

The Rabbit Factory: A Lomax & Biggs Mystery

By Marshall Karp

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Rambunctious Rabbit (Rambo to his fans) is an American icon. Created by Dean Lamaar fifty years ago, he helped turn Lamaar Studios from a small animation house into an entertainment conglomerate. Movies, TV, music, video games and like so many other Hollywood studios, a theme park. Lamaar's Familyland is a major attraction in Southern California and Rambo is one of its biggest draws.

Eddie Elkins is the actor inside the Rambo costume. He scampers through the park picking up children in his arms, hugging them, cuddling them. What no one knows is that Eddie is a convicted child molester. Then he's murdered. In Familyland. Still in his rabbit costume.

LAPD detectives Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs begin investigating Elkins's sordid past, but when a second Lamaar employee is murdered they realize this is a vendetta against Lamaar Studios. With the third murder the killers makes an outrageous demand. If it's not followed, they'll go public with this message: Anyone who associates with Lamaar – employees, customers, anyone – will be killed.

Lamaar's Chairman Ike Rose refuses to meet the demand. And now Lomax and Biggs have to race the clock before the Lamaar-hating madman brings this family entertainment giant to its knees.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
About 30 pages into *The Rabbit Factory* you will find yourself hoping that the book's author Marshall Karp is at home typing. He has created two LAPD cops, Mike Lomax and his partner Terry Biggs, who are smart, drop-dead funny (especially Terry), and as irreverent as two guys can be. Karp has also written a ripping good story, not counting on buddy-cop banter to carry the day.

Mike Lomax's wife, Joanie, died of cancer six months before the action begins, after a long time trying to have a family. Instead of leaving little replicas of herself, she leaves letters, which Mike opens on the 18th of every month, the anniversary of her death. His father, Big Jim, loved Joanie very much but wants to see Mike get on with his life. These guys love each other a lot and the dialogue that Karp gives them is both sharp and tender. Terry Biggs met his wife, Marilyn, who was the paramedic called when he was an "Officer Down." That meeting is so funny you have to read it to believe it.

> One thing, as they say, led to another, and despite the fact that Marilyn had seven-year-old twin daughters, and a third, age five, Terry signed on for the whole package. And that's how a guy from the Bronx winds up living in Sherman Oaks with a wife and three teenage Valley girls.

The setting of much of the action is "Familyland," a Disneyland clone, conceived of by the late Dean Lamaar, who, like Disney, started out as an animator. His creations, Rambunctious Rabbit, Slaphappy Puppy, McGreedy the Moose, and others are now big family favorites and the little cartoon studio is a global conglomerate. It has been recently sold to the Japanese, after faltering receipts, and there are plans afoot to open a theme park in Las Vegas. That opening is just months away when an employee playing Rambunctious Rabbit is murdered on the premises. Not good for the corporate image. Another murder takes place, and another, and it quickly becomes obvious that someone has it in for Lamaar's enterprises. Mike and Terry are under tremendous pressure from Ike Rose, CEO of Lamaar, to keep the whole mess under wraps, and an equal amount of pressure from their Chief to "get it solved." They work smart and long and hard to uncover a conspiracy, finding a big surprise at the end of the search.

Marshall Karp is a refreshing addition to the suspense, satire, mystery genre. His two Detectives are irresistible. --*Valerie Ryan*

From Publishers Weekly
Starred Review. The publisher's blurb on playwright and screenplay writer Karp's first novel, "The hilarious and suspenseful introduction of Detectives Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs," makes the two LAPD detectives sound as if they're the reincarnation of the Keystone Kops. They are amusing, but the comedy never overshadows this smart, many-layered thriller. Lomax's beloved wife has died, his doting father is trying to get him to go on dates and his wayward, gambling-addicted brother is in deep trouble. Meanwhile, Lomax is trying to solve a string of high-profile murders aimed at destroying a Disneyesque theme park, Lamaar's Familyland. First, the employee playing Rambunctious Rabbit, Familyland's signature cartoon character, is strangled in his rabbit suit, then a series of other employees and visitors to the park are killed, bringing the company to its knees. Lomax, Biggs and the FBI have their work cut out for them in a clever plot that will keep readers guessing to the very end. Enthusiastic readers will anxiously await the return of detectives Lomax and Biggs. *(May)*
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From Booklist
Starred Review In the early pages of Karp's irrepressible and often poignant debut novel, L.A. homicide cop Mike Lomax and his partner, Terry Biggs, are investigating the violent death of the actor portraying Rambunctious Rabbit, the beloved furry mascot at a popular Southern California theme park, Familyland ("Fella was wearing two rabbit's feet, and he still got iced," quips a sheriff at the scene of the crime). The park's parent company, Lamaar Studios, has its finger in a lot of pies--movies, music, television, video games--and the last thing the top brass needs is word of the murder to get out. Lamaar's bubbly, voluptuous PR director, Amy Cheever, is called in to run interference, and detectives Lomax and Biggs are determined to deter her, if only they can avert their eyes from her 38Ds. Soon there's another murder--a Lamaar Studios leading man--and it's clear the killer (a mobster, perhaps, or a vengeful employee?) is hell-bent on bringing the entertainment conglomerate to its knees. Seasoned screenwriter and playwright Karp launches this first in a series with a crisp cast of characters headed by a captivating detective team: Lomax is a handsome, fortysomething widower with a hyperactive conscience; Biggs is a funny, Bronx-born family man with a voice like vintage port. Like the best of Donald Westlake and Carl Hiaasen, *The Rabbit Factory* is deftly plotted and deliciously askew. *Allison Block*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daryl Thurmond:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The Rabbit Factory: A Lomax & Biggs Mystery. Try to face the book The Rabbit Factory: A Lomax & Biggs Mystery as your close friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you really feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortuned in your case. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Jason Norfleet:

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Howard Foster:

The actual book The Rabbit Factory: A Lomax & Biggs Mystery has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research ahead of write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

Aaron Thomsen:

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