



Uniqs

Jella

# Engaging characters become old friends

## *Love Over Scotland*

By Alexander McCall Smith

Published by Polygon

**T**HIS is the third title in yet another series by Alexander McCall Smith. Readers of the first two books will recognise old friends from Edinburgh New Town.

The residents of 44 Scotland St first appeared as a daily serial in *The Scotsman* newspaper. The first chapters introduce the characters to those not already familiar with them.

The not-quite-with-it Matthew yearns after Pat but she is attracted to the mysterious and well-named Wolf. Big Lou thinks she has found true love, but is she wise to hand over her assets to Eddie? Six-year-old genius Bertie enjoys an interlude in Paris without his super-controlling mother, and archaeologist Domenica spends time in a pirate

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village on the coast of the Straits of Malacca.

To an animal lover, Angus' dog Cyril (who would name a dog Cyril?) is one of the most delightful characters as he shares his doggy thoughts with us. He has a fetish for ankles but resists the temptation to bite them as he has been belted by a rolled-up newspaper for this in the past.

It seems strange that a daily newspaper would run a serial of this type, but after all this is how Charles Dickens began his career as an author.

McCall Smith's fertile imagination and light satirical touch have created delightful characters that readers must become attached to the way listeners become attached to the residents of Coronation Street.

— Barbara Wrigley