



The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case (Precious Ramotswe Mysteries for Young Readers)

By Alexander McCall Smith

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THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY - Young Readers

Fans around the world adore the bestselling No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, the basis of the HBO TV show, and its proprietor Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's premier lady detective. In this charming series, Mma Ramotswe navigates her cases and her personal life with wisdom, and good humor—not to mention help from her loyal assistant, Grace Makutsi, and the occasional cup of tea.

Have you ever said to yourself, *Wouldn't it be nice to be a detective?*

This is the story of an African girl who says just that. Her name is Precious.

When a piece of cake goes missing from her classroom, a traditionally built young boy is tagged as the culprit. Precious, however, is not convinced. She sets out to find the real thief. Along the way she learns that your first guess isn't always right. She also learns how to be a detective.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Adult fans of Smith's No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series will be queuing up to give this prequel of sorts to the children they know. This series starter introduces the author's heroine, Precious Ramotswe, as a young girl solving her first case. Someone has been stealing treats from her friends at school, and suspicion swirls around a chubby boy named Poloko. Encouraged by her father, who has noted Precious' powers of deduction, the sleuth decides to follow her instincts and prove Poloko innocent. The story is simply told—Smith has previous experience with children's books with the Akimbo series—and it will work well for children new to the mystery genre. Adding to the appeal are McIntosh's wonderful graphic illustrations done in red and black. A map of Botswana and drawings of the flora, fauna, and settings mentioned in the text will give readers a clear picture of Precious' world. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Parents who devour the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency books will likely foist this upon plenty of agreeable young readers. Those were international bestsellers; this could well have the same future. Grades 2-4. --Karen Cruze

Review

“A detective is born! What a delightful, breezy read!”

—Mary Pope Osborne, bestselling author of *The Magic Tree House* series

“Told with an innocence that will captivate young readers, *The Great Cake Mystery* is a kind-hearted, feel-good story for all. Loved it!”

—Graham Salisbury, author of *Under the Blood-Red Sun* and the Calvin Coconut series

“Kids will love this kind and clever new detective. They’ll love the mystery, and they might even love the thieves. I look forward to more!”

—Patricia Reilly Giff, award-winning author of *Wild Girl* and other books

“Good for kids who like mysteries and stories about other cultures and friendship all packed into one.”

—*TIME for Kids* magazine

“Stunning artwork. . . . A compelling plot and interesting secondary characters, especially classmates who are quick to make unfounded accusations and their teacher, who provides wisdom just when it is needed, will leave readers wanting more. One case where an adaptation from an adult book is as much fun to read as the original.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“This mini mystery and its jaw-dropping illustrations will please proto-detectives, both large and small. . . . What [McCall Smith]’s done with *The Great Cake Mystery* is unique. . . . His fans will pluck it up like so many of his other books. . . . A really fun read.”

—*School Library Journal*

“Bold and striking, McIntosh’s chunky, two-color woodcutlike pictures present evocative images of the African setting. This is a story, and a heroine, with impressive dimension.”

- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

About the Author

Alexander McCall Smith is the author of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, the Isabel Dalhousie series, the Portuguese Irregular Verbs series, the 44 Scotland Street series, and the Corduroy Mansions series. He was born in what is now known as Zimbabwe and lives in Scotland, where in his spare time he is a bassoonist in the RTO (Really Terrible Orchestra).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marcus Leiva:

This The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case (Precious Ramotswe Mysteries for Young Readers) book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case (Precious Ramotswe Mysteries for Young Readers) without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case (Precious Ramotswe Mysteries for Young Readers) can bring whenever you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case (Precious Ramotswe Mysteries for Young Readers) having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Maria Gardner:

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Gary Lafountain:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world could share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only situation that share in the textbooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write with their book. One of them is this The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case (Precious Ramotswe Mysteries for Young Readers).

Bert Martinez:

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