A BELOVED HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER HAS BEEN MURDERED, shot while working late one night in his classroom. Portland Police Bureau Detective Sergeant Matthew Toussaint and his partner, Detective Missy Owens, work to discover who among a disparate and disaffected assortment of suspects actually pulled the trigger. Was it the distressed student? The angry parent? The hostile fellow teacher? Or even the vindictive principal? With the help of a young student teacher, Toussaint and Owens delve into school politics and expose simmering resentments and rancor in search of the truth.

This is Clyde Curley’s second novel in the Detective Toussaint Mystery series. He is uniquely qualified to address the issues raised in A Cup of Hemlock, coming as he does from a long career as a high school English teacher in Oregon. Following the success of his first Detective Toussaint novel, Raggedy Man, and the awards and honors it garnered, Clyde has settled into a new career as an author committed to exploring the compelling urban landscape of Portland, Oregon, in the company of his favorite fictional detectives. Clyde lives in Bellingham, Washington, with his wife, Susan.

“Clyde Curley’s prodigious novels explore and expose undercurrents in today’s society via his intriguing and captivating Detective Toussaint mystery series. Classic mystery aficionados will connect with the series’ cast of characters (and that includes the quirky city of Portland), their complex storylines and enthralling denouements. Curley’s deft use of a murder mystery to microscopically explore ethical issues is nothing short of brilliant. A Cup of Hemlock is a satisfying mystery that will linger with the reader long after the last page is read.”

— CHANTICLEER BOOK REVIEWS