



The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu

By Michael Stanley
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Introduction

When two guests are bludgeoned to death at the isolated Jackalberry bush camp in northern Botswana, Detective Kubu Bengu arrives from Gaborone to assist the local police. Zondo, another guest at the camp, departed unexpectedly the morning after the murders, and the Zimbabwe police are unable or unwilling to trace him. Then the other guests at the camp start dying one by one. The local police have their own suspicions, but the wily Kubu believes that the obvious is not what it seems. Having discovered that everyone at the Jackalberry camp has something to hide, Kubu sets a clever trap to find the truth.

Questions for Discussion

1. The hero of the novel Goodluck Tinubu dies on the first page of the book. Yet his character and motivation is crucial to the story. Did you feel you knew the man by the end of the book? Was his character as strong as those who were still alive at the end?
2. What did you think were Kubu's feelings about Goodluck? Did he go beyond the call of duty to catch Goodluck's murderer, or is this what we would expect from any competent detective?
3. The book has been described as an Agatha Christie-style detective story. Do you agree with that? At the same time it is a police procedural. Do the two marry successfully here?
4. One of the themes of the book is the vicious bush war in Rhodesia, which eventually led to the collapse of Zimbabwe under the misrule of Robert Mugabe. How did your view of Zimbabwe change (if at all) after reading this book?
5. How do you think Kubu's views changed after his trip to Zimbabwe?
6. How would you assess the roles of the other guests at Jackalberry Camp in the mystery - the Munro sisters, the Boardmans, Siphon Langa?
7. The Botswana of this book is very different from the Botswana of *A Carrion Death* and *Death of the Mantis*. Indeed the country has extremely diverse environments. How does the authors' love of Africa come through in the book?
8. What advantages and disadvantages do you think the book has as a result of being written by two people?
9. Joy is given a much more active role in this book and drawn into the mystery itself. Did you find her reactions credible? What should Kubu have done to avoid her behaving in this way?
10. In this book, Kubu gets a sidekick in the persona of Tatwa. Apart from the geographic requirement of having a detective in the area, why do you think the authors did this and was it successful?
11. Have you tried cooking Moremi's bobotie? If so, what did you think of it?

About the Author

Michael Stanley is the pen name of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollip, both born in South Africa. Their love of the wild parts of southern Africa spawned numerous trips to Botswana and Zimbabwe, frequently in a single-engine plane rented by Stanley, who has flown since 1969. Their first mystery novel, introducing Detective Kubu, was *A Carrion Death* published in 2008. *The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu* is the second Kubu mystery. Kubu returns to investigate murders in the Kalahari Desert in *Death of the Mantis*, the third Detective Kubu mystery.