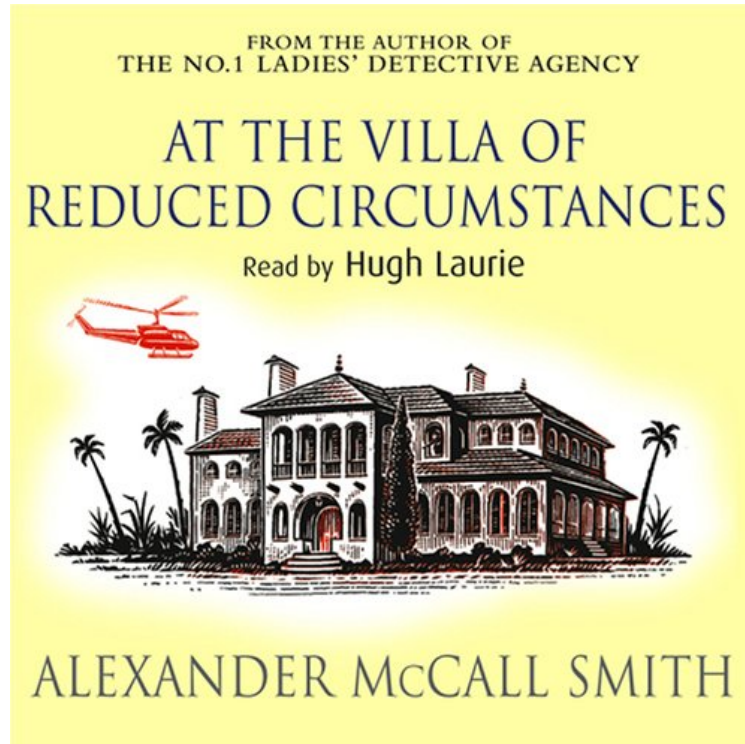


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At the Villa of Reduced Circumstances

Alexander McCall Smith

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Alexander McCall Smith : At the Villa of Reduced Circumstances before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised At the Villa of Reduced Circumstances:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This series was very disappointing to me. By CBI adore Alexander McCall's many books (what a prolific writer!), but this series bored me tremendously. I didn't care about any of these characters and had to force myself to read each book, thinking maybe the characters would grow on me. (They didn't.) YAWN! I think I've read every other book he's written and have loved the characters (or disliked them because I was supposed to!) and stories. I lived in South Africa for two years and Mc Call captures Precious R. so well you'd think the book was written by a female from Botswana. Isobel Dalhousie is an interesting philosopher and I love that she's a woman philosopher. Bertie tries SO hard and his mother, albeit trying even harder, is the world's most irritating woman and you just want to bundle him up and take him off to live the life of a freer child. As for the other 44 Scotland Street characters, I got so involved in all their lives from book one that I couldn't wait for another book to come out. I've felt that way about each series, except Portuguese Irregular Verbs, Villa of Reduced Circumstances, etc. Didn't enjoy that series one whit! I'm sure there are people out there who enjoyed this series, but I wasn't one of them, sad to say. I was, in fact, shocked by just how much I did NOT like this series as I was expecting to be enchanted as I almost always am by McCall Smith's books. Mind you, I continue to look forward to books in his other series, but will never buy one about these professors again! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Dr. Moritz-Maria Meets The Surreal By Jon Linden In this book, the latest of the Professor Dr. Moritz-Maria von Igelfeld, the Full Professor of Romance Philology, Smith reaches into the surreal. In the first instance, it should be pointed out that a German

professor of Romance languages is almost surreal in itself. The Romance languages, the ones based on Latin such as Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Rumanian, etc. have no relationship to German at all. In fact, English is really the combination of German and Latin. Nonetheless, the good Doctor still exists. And in this adventure, we see a story in 2 parts. The first part describes the Professor's 4 month visit to Cambridge. Smith focuses on the differences between manners, mannerisms, modes of speaking and other idiosyncrasies about England and Germany in relating his story of the Professor's stay at Cambridge. The second part gets even more interesting as the Professor finally gets the recognition he feels he deserves. In fact perhaps he gets just a little more recognition than he bargained for when he is taken prisoner by Columbian Guerilla Fighters in the midst of a revolution. At this point, Smith moves into the dream state of a story unfolding without the protagonist having any control over the outcome. Yet the outcome is indeed a grand one. The book is highly recommended to Alexander McCall Smith enthusiasts. It is also recommended to those who wish to see how academicians sometimes interact with the real world in a very strange manner. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So well written... By mchI am a great fan of Alexander McCall Smith's kindly tales of Bostwana. This book is a horse of a different color... part of the semi-caustic series about a mediocre professor whose sole achievement has something to do with Portuguese verbs, this book takes out after the pomposity of academic political hierarchies AND the glories of banana republic revolutions all at the same time. A fast read... and one so caustic and so funny that you'll be bound to pass it along (preferably to a peace corps veteran of the new world who is currently a professor... of anything)

The third novel in the 'Portuguese Irregular Verbs' trilogy sees von Igelfeld suffering the slings of academic intrigue as a visiting fellow at Cambridge, and the arrows of outrageous fortune in an eventful Columbian adventure. Between trips, von Igelfeld returns to his beloved Regensburg only that to discover while he has been away his murine colleagues have been at play.

For The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency: 'A rare pleasure' Daily Telegraph 'Forget the library - the body is in the mud hut. An African Miss Marple created by a Scottish lawyer ... superb' Sunday Times 'One of the most entrancing literary treats of many a year' Wall Street Journal 'A strong, independent, and endearing model for contemporary women anywhere ... A crowded fictional genre will have to make room for Precious Ramotswe. In the best sense possible, she's a heavyweight' Boston Globe From the Inside Flap Readers who fell in love with Precious Ramotswe, proprietor of The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, now have new cause for celebration in the protagonist of these three light-footed comic novels by Alexander McCall Smith. Welcome to the insane and rarified world of Professor Dr. Moritz-Maria von Igelfeld of the Institute of Romance Philology. Von Igelfeld is engaged in a never-ending quest to win the respect he feels certain he is due - a quest which has the tendency to go hilariously astray. In At the Villa of Reduced Circumstances, Professor Dr. von Igelfeld gets caught up in a nasty case of academic intrigue while on sabbatical at Cambridge. When he returns to Regensburg he is confronted with the thrilling news that someone from a foreign embassy has actually checked his masterwork, Portuguese Irregular Verbs, out of the Institute's Library. As a result, he gets caught up in intrigue of a different sort on a visit to Bogota, Colombia. About the Author Alexander McCall Smith is a Professor of Medical Law as well as the author of over 50 books from FORENSIC ASPECTS OF SLEEP to THE CRIMINAL LAW OF BOTSWANA, THE PERFECT HAMBURGER (for children) to PORTUGUESE IRREGULAR VERBS (short stories).