



Bloodthirsty

Marshall Karp

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It's a bloodthirsty town, Hollywood. No matter how popular you are, there's always someone who'd be happier if you were dead. And in some cases, you can be such a bastard, *everyone* would be happier if you were dead.

Barry Gerber, one of the most hated men in Hollywood, is a no-show for a red carpet event. The next morning he turns up dead, killed in such a bizarre way that neither Detectives Mike Lomax nor Terry Biggs nor anyone in Forensics has ever seen anything like it before. Two days later, the prime suspect – another despised show-business bad boy – is found murdered in the same sadistic manner.

The list of suspects then becomes as long as the credits in a summer blockbuster. Everyone hated the murdered men. Biggs jokes that this could be an elaborate public service effort to make Hollywood a better place to live and work. But he and Lomax soon find that all jokes are off as they wade through a daunting number of leads to uncover who will be the next victim. What they stumble upon is a motive far more primal than they had ever imagined.

Fast-paced, razor-sharp, and intensely funny, *Bloodthirsty* reunites Lomax and Biggs – the mystery genre's new dynamic duo.

Bloodthirsty Details

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Author : Marshall Karp

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From Reader Review Bloodthirsty for online ebook

Steve Else says

Pretty Good

I enjoyed the first volume in the series more, so knocked this one down a notch. Seemed to almost justify the terrible crimes in a kind of breezy way.

David Romigh says

I've always considered most mystery novels to be a sort of waste of time; if I can solve a 'whodunnit' with about a hundred pages left, it's probably not that well-written. Karp's novels have a tendency to take sharp left-hand turns into right field and leave you sitting there blinking and wondering what the hell you'd missed seventy-five pages previously. THAT, friends, is a good read, and indicative of a writer who knows how to tell a good story.

Do yourself a favor and start reading these books. Go tonight, if you can get to a library or bookstore.

Maddie says

I laughed quite a lot while eading this book. Fun and entertaining. Great for summer.

Julie Kellner says

This is the first time I've read this author and I was pleasantly surprised. A good mystery with a touch of humour

Edward says

This was as fun as the first title - laugh out loud funny in a number of places, which gets you strange looks from other commuters on the bus.

Have a couple library books checked out, purchased a few Kindle deals, but I'm bumping the third in the series up and checking it out tonight.

Jonathan says

Ah Hollywood, L.A.'s glitzier, fluffier cousin. The birthplace of Noir lies down street a little ways, but Tinsel Town has more than its fair share of darkness and depravity. It's the land of glamour and flashbulbs and

shattered dreams. Beneath the gilded exterior she's as rotten and festering as a third world whore. So is it any wonder that it was the setting for one of the most entertaining mysteries I've read this year? The book is *Blood Thirsty* by Marshall Karp. It's number two in a series of four (so far at least), and I got to tell you: I'm already craving the next installment like a junkie after his next fix.

The main characters of the series are Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs, a couple of detectives in the Hollywood Division of the Los Angeles police department. Mike is the straight man. The story is told from his perspective... mostly. He's hard and gruff and jaded. Terry is just as hard and jaded as Mike, but he also packs an arsenal of jokes that would make Dave Chappelle jealous. Together they make for one of the most entertaining detective partnerships I've seen in a long time.

This installment of The Lomax and Biggs Detective Duo Extravaganza picks up where the last boo, *The Rabbit Factory*), left off. Still basking in the glow of their success with the Family Land murders, our intrepid detectives are approached by a bigshot producer/director wanting to purchase for the rights to make the Family Land story into a movie. Money changes hands, and the detectives are invited to a Hollywood premier to meet a producer named Barry Gerber who might be bankrolling their movie. They go, along with their significant others and Mike's loud-mouthed father, Big Jim Lomax, and everyone has a smashing good time. Everyone except for their bigshot producer. He never makes it to the premier and is found exsanguinated and stuffed in a trash can in Beverly Hills. And wouldn't you know it? Lomax and Biggs just happen to catch the case. But before they can get a good handle on who they're dealing with, another Hollywood bigshot turns up exsanguinated and stuffed into a port-o-potty--this time an actor named Damien Hedge.

There are too many pieces to the puzzle to enumerate them all here, but take my word for it when I say Karp does an admirable job of stringing the reader along. Midway through the book the detectives learn that their quarry is a husband and wife from Podunk, Texas. Their only daughter wound up on the wrong side of a knife and bled to death in a gutter, all because the A-list stars needed their blow. It turns out that Mama and Daddy didn't take kindly to that, so they decided that SoCal was in need of a little Texas-style justice. After this revelation, our detectives rush off to save the next scum-sucker on the Lone Star hit list, and things go predictably askew.

Don't worry, I'm not going to spoil the ending. The only reason I mentioned the murderers' names and back story was because Karp punctuates his narrative with chapters from the parents' point of view, so it can't really be a spoiler, now can it? I don't usually like that kind of structure in a novel, though. It seems like a cop-out to some extent, and it takes away much of the fun of a whodunnit story if you tell me right of the bat who the murderer is. That being said, in this instance it didn't at all ruin my enjoyment of the book. If anything, that is the biggest testament to Karp's skill as a storyteller. He's also a damn funny guy. The one-liners and jokes that flew between Lomax and Biggs made me laugh out loud a couple of times, which is no mean feat in itself, I'll tell you. But the thing that I liked most about the novel, the thing that got me all tingly inside during the reading of it, was the language. Yeah, the dialogue is smoking too, but Karp's prose is as sharp and biting as a razor's edge. Karp has a flare for hardboiled imagery that makes me go squishy inside. I eat it up. It's the kind of thing I long for in a book--not only a good story, but creative language and inventive style. What can I say? I'm a literature geek at heart. It's my bag.

I'd be hard pressed to come up with a negative side to the book. But if someone put a gun to my head and made me, I'd have to say that Karp tries a little too hard to make the murderers sympathetic. And they are sympathetic, no doubt. If someone killed my little boy and got away Scot free I'd contemplate similar measures. I just didn't feel that sorry for the girl. She made a choice to get involved with all that Hollywood crap, and she paid the price. Yeah, it wasn't fair, but little in this world is. Call me a hard-hearted existentialist.

But after reading *Bloodthirsty*, I do have one nagging question. How exactly should we classify it? You

could say it's Neo-Noir. It's certainly fits the theme, what with all the human darkness and the lack of sentimentality. It's not James Elroy dark, nor does it need to be in order to be Neo-Noir, but there's a note of redemption in the plot that does not belong in Noir. So that's not it. And it isn't a police procedural, either. You can tell Karp has done his homework on law enforcement tactics, but there are some aspects to the tale that are more sensational than realistic. So that's out. One of the biggest things I liked about the book was the hardboiled language, but the story itself isn't totally hardboiled. There's no Dirty Harry-style vigilante justice (on the part of the detectives, at least), and the story ends too nicely for it to be completely hardboiled. I dunno. Maybe it's all three. Maybe it's none of the three. Or maybe I need to quit trying to put everything in a neat little box.

Whatever other labels may apply, *Blood Thirsty* is at its core a Mystery, and an excellent one at that. It was a thrilling ride I blasted through in just a couple of days, and I'm already salivating for the next installment. In the end, that's all that matters.

<http://readabookonce.blogspot.com/201...>

Jool says

Two thumbs up for this riveting series about two detectives - Lomax and Biggs - and the amazing plots (and plot twists). One of the best of police thrillers series I have ever read.

Robyn says

Knocked this book out pretty quickly! Not because I'm a fast reader, but because this was so fast-paced and suspenseful, and just...easy to follow!

The plot is great and the characters are crafted well. The dialogue kind of makes it not as realistic, but hey, the funny one-liners from Terry add a levity to the story, and makes it all the more entertaining :) But are there really cops who will make this many wisecracks in an ongoing homicidal investigation? ¿quién sabe? This book has everything a mystery should have: fast-paced action scenes, investigating clues from a victim/crime scene, analyzing the psychology of the perpetrators. And like other Marshall Karp books, I could actually form a guess as to how this happened, and start to put together the pieces.

Now that I think about it, I read all of the Lomax & Biggs books out of order. I just realized that they haven't gotten a house yet. lol. And they keep referring to the "Familyland" case, which I thought I completely missed. Turns out, it's from the first book, which I am reading next...oops :3

Christina says

The mysteries in Mr. Karp's books are never the work of criminal masterminds, just everyday people seeking the justice they deserve. combine that with a pair of buddy cops and their surrounding entourage and you've got yourself a page turner!

The latest book is shorter than his first but the mystery was more straight forward, more pages would have only been filler. A great sophomore novel. I hope he continues these characters because I want to see where

they go!

Johnny says

My favorite line in *Blood Thirsty* is probably sophomoric and one of those “you had to be there” things. After a brief verbal exchange about the difference between politics and police work (insightful, if short), the bureaucrat-in-charge threatens to rip a new asshole from the two protagonist detectives (Mike Lomax, the narrator, and Terry Biggs, the colorful one). To which, Terry responds that he won’t have to do that because the LAPD doesn’t need another asshole (p. 71). If that doesn’t amuse you, you should stay away from the Lomax & Biggs series in general and *Blood Thirsty* in particular. These books are fast-moving and fun.

Blood Thirsty is one of those mystery novels where the detectives are building a logical case, the author has already given you a couple of omniscient perspectives of the murderer(s) in action, and the logic behind the murders (and, in this case, the methodology) fits so nicely that you just know there is something weird about to shake loose. In this case, one is surprised by both how the ultimate aspiration of a supporting character and the intervention of a supporting character shape the making and the partial unraveling of the case. I can’t say more because there is more than one intervention by a supporting character in this book and the author deals with them differently. *Blood Thirsty* is also brightened considerably by the Harry Lime (the *Third Man* radio show Harry—not the ending of the film, *The Third Man* Harry--the Harry Lime of the radio show was a confidence man on the international scene who put together elaborate scams from which he never quite profits as he expects) nature of the denouement.

Now, it is no surprise to people who read my reviews that I read this one out of order. *Blood Thirsty* comes prior to *Cut, Paste, Kill* in the Lomax and Biggs chronology. Yet, I feel like this novel made Mike Lomax more human and sympathetic than the other Lomax & Biggs adventures I’ve savored.

From now on, those characters are going to be as real to me as Harry Bosch (Connelly), Dismas Hardy (Lescroart), Elvis Cole (Crais), and Joe Pike (Crais) have become in my pantheon of detectives. Most of these fictional detectives have problems with women; Mike Lomax has issues with his father. His father is a Teamster who has built his business around serving Hollywood studios. In that way, the father is a good source for Hollywood rumor and tips (as well as serving as a backdrop for Terry Biggs’ own Hollywood ambitions). In fact, as in real life, there are *lots* of Hollywood ambitions that appear all over this novel. And, those ambitions play an important role in the plot.

Blood Thirsty demonstrates effectively that a good mystery is more than the basic puzzle; it’s the multitude of perspectives it allows you to approach said mystery. One seems certain of the guilty party or parties from the beginning, but nothing is as it seems. Yes, I know reviewers of mysteries have tendency to say that all the time, but this one surprised me on more than one occasion in terms of motivation, recognition, and execution. I don’t know how I can laugh in the midst of such a gruesome way to dispatch the victims, but I guess the “suspended disbelief” was just too much. I laughed. Forgive me, I laughed a lot.

Mar Preston says

Lomax and Biggs, LAPD detectives, are funny. And I like to laugh. They encounter Elmore Leonard-like engaging and zany characters who keep my interest. Lomax’s relationship with his father is unusual for tough guys. And these are tough guys. This one’s about Hollywood which allows Kapp to paint the big picture and

a free-wheeling plot.

You can't go wrong with Marshall Kapp. I'll read the entire series.

Paty Nady says

Good detective, funny and nice partnership´.

B Meacham says

Wisecracking cops solve another one. Good action and humor.

Markm says

Wonderful second book in a series. Love the main characters Lomax-Biggs. Although Big Jim is turning out to be my favorite person. The background stories were superb. Avery fast read. Looking forward to the next installment.

Ken Heard says

Sequel is just as good as Karp's debut "Rabbit Factory," only shorter. In many cases, the wisecracking cop/detective novels are mere clones of each other. But Karp's two books are fresh,funny and enjoyable to read. I wish this, like Rabbit Factory, was 600-plus pages, but this one is much shorter. Can't wait for his next book.
