



## Meanwhile Back at the Ranch

By Kinky Friedman

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**Meanwhile Back at the Ranch** By Kinky Friedman

Private dick extraordinaire Kinky Friedman has his hands full, fitting two new cases into his already busy schedule of solo boozing and misanthropic musing. First, there's the missing young autistic boy from New York. He's on a menu of medications, has a knack for picking stock-market winners, speaks only one word, "schnay" -- and Kinky is the family's last hope of finding him. But a second mysterious disappearance takes Kinky deep-in-a-harta Texas, where Lucky the three-legged cat -- and unofficial mascot of the Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch -- has apparently been kittynapped. The owner is convinced the feline is in the hands of some nasty neighbors, a satanic cult, or aliens -- and she wants Lucky found before he becomes coyote chow.

Sleuthing in two states, with two very special specimens at stake, Kinky is going to have to think (and *drink*) harder than ever to save the day not once but twice....

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## Meanwhile Back at the Ranch By Kinky Friedman Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Consistently irreverent, politically incorrect and more than a little outrageous, the Kinkster's 15th effort (after 2001's *Steppin' on a Rainbow*), while it may please his fans, is unlikely to win any new ones, as it's just a bit thin in the telling. Reading a Friedman novel is like listening to a hip monologue where some of the jokes work, some don't. Reading a Friedman novel is like being thrust into a hellzapoppin' world where reality is the only uncertainty. The ultimate effect, however, is amiable. The author's compassion for the underdog and love of animals are clear. Kinky has three cases to handle and he has catalogued them with the names of the Three Stooges. "Larry" involves a missing autistic boy, 11-year-old Dylan Weinberg, who speaks only one word, "Schnay," which is the clue to the mystery that surrounds him. "Moe" concerns a serial killer, whom Kinky and his buddy, Rambam, stake out. And finally there's "Curly," which focuses on the disappearance of a three-legged cat named Lucky. Lucky is of great sentimental value to Kinky's cousin Nancy, who helps run the Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch (a real place), where unwanted animals are allowed to live out their lives. One of the cases comes to nothing, while another produces an unexpected corpse. It takes Friedman half the book to build a momentum, but once begun it moves well to a credible conclusion. The cat, incidentally, says nothing.

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From Library Journal

Kinky has his hands full he must track down an autistic child and his wayward cat, Lucky.

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From [Booklist](#)

The real Kinky Friedman has enlisted First Lady and fellow Texan, Laura Bush, in his humanitarian effort to raise money for an organization near and dear to his cold, cold heart, the Utopia Rescue Ranch in Medina, Texas, an animal shelter. And here, in Friedman's fifteenth installment in the mystery series starring himself as private eye, the fictional Kinkster shuttles between upstate New York and his native Texas in his efforts to solve two cases: one involving a missing 11-year-old autistic child who only says the word *shnay* and the other concerning a three-legged cat named Lucky, missing from the ranch. What could have been a shameless plug for the shelter is, instead, a heartfelt and compassionate call for the care of the misfits of this crazy world. Friedman expertly, and not at all heavy-handedly, ties the two cases together with his depictions of a Dickensian orphanage and the animal shelter that lives up to its name. And, of course, there is plenty of the Kinkster's curmudgeonly wit and offbeat observations. Perhaps the most coherent novel in a flamboyant series. *Benjamin Segedin*

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