

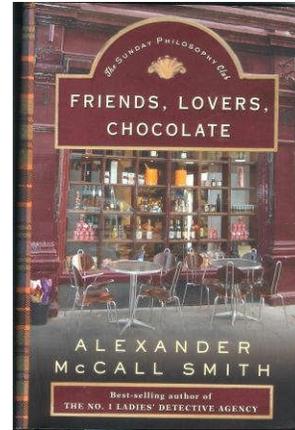
A Review of

# Friends, Lovers, Chocolate

Author: Alexander McCall Smith

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

So what's a title like this doing in a collection of transplant book reviews, you ask? Compared to other books in this collection of reviews, it isn't a heavy factual transplant reading, rather it's a delightful tale that just happens to include some characters that are transplant related. In such references the topics are not in-depth researched facts as is the case in another recent novel, **When Crickets Cry**. While the references are interesting, such as cellular memory affecting a heart transplant character, they are used only for entertainment here. Therein lies its value, it's a light summer reading novel that will definitely be even more interesting for anyone, like myself, who has had a heart transplant or any transplant for that matter.



As a heart recipient who finds this subject of memories or traits passed on from a donor fascinating, this story of a search for the person he “sees” in his dream, the murderer of his donor, is a fantasy adventure that is just fun reading. In this story, the recipient and amateur detective, Isabel, wonder whether there is any credence to the theory of cellular memory, and whether Ian could be recalling the person who was responsible for his donor's death. I wouldn't say more as it would give away the storyline and ruin your reading.

I found the variety of characters and their interactions a challenge to keep straight in my mind as I read through its entertaining 261 pages, but that helps to keep the mind agile, right? Put in another reviewer's words, this second in this series of best selling murder mysteries is “*a charmingly meandering plot and winningly hypervocal characters*” and I quote that here just to give it a more positive view of that same complexity just to be fair.

Note: For further information about **Friends, Lovers, Chocolate** and purchase options, click on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [Barnes & Noble](http://Barnes & Noble)

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## **Reviewer Brief bio:**

Jim Gleason, received his heart transplant Oct. '94. Jim volunteers with NKF, UNOS and the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia as well as being a nationally recognized speaker and author. His book, [A Gift from the Heart](#), is offered both for downloading or on a CD free as thanks to his donor family and can be obtained by clicking of the title here or contacting him via e-mail at GLEASONJIM@AOL.COM.