

The Joy and Light Bus Company by Alexander McCall Smith

I could have read this novel in a single sitting, but I purposely slowed down and made myself stretch it out to at least two days, just to extend the pleasure. After all, it may be a while before the next book in the series arrives!

This is the 22nd book in the series that began with *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, and it still delights. Mma Ramotswe remains so down-to-earth and perceptive, yet also wisely diplomatic. Mma Makutsi still may have many opinions to state, often too quickly, and is too often quick to take offense. But these characters have become much like long-time friends, whose foibles we overlook as we witness their small adventures and misadventures.

Mma Ramotswe's husband, the usually reliable J.L.G. Matekoni, has unexpectedly decided to risk his capital and expand into a new venture, a bus company. The detective investigations continue, as Mma Ramotswe and Mma Makutsi share dread at this business gamble, with so many other small bus companies already struggling.

Heartwarming, wise, and often quite funny, the story of life in the detective agency run by women, yet adjoining a small service garage – and located in Botswana – is well worth a read. You don't have to have read all 21 other books that preceded this one. But after reading the latest installment, you may want to!