



Arf

Spencer Quinn

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Why would anyone break into 19 Gentilly Lane? That's where the Gaux family lives, and everyone knows they have nothing worth stealing. More important, the house is usually guarded by Birdie Gaux's dog, Bowser, a large and handsome fellow with a big set of sharp teeth.

Now Birdie is looking worried and Bowser is on the trail of something rotten. Who was behind the break in? Why is a girl with green hair asking odd questions about what happened to Birdie's dad, a policeman who was killed in the line of duty years ago? Worst of all, why is the whole town starting to stink of limeade aftershave and CAT?!?

The death of Birdie's father may be a cold case, but Bowser can tell it's heating up fast. Someone is coming after Birdie and her family, and Bowser must be ready to protect them from anything. Even that awful cat.

Arf Details

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Susan says

Another fun Birdie and Bowser mystery. What's not to love? In this one we find out about Birdie's father and the answers to his murder. A charming adventure.

Dan Shonka says

Spencer Quinn knows how to spin an entertaining tale. And this is exhibit A (for ARF). As in WOOF, Bowser, a dog, is the narrator (much like Chet is in the Chet & Bernie series). Mr. Quinn gives Bowser a great voice and point of view. (I suspect SQ crawls around on the floor with his dogs a great deal for research purposes.) Bowser's best buddy and owner is Birdie, and together they run into some funny business. And that's NOT funny-ha-ha. The intensity ramps up, and then way up! There are some twists carefully constructed, and for the dog in your house. . . bacon. If I had to guess, I'd peg Spencer Quinn as a baseball fan, too. One of Birdie's best friends, Rory, is a baseball player (mired in a huge slump). But the big clue is this: Birdie's other male friend has the last name of Tebbets. If Birdie grew up to marry this guy, she'd be Birdie Tebbets, sharing the name of one of the best catchers of the 40s, who played for the Detroit Tigers (among others). Come clean, Spencer. Who's your team?

In the mean time, if you haven't already tried one of Spencer Quinn's series, well what are you waiting for?! (You don't have to start at the beginning, but you should.) I'm still waiting for the next Chet & Bernie. (The last one nearly ripped my heart out.) By the way, Chet & Bernie are written more for adults (nothing too sexual, but more intense). Bowser & Birdie are written more for everybody.

Jan says

I'm really enjoying this new series by the author of the Chet and Bernie series. Actually at this point I'm enjoying it more than the Chet and Bernie series. Maybe I'm just liking 11 year old Birdie, her smart, faithful, and adoring dog Bowser, and her quirky family and friends and their small Louisiana bayou town more than what's been happening in the most recent Chet and Bernie books. Whatever it is, I hope the author keeps putting one of these books out every year as I've definitely become hooked on them. If the author ever decides to stop writing the Chet and Bernie series I will totally be okay with that as long as he keeps giving us new Birdie and Bowser stories.

Norman Styers says

I love the Chet and Bernie series, and so was delighted to discover this, sort of a YA equivalent, by the same author. The series is set in the Louisiana bayous that Chet and Bernie visited in one of their adventures. It seems a good guess that the author liked the setting for dog adventures.

Elizabeth Dragina says

A good ending to the mystery! I really enjoyed this book! A good read for teens who like just a dab of mystery. (I personally would have enjoyed much more mystery, but oh well...)

Courtney says

I still find the dog's perspective to be a little too ADD for my taste and it still bothers me he can describe colors so well. However, it's cute and it made me giggle out loud a couple of times.

Kim says

Bowser is back! And he's taking his job as head of security at 19 Gentilly Lane seriously. So when their house is broken into, Bowser is seriously upset. He feels like he's let Birdie down. Why did someone break into their house? Nothing was missing. Another mystery for Birdie to solve and she's on the case with Bowser right at her side, just where he belongs.

I love Bowser. He's loyal and brave. So what if he has a mild case of attention deficit disorder.

I also love reading a solid mystery for middle grade readers. Forget Nancy Drew, give me a Bowser and Birdie mystery any day.

Conor Morrissey says

this book is the adventure of Bowser the dog and Birdie the human. Birdie's dad was a cop and died in the line of duty. One day Bowser was home alone when a car passed by very slowly. Bowser knew that something was up. So Bowser and Birdie continue to figure out more clues about her dad's death.

Leigh says

Exactly like the previous one: a complex suspenseful mystery with Bowser and Birdie saving the day and the evildoer vanquished via the local wildlife. It's a good story but honestly, it's so much like the previous one I feel like it was constructed, rather than written. More in the series may show up but I doubt I am going to read them.

Yvonne Taylor says

This series is so much fun!! Told by Bowser's point of view. Birdie is such a smart little girl. She along with her faithful dog

Bowser have a way of looking and finding clues to always find the bad guys!!

Amy Pickett says

Every bit as much fun as Woof, although a bit more violent. Bowser and Birdie for life!

Barbara says

The detective in this middle-grade mystery is 11-year-old Birdie Gaux, a clever gal who lives in a Louisiana bayou town with Mama, Grammy, and Bowser - her loyal pooch.

As the story opens two houses in the neighborhood have been broken into, including the Gaux residence. The Gaux family isn't missing anything but the neighbors report a missing pearl necklace. What's this though? Has Birdie spotted the necklace in the neighbor lady's purse?

Soon after the burgaries a hippie girl shows up and befriends Birdie, asking questions about Birdie's dad - a cop who was killed ten years ago during a murder inquiry. At about the same time, a man passing through town takes an interest in Mama....and asks a lot of nosy questions about the Gaux house.

Soon enough someone goes missing, and Birdie and Bowser find the body in the bayou. Further inquiries reveal that everything that happened above is connected, and danger lurks around our intrepid young detective. But anyone threatening Birdie better watch out for Bowser!

The story is narrated by Bowser, a clever fellow who has a spot of trouble with math and idiomatic expressions.....but so what? Bowser is a really funny dog. He's always surprised to realize it's HIM that's making that growling sound, and he's usually befuddled when he's scolded. What did he do wrong? Moreover, Bowser never misses an opportunity to squeeze himself between Birdie and anyone else...which made me laugh.

This is a well-written and entertaining middle-grade mystery, recommended to kids (and adults) who like these kinds of fun stories.

You can follow my reviews at <http://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot.com/>

kari says

Fun!

The mystery here is told from the dog's point of view and his outlook on life is exactly what you'd think it would be. He thinks everything is great all the time, thinks Birdie is the best thing in the world and would do anything for her or to protect her.

The human characters are well drawn and believable. You can feel how Bowser experiences his world and events.

I hope there will be many more books in this series.
What's not to love?

Mrs. Ehlers says

Bowser has a nose to smell out things that don't seem right. That's why he suspicious when he sees a strange car drive by the house. Bowser's owner, Birdie is a good detective but she doesn't always understand what he is trying to tell her. After their house is broken into, Birdie and Bowser are set into action to try to solve the mystery. This is the second book in the Bowser and Birdie Series. A good book for those who like a good mystery and also enjoy reading a story with a strong dog character.

Jannene says

I laugh so much with this series. Who doesn't love a book from a dog's point of view? It makes me wonder if dogs really think those types of things!
