



The Rabbit Factory

Marshall Karp

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Bringing a fresh duo of cops to the thriller set, The Rabbit Factory is both suspenseful and satiric; a taut mystery wrapped in sharp, comedic prose.

The hilarious and suspenseful introduction of Detectives Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs.

Welcome to Familyland, an offshoot of Lamaar Studios. Once a small, Southern California animation house, it has grown into an entertainment conglomerate encompassing movies, television, music, video games, and a sprawling theme park.

When an actor portraying Familyland's beloved mascot, Rambunctious Rabbit, is brutally murdered on park grounds, Lamaar executives are worried that the idyllic image of '50s America represented in Familyland will be shattered. They ask Mike Lomax and his partner Terry Biggs, the LAPD detectives assigned to solve the case, to keep the circumstances surrounding the death of their mascot quiet.

When a second Lamaar employee is killed, Lomax and Biggs uncover a conspiracy to destroy Familyland and settle an unknown vendetta. Still under pressure to keep the case away from the public eye, the detectives are met with a third murder – and an outrageous demand: Anyone who associates with Lamaar – employees, customers, anyone – will be killed.

Bringing a fresh duo of cops to the thriller set, The Rabbit Factory is both suspenseful and satiric; a taut mystery wrapped in sharp, comedic prose.

The Rabbit Factory Details

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From Reader Review The Rabbit Factory for online ebook

Tony says

Karp, Maarshall. THE RABBIT FACTORY. (2006). ****. This is the first novel from this author who was recommended to me by one of my friends. I don't know if this is the book he had in mind, but it's not a bad first novel. The only problem is that it seems that you've stepped into a TV miniseries that runs for ten weeks in a row. It is a long book. Fortunately, I usually write down the names of the major players of a novel on my bookmark so that I remember who they are 500 pages later. This helped. The author introduces his team of protagonists, Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs, Detectives on the LA police force. Their first case involves the murder of a bunny character – a man dressed up in a rabbit costume – on the grounds of Familyland, a theme park on the order of Disneyland originally founded by a cartoonist who made it big, Mr. Lamaar. One of the problems is that Familyland manages to keep all negative headlines out of the papers and away from the prying eyes of even their own employees, so that Lomax and Biggs must work under the most difficult of conditions. As more murders are committed, our two detectives uncover a sinister plot/vendetta against Lamaar – obviously a vendetta worth killing for. The race is on to bring this particular madman to justice before he manages to bring the corporation to its knees. The author manages to write in his protagonists with enough humor (cop humor) to keep your interest, and I suspect that this is the first novel in a series. I don't know yet, but if succeeding books are as long as this one, I just might take a pass. Recommended.

Isabelle says

A fast-paced thriller taking place in Hollywood, the novel is a good read that kept me interested, not so much because of its plot but rather because of its extremely entertaining tone and humor. The setting is appealing inasmuch as it takes us backstage of the family entertainment industry, a barely disguised caricature of the Disney empire. The series of murders is well thought out, and Karp avoids the formulaic pitfalls of repeated homicides. The novel is bulky and fills rather rapidly with the family entanglement and love life of the archetypal detective hero. This may be why the denouement seems hurried, somewhat hastily put together and therefore a little unconvincing. Regardless of the fact that the ending lacks the imagination that makes the rest of the novel so entertaining, albeit easily forgettable, this is a fun read for any amateur escapist.

Cheryl says

Good, but a little longer than it had to be. It's the first book in the series, so maybe the next book will be shorter and more focused. I liked the humorous writing style and the characters. I'll be reading more by this author in the future.

Keri says

What a great read! MK is a new author to me, so I wasn't sure what to expect. It was a straight forward

mystery, with no magic or anything else not of this world. It was just Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs just trying to solve one of the biggest mystery of their professional lives. Someone just killed one of the most beloved characters in Familyland. A big white rabbit, named Rambunctious Rabbit. Though once Biggs and Lomax start digging, they discover that RR wasn't quite the good little rabbit he was supposed to be. But once someone else dies at the park, Biggs and Lomax discover that they have a bigger issue on their hands than a dead rabbit with blood on his hands.

I so loved Biggs and Lomax, especially Mike Lomax he was a guy that loved his wife and was struggling to get over her death. The story had heart and I had tears in my eyes more than once, as Mike struggled through the letters that his wife had left him. I also loved Mike's dad, Big Jim...what a huge character. He almost took the story over more than once. If mystery isn't your thing, give this book a chance. There wasn't a lot of gore, it was really all about the mystery and how Biggs and Lomax put it together. If you like Carl Hiaasen then you might like MK, except without the really wacky characters that CH employees...sorry no Skink here, but still worth the read.

Margaret says

Just about finished. Very good, albeit waaaay too long. Definitely could have used an editor -- there's no reason this needed to be 600 pages long. (If said editor were me, the entire subplot about the brother would have been the first one to go. Also, he sets up back stories and emotions for every random character and bit player. Interesting, well-written, but doesn't add much to the overall plot.)

A murder-mystery set in a Disney-like park. Starts off with a dead furry, and gets weirder from there. Very funny, and gets pretty violent towards the end. The author is a former tv and movie writer and it shows; he's got a great sense of LA and show business, and the book definitely feels like it could easily be a movie one day.

Jmrathbone says

This book was over 600 pages long. Even Crime & Punishment wasn't that long, and, believe me I am not comparing The Rabbit Factory with Crime & Punishment. There were too many side stories; Detective Lomax's letters from his deceased wife; his father fixing him up with a nurse, and the subsequent romance; his brother's illegal activities; and others. The story could have been more interesting if it were told in a more cohesive way - Maybe in 250 pages

Spuddie says

First in a series featuring LA homicide detectives Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs. When Eddie Elkins, the man inside the Rambunctious Rabbit costume at Familyland (a Disney wannabe) is found with his throat slit in the employees-only underbelly of the family-centered theme park, Lomax and Biggs are assigned to the case. When they discover that Eddie isn't who he appears to be—that, indeed, he's a convicted pedophile from back east—their obvious trail leads to who might have known this juicy tidbit of information and who had reason to whack him.

However, the little cartoon flip-book that is left with the body screams “serial killer,” and sure enough, when another person with ties to the owners of Familyland, Lamaar Stuidos, is murdered with a similar flipbook left on the body, the boys know they’re going to be spending many sleepless nights trying to track down the killer. It seems to be someone with a grudge against Lamaar, but who? Their corporate people are less than cooperative with our erstwhile detectives, as they’re busy trying to keep the whole thing shushed up so their stock doesn’t end take a nose dive into the basement. But Lomax and Biggs persevere, and there is a bit of a surprise twist at the end.

I like Mike Lomax a lot—the book is told primarily from his POV, though that does change periodically. Karp handles the changing points of view well, though. Lomax is a recent widower, his wife Joanie having died of cancer about six months before. This book is almost like two stories, one detailing Lomax’s personal life and letting us get to know him and his family, and the other the murder case. I realize that a bit more detail is needed in introducing the main characters in the first book, but some judicious editing was definitely needed—the book was 632 pages in the hardcover edition! Granted, the author seems to write in the James Patterson style—very short chapters and lots of blank space—but still! Snip, snip, snip! LOL

It took me a good 50 pages before I warmed to the mystery and the characters, but I am glad I stuck with it, because it ended up being a great debut novel. I have the next one here and it seems to be a bit shorter, so someone must’ve hit Karp with a cluestick. LOL And I have to honestly say that I’m really looking forward to it, too! A-

Marshall Karp says

I wrote it, so ignore my review. What did I learn? Hey, I can write a book.

Angela Verdenius says

This book had me totally hooked. I had a hard time putting it down, and as soon as I could, I’d pick it back up again and continue reading! It had it all - emotion, humour, wise-cracks (Terry, you are my hero), mystery, cops, family & friends. A great 'whodunnit'! So glad I stumbled on this series.

Saleh MoonWalker says

Onvan : The Rabbit Factory (Lomax & Biggs, #1) - Nevisande : Marshall Karp - ISBN : 1596921749 - ISBN13 : 9781596921740 - Dar 420 Safhe - Saal e Chap : 2006

Cathy Cole says

First Line: Eddie Elkins ambled down Fantasy Avenue.

Rambunctious Rabbit, known as Rambo to his millions of fans, is an American icon and a theme park's biggest draw. When Eddie Elkins (the actor inside the rabbit suit) and two other theme park employees are

murdered, Los Angeles Police Department detectives Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs must catch the killer before he can ruin an entertainment giant.

Karp's writing is hilarious as he introduces Lomax and Biggs. Lomax is the narrator, which is fitting since he claims that generations of his family suffer from diarrhea of the mouth. Karp gives him a conversational style that made Lomax feel as though he were my new best friend. See how he describes his mother:

"She was one of the top stuntwomen of her day and worked in over two hundred movies, five of them with John Wayne. Every now and then, Joanie and I would be watching an old video, and some woman would fall down a flight of stairs, jump off a bridge, or get hit by a truck, and I'd smile and proudly say, 'That's my Mom.'"

At first-- courtesy of Lomax's snappy wisecracks-- it would be easy to assume the two detectives are a modern-day version of the Keystone Cops, but you know what happens when you assume, don't you? Lomax's sense of humor hides a lot of pain. His wife died six months ago, and each month he reads one of the letters she left for him. His father is trying to get him dating again, and Lomax's brother is in deep trouble.

Once the first murder victim's background is revealed, the police waste precious time believing that it was a revenge crime, and it certainly doesn't help that Lamaar Studios' public relations people are trying to lock down all information about what's going on so the company shares won't take a hit on Wall Street. Events are fast-moving, however, and it doesn't take Lomax and Biggs long before they realize there's much more to this murder than first met the eye.

The satiric humor continues throughout the book, but Karp never lets it overshadow the investigation, which has plenty of twists, turns, and surprises. Well before I was finished, I stopped to see how many books there are in this series. I love Karp's humor, his cast of characters, and his devious plots. I want Lomax and Biggs to continue investigating crime for a good long time.

Ray says

Marshall Karp is definitely my favorite author after this book. No one does it with a better sense of humor, period. It's like James Patterson, just with better comic kicks. That is obviously expected of Marshall Karp considering he's already written 4 books with James Patterson: Kill Me If You Can, NYPD Red, NYPD Red 2, NYPD Red 3. All of which were beautifully written. This one, The Rabbit Factory was the first book of the Lomax and Biggs series, both of whom you're likely to fall in love with through the book. The story-line is deep and the kills are gruesome. I highly recommend this one.

Markm says

Wow what a first novel. Marshall Karp is a very gifted writer(not better than Hiaasen),sorry Mr. Patterson. That aside,wonderfully done book. Character development gets an extra shout out,including background characters. They were very fleshed out and believable. I could not put the book down. The two main characters Lomax and Biggs work very well with each other. It is like if this book was real life,I'd like to

know these guys. I am currently in the process of reading book number 2 in this series Blood Thirsty so let the fun continue.

Ian says

The Rabbit Factory by Marshall Karp is the first in the Lomax and Biggs series of novels.

Rambunctious Rabbit is the Bugs Bunny of Familyland, a Walt Disney World like theme park created by Lamaar Studios.

When the rabbit, or rather the actor inside the oversized bunny suite, is found strangled in the theme park grounds, the delicate investigation into the killing begins.

Lomax and Biggs must tread carefully as they are asked to keep the investigation quiet, so as not to destroy the family friendly reputation of the Lamaar Studio empire.

Unfortunately, keeping the investigation confidential becomes difficult when they discover that Eddie Elkins, the actor portraying Familyland's famous mascot, is actually a convicted paedophile.

The reason seems obvious to why Elkins was killed.

However, when a second brutally murdered victim turns up who's also linked to Lamaar Studios, it becomes less obvious, and even more difficult to protect the reputation of the Studio.

I first encountered Marshall Karp's work a few weeks ago, when I read NYPD Red, which he co-authored with James Patterson. I thoroughly enjoyed that novel, and was eager to see if his own books were as good.

Considering this is Karp's first novel, I'd have to say yes, they are very good!

Here's why...

Firstly, there are some great main characters, each accompanied with plenty of background information to make them feel more real.

There's a great plot, and some very clever sub-plots, that keep your attention, from the very first page until the very last.

The book is packed full of humour, and raises at least one smile in nearly every chapter, of which there are many.

The chapters are short, giving the impression that something is happening all of the time, which is something I liked. The short chapters also encourage you to keep reading - just one more chapter before bedtime syndrome is definitely in evidence here!

The lead investigators are both likeable characters, which may not be important for some, but it definitely makes me want to keep reading about them.

Finally, and probably most importantly, it's a very entertaining crime novel, that has a clever twist in the tail. I can't recommend it highly enough.

David says

Marshall Karp may indeed be the Carl Hiassan of the West Coast. His work is funny and enjoyable (if you don't mind wading through all of the F bombs, that I did my best to tolerate and wade through)--- His two main characters Lomax and Biggs are encountering some of the strangest characters imaginable and everyone seems to have a secret.

It all begins when a beloved character is murdered in an underground tunnel in theme park of one of Disneylands biggest competitors (a fictional Disneyish group)-- The actor portraying the character is quickly revealed to be a registered sex offender\child molestor. But is the murder a revenge or is the park and the company itself the target?

This is a funny book and has a page turner of a mystery. I have to admit, though I have some minor issues with the book it was well-written, had an interesting, growing plot, and finally was chocked full of some of the funniest cop jokes, etc. I've ever read. Lomax and Biggs play well off of each other and those they meet. A fine read.

However, I have some minor quibbles with it. First, it is just too long. The author adds an unrelated subplot about Lomax's brother having trouble of his own. I didn't like that subplot and did not feel it added a whole lot to the story. In fact, it simply added distraction and I was glad it never tied into the main plotline.

Characterization is something I think is very important and often poorly done. Karp does a good job in presenting Lomax as a character who is dealing with the loss of his wife through cancer. She wrote him letters and asked that he opened one letter per month. When he read the first letter and the author gave us the text so we knew what it said, that created the subtext we needed. Later, when he read another-- the author provided another lengthy text, much of which added nothing to the story... He just went a little overboard with it.

The author also increased the length by letting us into the heart of the conspiracy.. Don't tell us what the bad guys are thinking.. let the heroes uncover than information. It spoiled the plot slightly-- but was highly unnecessary to hear these guys speaking and find out sort of what they had planned.

As he filled in the details, the author just provided way too much insight into his dead wife's mindset, the bad guys mindset.. which made the novel go on too long.. especially the final chapter wrap up.

I'll read more by this author to see if he gets better. He is funny and interesting.
