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Bookmarks presents award-winning author Alexander McCall Smith in conversation with Charlie Lovett

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (October 20, 2020) - Bookmarks is thrilled to present award-winning author Alexander McCall Smith in conversation with Charlie Lovett via a virtual Crowdcast event on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. EST. To register, guests can either purchase a copy of Smith's latest book, *How to Raise an Elephant*, or make a donation to Bookmarks at: <https://www.bookmarksnc.org/mccall-smith>.

Alexander McCall Smith is one of the world's most prolific and best-loved authors. He has written and contributed to more than 100 books - including specialist academic titles, short story collections, and a number of immensely popular children's books - and is best known for his perennially adored *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* novels. His works have been translated into more than forty-five languages and have been bestsellers around the world. In 2007, Smith received a CBE for services to literature, and in 2011 he was honoured by the President of Botswana for services through literature to the country. Smith has also received the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction and the Medal of Honor for Achievement in Literature from The National Arts Club of America.

How to Raise an Elephant is the next book in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series and sees Precious Ramotswe calling upon all her maternal instincts when she's faced with a two-ton case. As the temperature rises in Gaborone, Precious wonders whether the heat could be the reason that business is particularly slow. Luckily, a slower pace in life is her natural preference. With fewer cases to handle, Precious has time to contemplate her new neighbours, a couple who, by the sounds of it, have a rather volatile relationship. But when a distant cousin of Mma Ramotswe's comes to the agency with a plea for help, the ladies decide to pursue the issue together. Meanwhile, their colleague Charlie is behaving oddly, borrowing Mma Ramotswe's van and returning it in an unusual condition. Digging a little deeper, the explanation is both strange and extraordinary, and it takes Charlie - along with Mma Ramotswe's husband, Mr J. L. B. Matekoni - on a hair-raising night-time expedition.

Smith will be in conversation with Charlie Lovett, a Winston-Salem native and *New York Times* bestselling novelist and award-winning playwright whose plays for children have been seen in over 5,000 productions worldwide. Lovett's first play, *Twinderella: The Musical*, won the

Shubert Fendrich Playwriting Award, and his acclaimed novel *The Bookman's Tale* was a *New York Times* bestseller, a Barnes and Noble Recommends selection, and has been translated into several foreign languages. Lovett is also the creator and host of Inside the Writer's Studio, a podcast featuring Lovett talking with writers about their lives, their craft, their business, and their latest work. Inside the Writer's Studio has had over 7500 downloads in 48 states and 47 foreign countries on six continents. His latest book is *Escaping Dreamland*.

Bookmarks is a literary arts nonprofit organization and independent bookstore that works to ignite the love of reading by connecting the community with books and authors. In addition to the annual Festival of Books & Authors, Bookmarks offers year-round programming to this end, including author talks, lecture nights, book club gatherings, and more, all of which are currently being offered virtually. Community outreach efforts also include Book Build and Authors In Schools, which connects students in the Winston-Salem area with authors and new books. Bookmarks is located at 634 West Fourth Street in downtown Winston-Salem and is now offering appointment-based shopping Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., with curbside pick-up and phone service continuing from 4 - 6 p.m. Visit bookmarksnc.org for more information.

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