



To Fetch a Thief

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In this third book in the brilliant mystery series, Chet and Bernie go under the big top to solve the most unlikely missing persons (and animals!) case ever.

Chet has smelled a lot of unusual things in his years as trusted companion and partner to P.I. Bernie Little, but nothing has prepared him for the exotic scents he encounters when an old-fashioned traveling circus comes to town. Bernie scores tickets because his son is crazy about elephants. The only problem is that Peanut, the headlining pachyderm, has gone missing—along with her trainer. Stranger still, no one saw them leave. How does an elephant vanish without a trace?

To Fetch a Thief Details

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From Reader Review To Fetch a Thief for online ebook

Meg says

I just love the Chet and Bernie books. Written from the POV of Chet the Dog, this book is warm, funny and entertaining. Chet and his owner Bernie are PIs and are on the trail of a missing elephant. As nauseatingly cute as the premise sounds, the result is a gorgeous, funny book with great characters. Bernie the PI is lovely - he is my new fictional crush - and Chet the Dog is just awesomeness on four legs. Spencer Quinn is a brilliant writer (and probably an awesome dog owner).

Wendy says

This is the third installment of Chet (the dog) and Bernie the Private Eye. All 3 are written in the perspective of Chet. This makes the book interesting. He is a pretty smart dog despite flunking out of Police Work school. He doesn't remember why he flunked, except it had to do with some stupid squirrel..

Reading a who don't in a dog's perspective is rather interesting because according to him Bernie being a human misses out on a lot of clues and observations....

In this installment Bernie is tasked with "Divorce work" AKA following cheating spouses, taking pertinent pictures and reporting the bad news. This time the outcome gets a bit awkward and personal. Then, an Elephant and her Trainer go missing. Bernie and Chet go searching for clues, interviewing possible witnesses and following perspective "perps" which of course causes trouble.

This series is light, humorous and borders on "cozy" except there is a fair amount of violence. Readers could read this series as Stand Alone as previous events are explained, but I prefer to read them in order.

Linda Boyd says

I really enjoy this series, I guess because the stories are told in Chet's point of view, he is Bernie's dog who helps Bernie with his PI business. If you are looking for a fun read, please pick this series up, I don't think you will be disappointed.

Ron says

Bernie often walks up to a potential witness and says something like, "We'd like to ask you a few questions about *such-and-such*". The first reaction of the witness is usually, "We?", with a quick glance at the dog standing next to Bernie. And then Bernie formally introduces Chet. A smile comes to face each time this happens. Bernie doesn't think twice about the "we" in his question, never embarrassed. Now Chet just might be slightly offended, if not acknowledged in one form or another. Like, "What a sweet dog!". That's pretty nice. A pat on the head is good too - cause it says this person is okay with *my kind*, that *nation within a nation*, Bernie has mentioned from time to time. But a biscuit? That says a whole lot more. Hell yes to biscuits (speaking dog language here).

The point is Chet's a dog, loyal to the center of that canine heart, who happens to think a lot like a person at

times – smarter than your average crook out there. Not that he'd ever forget who he is, and that's what I like about this series. It's a mix of both worlds, all seen through the eyes of a dog.

This latest case, #3 in the series for those who like to count, puts the “We” on the trail of a missing circus elephant. How does an elephant go missing? Well, it just might take a few complicit folk to pull it off, but the fun of the mystery is in the figuring. To Fetch a Thief starts at a so-so pace. Some of the mannerisms felt repetitive, but as I had hoped, it came through with a strong finish.

Monica says

I really enjoyed this one. I think character-wise, this one rounded out Bernie much more. It was great to see how soft-hearted he can be with people and animals awhile still having this tough guy persona. And, of course, what isn't to love about Chet - but he just goes above and beyond in this case. Chet is giving Lassie & Enzo competition as best canine characters ever. Thoroughly entertaining fun.

Debra says

Stephen King recommended author and series. He said: "Spencer Quinn speaks two languages--suspense and dog--fluently."

David says

I can't really put into words how much I enjoy this series, even though I've read it out of order. This is #3 and I can say that they got even better than this. The author's skill at narrating a mystery from the point of a dog is nothing short of genius and great fun. Chet often hears a human idiom that he doesn't quite comprehend and it is always good for a laugh. To further the feeling of the dog serving as narrator there are those delightful moments of canine Attention deficit along the way and while they do create rabbit chases (figuratively speaking) even those are comedic moments that should serve to delight the reader as the author does an excellent job of keeping them short and then allowing Chet to return to the tale he is telling.

This time along, we meet Peanut, a female African elephant, who is missing from a traveling circus in town. Bernie, is also faced with a moral dilemma as he is caught between a client and someone he cares about. However, he is also hired to hunt down the elephant-- and nobody seems to really care it is missing except PoPo the clown, and that primarily because Popo has a special relationship with the animal trainer. Even the owner of the circus doesn't seem perplexed as the prevailing theory of the case is that the trainer succumbed to the propaganda of the animal rights activists and freed Peanut from serving as a circus trainer.

Along the way Chet gets to do his K-9 thing (we are reminded that he was first in his class at police K-9 school, but an unfortunate incident involving a squirrel apparently caused him to fail the final examination)-- and Bernie gets to be a Private Investigator and use his brain and brawn. Bernie is both a clever manipulator of people AND a tough guy when he needs to be.

As always, the author throws a whole mess of interesting characters into the stew pot-- some Bernie knows from way back and some the partners meet along the way. There are some clever twists and turns, and the

author stretches the imagination a bit about Chet's abilities-- for Chet always manages to save the day... Even though these are the Chet and Bernie mysteries, Chet is, after all, the hero and always acts heroically and comes through in the end.

A rousing mystery series, told in a comic overtone that never lets the reader forget that lives and livelihoods are in danger. I see that there are a number of Kindle e-book shorts available in this series and I will be checking them out.

kari says

Quickly becoming one of my favorite series. I love Chet and Bernie, what a great team they are.

In this installment, they are searching for a circus elephant and her trainer who've gone missing or perhaps ran away due to influence by animal rights activism.

Not only does the author do a terrific job of getting Chet right with his actions, thoughts, behaviors, but he must have studied up on elephant behavior because I felt Peanut's emotions and actions.

There are also personal bits of Bernie's life that add to the book and move his life forward. IF you are looking for some great mysteries with a sense of fun, look no further. You'll find both in this series. Give it a try.

Glenn Whelan says

perfect for quick summer reading, the Chet and Bernie books never leave the bowl empty. They are kibble full of fun, entertaining detective work. They also are quick to note a bit about the human experience, seen through the eyes of a dog.

This time around, **To fetch a thief**, the disappearance of a circus elephant leads to a string of other disappearances and wrongdoing. Spencer Quinn weaves a complex crime into a simple solution. But we read this for Chet more than the actual mystery.

A brief thought. I read the first 3 "Chet and Bernie" mysteries back to back. Each one is enjoyable on its own, but as a trilogy they are repetitive. if each episode is read a year apart from the other, it will be a nice reunion, otherwise, its a one trick dog show. give yourself a break between reads...

now roll over.

?Trish says

A really enjoyable installment of the Chet and Bernie Mysteries by Spencer Quinn! Great ending . . .

Connie N. says

This is just about the cutest and cleverest idea for a cozy/detective book. Bernie Little is head of the Little

Detective Agency, and is a shy and endearingly bumbling kind of hero. Chet is his sidekick, a dog, and we see the story through his eyes. Chet thinks in what I imagine is a totally dog-like manner. He starts thinking about something and is easily distracted by food...or he will hear a phrase like "You're just a chicken." and misunderstand, immediately thinking about chicken...or he'll drift off to sleep in the middle of a conversation because he's tired from playing ball or whatever. But, on the plus side, Chet is very resourceful, often saving Bernie from the bad guys. In this case, they were on the trail of a missing circus elephant, of all things, when Bernie was taken by the kidnappers but Chet got away only to be captured later on. Chet's main goal was to stay "on the job," finding Peanut the elephant, then searching for Bernie. Loving relationship between man and dog, and just a warm and charming series.

Stephanie says

I really like the Chet and Bernie mysteries. Chet is hilarious! I can see my dogs doing the same stuff Chet does and hearing what (possibly) goes through their minds is really entertaining.

In this installation, Chet and Bernie are asked to find a missing animal trainer and his ELEPHANT! How do you lose an elephant? Anywho... The case leads them to Mexico and the world of smuggling. Bernie takes another beating in this one and Chet once again saves the day.

Patti says

I love Chet the Jet! I love how his doggie mind works and how you can tell he sometimes is just repeating things he's heard humans say (i.e. she's [his groomer] got a great business with a great business plan) and how he sometimes gets distracted by a Cheeto. I often repeat things that I've heard and get distracted by Cheetos, so I understand this dog. Despite his sometimes simple thoughts, Chet is not to be underestimated (me, either!). His keen sense of smell and hearing give him a, uh, dog's eye view of the crime. If only he could talk!

And that is another thing I love...Chet and other dogs don't "talk" to each other. Author Quinn will have Chet mention his friend Iggy (who he can't pal around with in the old days, thanks to the electric fence) barking, but I think a lesser author would have given into the temptation of having the dogs somehow "talk" to each other. I'm so glad he didn't because that would have ruined it for me.

I also adore Bernie, Chet's owner. He's kinda not got it all together, but isn't *too* much of a bumbling idiot. I think the author does a really nice balancing job with him. I also like the way Leda, the ex-wife, is portrayed. She's an asshole, but you don't hate her. I like the Suzie character, as well. I think Quinn did a super job with the conversation where Suzie asks Bernie what the heck is going on between them. Come on girls, we've all been there!

So, as I'm sure you can tell, I love the characters! The plots, however, are getting thinner and thinner. Once again, Chet got separated from Bernie and while he (thankfully) didn't end up in a choke chain, he still got muzzled. The mystery was a kinda weak and ended kind of dully. I hope the Quinn comes up with a dynamite mystery for his fourth installment, because the dog-as-narrator device can only go so far.

Having said that, I'm sure I will keep reading these books because I love Chet so much! I think we should all

try to live like this dog...all he needs to be happy is to be on the job and in Bernie's convertible (of course a Slim Jim or two wouldn't hurt). Ride on Chet!

HBalikov says

My beloved smiled and laughed through this Chet and Bernie so I thought that I would give it a chance. Bernie is the head of the Little Detective Agency. He is its sole employee, unless you count Chet, who almost graduated from K-9 training. This story is told by Chet and the canine perspective is at the core of what makes this series a delight.

Bernie, an ex-cop, is on a tight budget which doesn't leave much for maintenance of his marginal car or activities with his son when his custody days roll around. Early in *To Fetch a Thief*, Bernie and Chet are taking Bernie's son to the circus. When they get there, the show is in an uproar. The most popular act, Peanut the Elephant, is gone and so is her trainer. With a clever and complicated mystery, the story eventually leaves SoCal for Mexico in search of clues. Bernie tries to juggle his domestic life, clients, the animal rights activists and his own sense of growing outrage as the plot moves ahead.

Once you accept that, no matter what the peril, Bernie and Chet will triumph eventually, it may take the edge off some tense situations. But I found the whole thing very entertaining and a delightful break from some heavy reading.

Here's a sample that should let you figure out whether a dog's point of view will work for you: "A burial was happening inside—we could see people in dark clothes standing around—and Bernie tries to stay away from burials, not always easy in our job. About cemeteries, all I know is that they probably smell different to me than they do to you. A big black bird flew in slow circles high above but no one was watching it, except me. I admit I've got a thing about birds, bad-tempered critters, and I don't just mean the one that followed me and a tiny show dog named Princess across the desert, something wicked on its mind. But that's another story. The point is, would I be bad-tempered if I could drift around in the bright blue sky all day? I ask you."

Alyssa says

The Quick and Dirty:

Bernie Little, private detective, and his dog Chet are back and solving more mysteries in the American Southwest. The 3rd entry in this series finds the team investigating the disappearance of a circus elephant and her trainer on a twisty trail that leads them down Mexico way. Engaging, easy read with some genuinely poignant moments along the way. I heart these books so much!

The Wordy Version:

Seriously, I do heart these books so much. They are narrated by the black-and-white mutt (I may be biased there, if you've met my own dog) Chet, which is both hilarious and an awesome take on the way the canine mind may work. It's like Hank the Cowdog for grownups! Chet is a great character—he is easily distracted by food, can't count beyond 2, and often loses his train of thought right before an epiphany, but he is smart,

determined, and more loyal than any human could ever ask for. And an amusing narrator to boot! The books are just so well-written. The style is deceptively simple, but with an understated depth that I haven't often come across in my years of mystery reading. Chet may not always understand the intricacies of the human interactions going on around him, but his observation and reporting of them make it crystal clear to the reader what is really going on with all the human players in the story. Very clean and smart writing.

I love Bernie. We only get bits and pieces of his background (Gulf War vet, divorced with a young son), but he is clearly a great guy. He's kind of shuffling-shambling disguising his intellect à la Columbo, and he's got such a good heart. And he really, really loves Chet. Being a dog-lover myself, I can really connect with that aspect of the book. His interactions and relationship with his dog are touching, and his respect for animals in general makes the reader in turn respect his character (unless the reader has no heart, in which case, the reader should maybe not be reading this book). Bernie and Chet are truly a team, and both parties make equal contributions the resolution of their investigations.

I don't want to get too much into the plot here—the basic shape of it is pretty much covered in the Quick and Dirty. While it's not a *whoa, big twist!* kind of mystery, a lot of the fun is still in watching it unfold. As usual in the Chet and Bernie books, the side characters have a depth that we can pick up on without the author having to spend a lot of time spelling it out for us. There is a side plot involving Bernie's ex-wife and her boyfriend, which manages to add a sort of sense of closure, rather than distract from the main plot. If I had any complaint about the story, it's that it was a little light on love interest Suzie Sanchez this time around. But when the story draws to a close, the little bit of her we got throughout the book ends up being the perfect amount. SO WELL-WRITTEN!!!

Solid writing, engaging story, main characters that are easy to love. If you like animals, dogs, mysteries, any combination of these things, or none of these things at all, then you should probably check out this series, stat.

Karin says

Peanut the elephant and his trainer have vanished, seemingly into thin air, and so Chet and Bernie, who have also been hired on a possible divorce case, are on the trail. But at first there is no trail; not even a scent, and boy, do elephants have a strong scent! Chet knows. When the trainer turns up dead in the desert with nary a sign of Peanut, they are investigating several shady characters which leads them on a wild goose chase, despite the fact that Chet can't see or smell any geese whatsoever.

This is another fun installment in this series. While it's not a y/a series, my 15 year old son has been enjoying them thoroughly. Good thing he bought me the seventh one for Christmas and I decided to have him read it. I think he'd give this series a whopping five stars, and he's finally stopped calling shotgun when he and one of his sisters are going to ride with me at the same time. Not that they've stopped vying for the front seat. That sort of tangent is the thing Chet does frequently; after all, he is a dog, and easily--a squirrel!

Roberta says

In recent days I have had to cut back on reviewing due to increasing "day job" demands. I still get some

review books in the mail. I opened a package before going on my long anticipated vacation and was excited to see it was the latest Chet & Bernie mystery. I discovered this delightful series through an online book club and was hooked from the first page of DOG ON IT. I don't own a dog, but fell in love with Chet immediately. Among other endearing qualities, I could relate to his tendency to go off on tangents.

Bernie, Chet's intrepid owner, has his own charm, even though he seems to be able to bond more easily with animals than women. Bernie Little is a PI and calls his business the Little Detective Agency. He is ex-military with sharp skills, but poor financial decisions seem to keep him always looking for new cases.

In TO FETCH A THIEF, the third book in this clever series, Bernie and Chet are taking Charlie, Bernie's son, to a circus. The star, Peanut, the elephant has disappeared. How can someone hide a huge animal? Bernie gets hired when it is discovered that the elephant's trainer, Uri, is also missing. Is this a devious plot by animal rights people to close down the small circus or is something more sinister afoot? With Chet on Peanut's special scent perhaps there is hope for a happy outcome.

I loved everything about Mr. Quinn's latest work: the humor, the poignancy and the plot twists. My only disappointment is having to wait a while for the fourth novel. TO FETCH A THIEF will appeal to all mystery readers. You really have to start with DOG ON IT, the first book to get the full flavor and fun of Chet and Bernie.

Jackie says

The third book in the hilarious Chet and Bernie Mystery series hits the shelves in late September, and it does not disappoint. They are on the trail, literally, of a missing circus elephant and her beloved trainer when they stumble upon a much higher stakes smuggling operation that will make your fur stand up. It's another fun frolic with this dynamic duo that is sure to please their many fans.

Joseph says

There's no great depth to the Chet and Bernie books, but then, the author never tries to be the next Agatha Christie. They are just funny stories narrated as through the eyes of Chet-the-Jet Bernie's faithful dog. This book finds the duo on a missing elephant hunt, can they help Peanut or can Peanut help them.

If you want a light hearted read with a few laughs this could be the book for you, if you're a dog lover then this is definitely a book for you. Probably best read in order but not essential.

Pamela Shropshire says

3.5 stars. This is the 3rd Chet & Bernie book; it's about an exotic animal-smuggling ring.

It was a bit slow getting started, I thought, but I really enjoyed the bits with Peanut the Elephant. Nice to see Bernie's and Suzie's relationship moving forward as well.

It's a fun series; I just wish the ebooks weren't so pricey.
