



The Fala Factor

Stuart M. Kaminsky

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The year is 1942, and Eleanor Roosevelt is convinced that there is an imposter in the White House masquerading as Fala, FDR's prized Scottie. Positive that a shady veterinarian has absconded with the genuine pooch, Eleanor turns for help to that much-battered and near penniless private eye: Toby Peters.

Never one to refuse a lady in distress, much less the First Lady, the unflappable detective gamely agrees to search for the pilfered canine. What follows is a high-speed, hilarious romp about L.A. and its environs in which Toby encounters a lethal ex-wrestler named Elmo and a bookie with a powerful passion for the Academy Awards.

The Fala Factor Details

Date : Published January 1st 1984 by St. Martin's Press

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Author : Stuart M. Kaminsky

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From Reader Review The Fala Factor for online ebook

Joe O'Connor says

Good; Continuing character: Toby Peters; Eleanor Roosevelt pays a call to ask Toby to track down the President's dog, that has been switched with an impostor and dog-napped

Doreen Dalesandro says

Really 3.5 stars.

Genre: mystery

I listened to this book.

I am owned by two Cairn Terriers and one terrier mix. I couldn't resist this book! It is a fun read. I enjoyed Stuart M. Kaminsky's humor.

Tom Parker does a great job narrating!

Graceann says

A period mystery with Buster Keaton and Eleanor Roosevelt as characters has to be just a little bit intriguing. This is one of a series featuring famous people in various roles, and it was fun to see how Kaminsky put it all together.

Lloyd says

This is the 9th book in the enjoyable mystery series featuring Private Investigator Toby Peters. Peters works as a private investigator in the 1930s and 1940s Los Angeles. Most of his cases involve a client connected to the Hollywood crowd, although as you may guess from the title, this one involves first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and a dognapping. I would describe these as a noir mystery with plenty of comic relief. It is a light, enjoyable read, a great way to pass a summer afternoon.

Bruce says

Excellent light reading.

Rob Smith says

A fun book full of celebrities in unexpected places. The story itself has an unexpected ending, as convoluted as it may be. The writing style is the best of the reading experience. Lots of well developed characters with clear distinct voices. Tough to do when a writer has so many characters (based on real people or not) milling about.

The story does involve Fala, Roosevelt's dog, but the story involves far more than that and more specifically the main character, Toby Peters, continued lot in life and all those around him that effect it. Toby is a wobegone character and it is fun following his continued adventures. The mystery part is almost in the way of the Peters life story. That's Ok, though, because of how writer, Stuart Kaminsky, handles the series.

Barbara says

This ninth book in the 'Toby Peters' private detective series involves the alleged abduction of the 'First Dog of the United State' (FDOTUS). LOL

It's 1942 and private detective Toby Peters is hired by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to retrieve the President's beloved pooch Fala. Mrs. Roosevelt believes Fala was snatched and a substitute left in his place. It seems a crackpot rival political party is trying to take over the government and may have kidnapped the dog to throw the President off his stride.

This quirky plot is aided by the usual offbeat characters including Toby's amusing elderly landlady who calls him Mr. Peeler and thinks he's an exterminator/book editor; Toby's intrepid best friend, Gunther, a little person; Toby's landlord, the incompetent dentist Shelly Minck, who's as likely to land you in the hospital as fix your teeth; Toby's pal Jeremy, an ex-wrestler/would be poet who provides muscle for Toby's team; and so on. The famous actor Buster Keaton even makes a brief appearance.

Not that much mystery to the plot but it's a fun, light read.

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

Ed says

Toby Peters w/Eleanor Roosevelt

David says

One of the best in the series. Normally character driven with a weak plot, this one nailed both. Bonus: a subplot featuring arch conservatives of their time (think Tea Party, only more civil) trying to "get their country back" - a nice bit of relevance from a decades old book to 2016.

Laura says

Set in 1942 Hollywood & written in Film Noir style. Toby Peters has been hired by Eleanor Roosevelt to find FDR's prize Scotty Fala. Did Buster Keaton really kidnap the president's dog?

David Seelye says

Still funny and enrapturing.

James Joyce says

Eleanor Roosevelt comes to Toby for help. The President's dog was dognapped and she needs to keep it quiet, outside official channels. No problem: Toby Peters is on the case.

With his friends Gunther, the little person polyglot and roommate at Toby's boarding house, Jeremy, the ex-wrestler and current landlord and poet, and Shelley, the office mate, bad dentist and general pain in the ass, Toby sets off to fight an almost equally-odd cast of ne'er-do-wells.

Along the way, he gets shot at, more than once, bitten, pounded, bruised and generally insulted (not to mentioned getting his ass handed to him in handball by his regular competition, a man in his late 60s), and nearly run over. Then there's his brother, now getting a promotion from lieutenant to captain of police, while not losing one iota of his angry, violent temper. Said temper almost inevitably directed at Toby, who egg's his brother on.

Basically, your average experience, for Toby Peters. Oh, yeah, there's also a couple encounters with Buster Keaton, to liven things up a bit more.

Fun, as always. Kaminsky was a gem of a writer and this one of my favourite series to read.

Cindy says

I liked the character Toby Peters and all the great interactions he has with famous people of the time. Fun read but not much in suspense.

Christian Devries says

Solid murder mystery but nothing fancy.

