

C.M. Elliott

Detective Sibanda novels

Zimbabwean literary crime fiction with DI Jabulani Sibanda, Sergeant Ncube, Miss Daisy, and cases shaped by spoor, railway lines, village politics, blood diamonds, and bush roads around Gubu and Hwange country.

PRESS CONTACT

fruitbat@yoafrica.com

<https://cmelliott.com>

Author, books, signed copies, press, and book clubs

INCLUDED

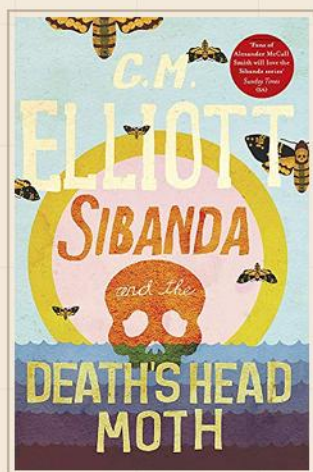
For press and book trade

- Press-ready PDF
- Short and long author bios
- Book fact sheet and publication data
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- Author image and book covers
- Usage and rights notes



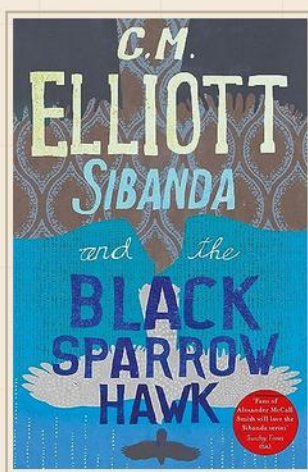
Book 1

Sibanda and the Rainbird



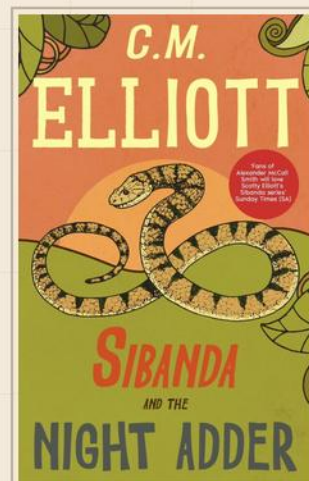
Book 2

Sibanda and the Death's Head Moth



Book 3

Sibanda and the Black Sparrow Hawk



Book 4

Sibanda and the Night Adder

About C.M. Elliott

C.M. Elliott is the author of the Detective Sibanda novels: Sibanda and the Rainbird, Sibanda and the Death's Head Moth, Sibanda and the Black Sparrow Hawk, and Sibanda and the Night Adder.

C.M. Elliott was born in England and made her life in Zimbabwe. Years around Hwange National Park and the safari industry gave her an ear for bush roads, wildlife, practical mishaps, and the comedy of people under pressure. Those details run through the Detective Sibanda novels: murder, yes, but also weather, spoor, bureaucracy, friendship, and the long drive back to Gubu.



Series at a glance

SERIES	Detective Sibanda
SETTING	Gubu, Hwange country, and the Matabele bush
tone	Literary crime, dry humour, rural policing, wildlife detail
START WITH	Sibanda and the Rainbird
LATEST SIBANDA NOVEL	Sibanda and the Night Adder
SCREEN ADAPTATION	On hold

Detective Sibanda in order

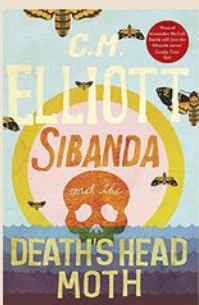


BOOK 1

Sibanda and the Rainbird

ISBN 9781472130495 | Little, Brown Book Group / Constable | 5 March 2020 | 256 pages

A mutilated body near Thunduluka Lodge leaves Sibanda with tyre tracks, a marked knife, and a sliver of blue metallic paint.

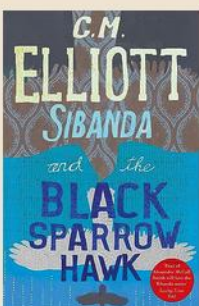


BOOK 2

Sibanda and the Death's Head Moth

ISBN 9781472130525 | Constable / Little, Brown Book Group | 3 September 2020 | 256 pages

Two deaths near Gubu and the Zambezi leave Sibanda with a fragment of material, a puncture wound, and a coded diary.

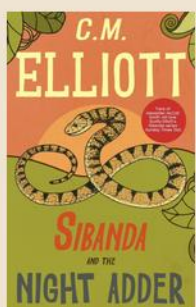


BOOK 3

Sibanda and the Black Sparrow Hawk

ISBN 9781472130556 | Constable / Little, Brown Book Group | 21 January 2021 | 272 pages

A skinned body beside the railway line sends Sibanda after a killer using the train as a killing field.



BOOK 4

Sibanda and the Night Adder

ISBN 9781914287305 | Carnelian Heart Publishing Ltd | 12 April 2023 | 286 pages

Two murders in Gubu pull Sibanda, Ncube, and Miss Daisy into blood diamonds, official pursuit, and the road north to Victoria Falls.

Praise and coverage lines

Attributed press quotes

PRESS

Fans of Alexander McCall Smith will love C.M. Elliott's Sibanda series.

Sunday Times (SA)

Attributed pull quote for reviews, listings, event pages, and book-trade material.

PRESS

C.M. Elliott has created a lively cast of characters and an intricate, clever plot.

Margaret von Klemperer, *The Witness*

Attributed pull quote for reviews, listings, event pages, and book-trade material.

PRESS

Elliott plots murder, diamonds and hyenas with skill, but it is the humour that runs throughout that entrances and enhances the dastardly plot.

Jenny Crwys Williams

Attributed pull quote for reviews, listings, event pages, and book-trade material.

Coverage angles

- Rural Zimbabwe, Hwange country, bush roads, wildlife detail, and safari knowledge are part of the detection, not decoration.
- Sibanda investigates murder, smuggling, railway-line killings, and blood diamonds while Sergeant Ncube and Miss Daisy keep the books human.
- The series gives book clubs and journalists several clean lines of enquiry: place, policing, humour, conservation, corruption, friendship, and practical evidence.

Readers on Goodreads

The strongest reader response is not one-note praise. It gathers around writing, world-building, humour, wildlife, character loyalty, and the way the books make rural policing feel physical.

NOT ORDINARY

This is no ordinary murder mystery.

Lesley Shears, Goodreads

The first case is remembered for more than the corpse: bushcraft, police-station friction, and small physical clues drive the pleasure of the investigation.

WORLD-BUILDING

immerses the reader into life in the African bush

Paromjit, Goodreads

Readers notice the density of place: birds, animals, heat, lodge life, village pressure, and the political weather around Gubu.

PROSE

Beautifully written.

Adri, Goodreads

The books depend on observation and timing as much as plot. The writing gives space to landscape, absurdity, and the odd comedy of serious work.

PLOT AND CHARACTER

Interesting characters, intricate plot and very well spun story.

Phumlani, Goodreads

The second book deepens the machinery: fragments of evidence, coded names, poaching pressure, Ncube's anxieties, and Sibanda's impatience.

SERIES LOYALTY

Love the Sibanda books.

Sue Morris, Goodreads

By the third case, readers are returning for the company as well as the crime: Sibanda, Ncube, Miss Daisy, and Gubu itself.

HUMOUR AND WILDLIFE

Full of fun and also beautiful descriptions of wildlife.

Mish Middelmann, Goodreads

The balance matters: dark crimes, comic restraint, and wildlife detail that is part of how Sibanda thinks.

Writing and world-building

- The Sibanda novels are built from working detail: Gubu police station, failing vehicles, bad roads, birds, spoor, lodge life, drought, official pressure, and the difficult distance between law and justice.
- Wildlife is not scenery in the series. It is often evidence, atmosphere, danger, memory, misdirection, or the thing Sibanda understands more clearly than the people around him.
- The humour stays dry because the crimes are serious. Ncube, Miss Daisy, and the absurdity of bureaucracy keep the books humane without turning murder into comfort reading.

Files and usage

The asset pack is organised for quick use by journalists, event organisers, booksellers and publishers.

Inside the ZIP

- `press-kit/cm-elliott-press-kit.pdf`
- `facts/cm-elliott-fact-sheet.txt`
- `bios/cm-elliott-short-bio.txt` and `cm-elliott-long-bio.txt`
- `reviews/cm-elliott-review-quotes.txt`
- `reviews/cm-elliott-goodreads-reader-response.txt`
- `facts/cm-elliott-writing-and-world-building.txt`
- `book-data/cm-elliott-books.csv`
- `author/cm-elliott-author-photo.jpg`
- covers/front-cover files for all four Sibanda novels
- `README.txt` with contact and usage notes

Usage note

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Contact

fruitbat@yoafrica.com

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