

Group Three Sept 26th : Talking about the final 2 chapters of 'No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency':

((How is it that Mma Ramotswe is pleased or happy about the emptiness of the landscape? It seems to be this is often mentioned. Here: p. 220, line 4 'empty sky'. A little later she refers to 'dead country' which, I think, is different.))

1. 'Dead country'. ('That anybody should want to live here, away from the village, away from human contact, seemed inexplicable.') p. 220

2. '... but neglect and the years had scaled them off and only their ghosts remained.' (p. 221) Effect on the reader?

3. 'Merciless

Africa.....Little disasters, little victories like ours, she thought.'

('armoured ground crickets". Cricket = *Grille*)



4. "I do not think they should hang women." (p. 223)

5. "They do not like witchcraft, you know. They are ashamed. They think it's not modern." (p. 224)

6. "You think you are better than me, don't you." (p. 224)

7. "You can buy bones in Johannesburg. Did you not know that? They are not expensive." (p. 225)

8. '...the sheer immensity of it tipped her gently into sleep.' (p. 227)

9. 'There was so much suffering in Africa that it was tempting just to shrug your shoulders and walk away. But you can't do that, she thought.' p. 228

Chapter Twenty-two:

1. "Anything can be fixed. Anything." (p. 229)

2. ' Mma R could not understand people who took no interest in all this.' (p. 231)

3. '...; its loyal heart, which had beaten so reliably, but which, ripped out, now looked so vulnerable.'

4. '...the fires outside the huts would be crackling and glowing for the evening's cooking.' (p. 231)

5. "Like a bee." (p. 232)

6. "A mechanic cannot be a poet.....that is not how things are." (p. 232)

7. "Of course I will," p. 233



8. I don't want to watch the film. What about you?

Wrapping it up, as they say:

(But if we talk 'too long' about the Supreme Court etc then we'll wrap up next time!)

For October 10th please:

- pick out five phrases from the book or words from the book that you wish to remember
- think again whether there was anything you'd like to discuss about the book as a whole that we haven't mentioned.
- find three adjectives to sum up the book
- Read Ian Rankin's story 'Being Frank'. It's only 12 pages. Do you know what the word 'frank' means as an adjective? (So the title is a pun. Many of them are.) (Is that too much for anybody?)

Social Security - *auf dem Amt für Sozialhilfe*; Rosettis were sister and brother, Pre-Raphaelite painter and poet; weatherbeaten - brown and may be a bit leathery; to shuffle = *die Füße schlürfen*; trademark - here: *Merkmal* (really: *Marke*); gamekeeper - *Wildhüter*?

NB The bottom line of p. 49: 'Some of them knew him of old' - also a very pleasant unmodern style!

On October 15th I'll be making the next serious inquiries about getting train tickets because then the winter timetable of Deutsche Bahn starts. So far anybody can join us later if she gets her own ticket and there is still a room available but it's possible that the cheap tickets to Brussels are on sale soon.