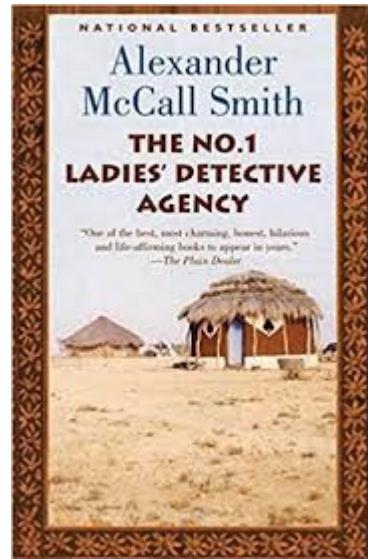
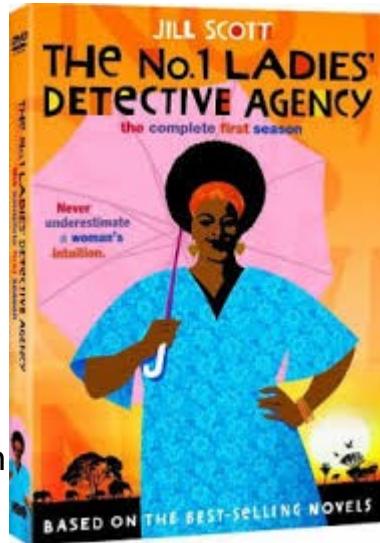


Group Three 17.7. 2029 First talking about the No 1 Detective Agency



We'll talk about the cover first and how you would react to each of these if you were browsing in a bookshop.



Your general reactions - and what you'd like to talk about.

Precious Ramotswe is 'traditionally built' - meaning?

In which ways is she traditional and in which not? (rely, submit)

Which adjectives can you find to describe her physically and her character.

Father's contribution to Mme Ramotswe's business:

Her work ethic : (not fee if unsuccessful)

Equipment :

How do find the language? Eg using the word 'inventory' in the first two paragraphs. Spontaneously try to remember what you know of the acacia tree in front of Mme Ramotswe's office door!

Eg p. 2 'good', 'good'....

How do you feel about Mme Ramotswe's contemplations? (p 2 ff) ('...how what is one thing today becomes quite another thing tomorrow'.)

Intro = pp. 1 - 4; first case (Happy Bepetsi) pp. 5 - 12.

The back story = chapters 2 and 3 = pp 13 - 42 For next week?

Had you heard of Alexander McCall Smith before?

1. Alexander McCall Smith was born in [Bulawayo](#) in 1948 in the British colony of [Southern Rhodesia](#) (present-day [Zimbabwe](#)), the youngest of four children. His father worked as a public prosecutor in Bulawayo. McCall Smith was educated at the [Christian Brothers College](#) in Bulawayo before moving to Scotland at age 17 to study law at the [University of Edinburgh](#), where he earned his [PhD in law](#). He soon taught at [Queen's University Belfast](#), and while teaching there he entered a literary competition: one a children's book and the other a novel for adults. He won in the children's category.

2. He returned to southern Africa in 1981 to help co-found the law school and teach law at the [University of Botswana](#). While there, he co-wrote *The Criminal Law of Botswana* (1992).

He was Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh and is now [Emeritus Professor](#) at its [School of Law](#). He retains a further involvement with the University [in relation to the James Tait Black Memorial Prize](#)

He is the former chairman of the Ethics Committee of the [British Medical Journal](#) (until 2002), the former vice-chairman of the [Human Genetics Commission](#) of the United Kingdom, and a former member of the [International Bioethics Committee](#) of UNESCO. After achieving success as a writer, he gave up these commitments. He was appointed a [CBE](#) in the [New Year's Honours List](#) issued at the end of December 2006 for services to literature. In June 2007, he was awarded the Honorary Degree of [Doctor of Laws](#) at a ceremony celebrating the tercentenary of the University of Edinburgh School of Law. In June 2015 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters at a graduation ceremony at the University of St Andrews.

3. He settled in [Edinburgh](#), Scotland in 1984. He and his wife Elizabeth, a physician, bought and renovated a large [Victorian mansion](#) in the [Merchiston/Morningside](#) area of the city. They lived there for almost 30 years, raising their two daughters Lucy and Emily, who attended the independent [St George's School for Girls](#) in the city. Nearby, lived the authors [J. K. Rowling](#), [Ian Rankin](#) and [Kate Atkinson](#).

4. An amateur bassoonist, he co-founded [The Really Terrible Orchestra](#). He has helped to found Botswana's first centre for opera training, the Number 1 Ladies' Opera House, for whom he wrote the [libretto](#) of their first production, a version of [Macbeth](#) set among a troop of [baboons](#) in the [Okavango Delta](#).

He is the author of a testimonial in *The Future of the NHS* (2006).

In 2014, McCall Smith purchased the [Cairns of Coll](#), a remote, uninhabited chain of islets in the Hebrides. He said, "I intend to do absolutely nothing with them, and to ensure that, after I am gone, they are held in trust, unspoilt and uninhabited, for the nation. I want them kept in perpetuity as a sanctuary for wildlife – for birds and seals and all the other creatures to which they are home."

During a visit to New Zealand in 2014 McCall Smith visited [Rawene](#) where his grandfather [George McCall Smith](#) ran the hospital for 34 years and created the Hokianga area health service. ([Extract](#) from the wikipedia article about him. Writing section excluded.)

Welcome

Find Happiness within the pages of an Alexander McCall Smith book

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of first publication of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*

'Each book slips into a gentler world and time. It is what reading was always meant to be—a quiet escape that leaves you refreshed and hopeful. So, grab them! Everyone needs a little hope. And, some McCall Smith.' - The Week

<https://www.alexandermccallsmith.co.uk/>

