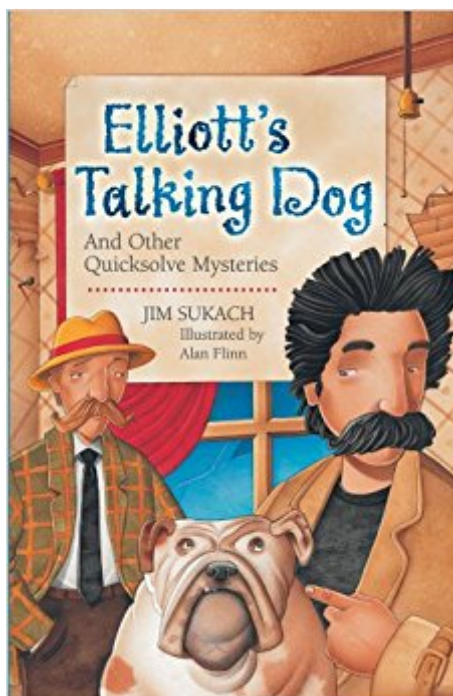


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Elliott's Talking Dog: And Other Quicksolve Mini-Mysteries



Synopsis

Criminals beware--and young readers delight: Dr. Jeffrey Lynn Quicksolve and his friends are back in a brand new collection of intriguing mini-whodunits. It's no mystery why kids love these clever and fun detective stories, in which they can test their smarts against such experts as the brilliant Professor of Criminology, Quicksolve; his son Junior; and super-sleuth Elliott Savant. Among the puzzling cases: Stickup at the deli: are the suspects innocent campers, as they claim...or did they grab the money and flee down the freeway? Maybe their car will "tell" the truth. Murder at the jewelry store: The killer may not have been caught on the video camera--but the tape may hold a valuable clue, anyway. Every one is fun to solve!

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Sterling (November 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1402723660

ISBN-13: 978-1402723667

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 5.5 x 0.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 2.1 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,300,271 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Teens >

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Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Puzzles #6289 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers >

Mystery & Detective

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6 These 21 mysteries, all 2 to 4 pages long, are challenging enough to solve but feature too many quirky characters. Four regulars Elliott Savant, Dr. and Junior Quicksolve, and Officer Beekerjar are joined by other colorfully named members of the police force. Most of them are profiled near the beginning of the book, but a lying storyteller is introduced halfway through. Elliott's dog, Marguerite, who talks by way of ventriloquism, and his dancing mule also appear in a few tales. The odd quirks may be ruses to throw off and amuse readers but they also make the stories confusing. Each episode is accompanied by a witty line drawing; some are full page. A mention of a

shop's Christmas hours on Valentine's Day seems a glaring error. Answers to each mystery are presented at the back of the book in mixed-up order to prevent children from seeing a solution before they have read its related story. If solve-it-yourself books are popular, you might consider purchasing this one. Tina Zubak, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

In this book from 2005, Jim Sukach presents 21 more mini-mysteries, including illustrations and solutions, in just over 70 pages. Sukach's mustachioed detectives, Dr. J. L. Quicksolve and the annoyingly quirky Elliott Savant, share duty roughly equally, while a handful of cases are solved by the supporting characters. As always with Sukach, most of the characters have silly names: police are named "Longarm" or "Shurshot", while scientists are "Beekerjar" or "Seeotu", and so on. Every story has one or two illustrations, but unlike the "Crime and Puzzlement" series, it's not necessary to examine these for clues. A few of the cases in this collection are very easy (generally of the "spot the lie" variety), but most are a bit more challenging. In some instances, one may read the solution and have doubts about whether the reasoning is necessarily valid. Overall, the book is entertaining, but not a classic of the mini-mystery genre.

After reading a half dozen of the stories in this book, I couldn't go on. They weren't entertaining, amusing or easy to solve. They just fall flat. Too bad, because we need more mini-mystery books. Kids love them!

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