



## The Finder

*Colin Harrison*

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## **The Finder** Colin Harrison

Now the author of *The Havana Room*, *Afterburn*, and *Manhattan Nocturne* raises the stakes with an electrifying new thriller, *The Finder*. Harrison spins the story of a young, beautiful, secretive Chinese woman, Jin-Li, who gets involved in a brilliant scheme to steal valuable information from corporations in New York City. When the plan is discovered by powerful New Yorkers who stand to lose enormous sums of money, Jin-Li goes on the run. Meanwhile, her former lover, Ray Grant, a man who was out of the country for years but has recently returned, is caught up in the search for her. Ray has not been forthcoming to Jin-Li about why he left New York or what he was doing overseas, but his training and strengths will be put to the ultimate test against those who are unmerciful in their desire to regain a fortune lost. Ray is going to have to find Jin-Li, and he is going to have to find her fast.

## **The Finder Details**

Date : Published April 1st 2008 by Sarah Crichton Books

ISBN : 9780374299491

Author : Colin Harrison

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Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Crime, Suspense

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## From Reader Review The Finder for online ebook

### Ann says

I read this book because of a good/interesting review in the L.A. Times - not sure why I finished it. Interesting telling of manipulations of the stock market by international players, including China. However, way too much gratuitous description of abhorrent cruelty and violence.

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### Shirley says

If you love suspense I highly recommend this book. The author does not waste any space or use words carelessly.

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### James says

A really smart clever thriller. A compelling account of corporate espionage gone wrong, with slightly smarter and more nuanced characters than one usually finds in such thrillers. The real star of the book for me was the way the author brings the sinister side of New York lurking under it all to life.

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### Nay says

Blending big business in with shady elements on the page is no new thing, it's merely art imitating life. But Harrison continues to prove he knows his stuff (or at least seems to--what do I know--I work in shipping) on the ledger side of the equation. This adds a sense of realism to his characters throughout his bibliography, a reason I keep coming back to his novels. That said, there is some really over the top stuff on the street side on occasion in The Finder, and these moments all involve poop. No bs, pun intended. But all crap jokes aside (I'm here all day folks and twice on Tuesday), it still works as a whole and I whipped through it pretty quickly.

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### Eric\_W says

All you have to do to realize how differently each book affects each individual is to read reviews on Amazon and Goodreads. Clearly some books resonate for a whole variety of different reasons. This book is a good example of that.

Ray's relationship to his dying father is done, I think, in a very sensitive and emotional manner that resonated more than a few of my chords as I had gone through similar experiences with my father last fall. I suspect for many people, it would have been just boring. For me it was the opposite, if almost unreadable because it struck so close to home. Ray's father is an ex-cop who wants desperately to help his son in the quest to

locate his girlfriend. In the end he locates some key information in his old files.

Ray is an ex-fireman who was almost crushed with his partner (who did not survive) when the WTC collapsed. I must say that the description of Ray trying to stay alive while his partner dies is horrifying in the extreme and very realistic. I got claustrophobic while listening. One unusual method for murder is how the two Mexican immigrants are killed: their car is pumped full of sewage and they suffocate.

This is the third Colin Harrison I have read. This one is a tad different in that the protagonist is perhaps less ordinary - or should I say more extraordinary - than in the other two. On the other hand, his abilities are well within the range of normal considering his métier. Not quite as well done as the others, I think. The Peter Blake character seems superfluous; some of the character's motivations seem bizarre. Still an above average mystery/thriller.

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### **Judith says**

If you can suspend disbelief and not ask any questions while reading this, you might like it. I have enjoyed several Colin Harrison books, so I can't figure out whether his writing is going downhill or my reading became more discriminatory. He is still a good story-teller and his books set in NYC give the reader a real familiarity with the city. This story has an interesting premise: a cleaning crew is taking out valuable trash from Manhattan business offices, and while most of it gets shredded, some of it is sorted, reviewed and analyzed, then reported to a group of investors in China, who use the information to play the stock market to their advantage. That is a fascinating idea and it could have been developed into an interesting mystery, but it has so much gratuitous violence using scatological settings and his characters act like cartoons, only without as much sense. I got the impression that the author was under the gun and had to finish the book to pay off a bad debt.

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### **Nancy says**

Set in NYC, this is an international corporate spy intreue. The main character is strong, likable and approachable. He is admirable and the "bad guys" are reallllly bad. Short on the close, but a tight plot with interesting chapter layout.

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### **Kyle says**

Really great. Some people think it gives the Chinese a bad name but actually it seemed to be torn from the headlines.

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### **Alan says**

Harold Robbins-like pot boiler. Mr. Harrison gets right to the action, keeps the tension taut and inserts just enough interesting, if somewhat unlikely, plot elements, to keep you racing for the denouement. Don't think about the details too much, they're paper thin logically. The wrap up was pretty unsatisfying as well. The

hero's backstory doesn't make a lot of sense, and, frankly, the MacGuffin doesn't either. Oh well, I've already given it too much thought. Still it's a good read and there's a few supporting characters that are quite entertaining.

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### **Nette says**

Confession: I only got halfway through. Hell, I love me some violence, but after the death-by-drowning-in-a-car-filled-up-with-human-excrement (followed by a lengthy investigation of the human-excrement-filled pipes for clues -- oh look, it's another tampon!), and after the death-by-golf-club-pummelling, and after the hero stole his dying dad's pain medication, and after the rich guy got a prostate exam during his own party...I needed a shower. Colin Harrison is a great writer, but maybe I'm getting too old for this, well, excrement.

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### **Tiffany says**

So far, very fast-paced and exciting. Brilliant descriptive imagery; I feel like I'm in New York City and I've never been. Hate to have to put it down...

Whew!! What a great thriller; truly one of the best I have ever read. This author gets every detail exactly right and unlike most thrillers, I wasn't dissatisfied by how things wrapped up. Recommended for anyone who wants their heart to beat fast...

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### **Nicolemauerman says**

After the last few books I read I began to lose faith in the New York Times book list, but they went and totally redeemed themselves with the Finder. A pure action book which I read super fast and loved. Great, gritty read.

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### **Darwin8u says**

*"But in Tom's case most of the conversation involved abstractions that were answered with abstractions. The people on the other end of the conversation were working within an algorithm, too.*

*This meant that Tom had very few real conversations. He spoke to dozens of people a day but always within his corporate persona and within the appropriate algorithm. He was trapped. The man he'd been once was either buried under all of this behavior or even, perhaps, gone. Irrecoverably. We change in only one direction. We don't ever change back. She still loved Tom, she supposed, at least out of a kind of habit; her mind was trapped within its own algorithms too, of course.*

*But in this overall perception about her husband, who was now brushing his teeth in their bathroom, came another one. Tom had made an error. A big human error. He had misjudged a human being. Maybe it was Martz, maybe it was someone else. The misjudgment was a serious one, full of huge personal and*

*professional risk. This led to another thought.*

*Tom was stalling because he didn't have an algorithm.*

*He had never seen the problem before.*

*He didn't know what to do."*

-- Colin Harrison, *The Finder*

My first Colin Harrison novel. My brother turned me onto him, years ago. I learned he edited David Foster Wallace, Jonathan Franzen, William H. Gass, etc., while working at Harpers Mag (he is currently a/the senior editor at Scribner.). I figured, hell, if THIS guy had the stones to take a red pen to DFW, Franzen, Gass, etc., he must be above average. So, I collected his novels, but still never quite jumped in any of them, until yesterday.

Anyway, enough foreplay. I liked the novel. It was a well-formed urban crime novel that traveled from money and power to poverty and destitution. From beginning to end, it was detailed, fleshy, and of course, well-written. Not quite a John le Carré, but God, who really is?

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### **Ed says**

Let me start with a brief tangent. I literally happened onto this book by wandering the aisles of my local Barnes & Noble. If bookstores go away because of the internet then I will eventually run out of stuff to read because there will be no aisles to browse. And I always thought it was undiluted bullshit that you can't judge a book by its cover because I was first drawn to this by its cover. Okay. The characters here are very complex and vivid and I always knew who was who unlike other books I've read (I'm looking at you *Dragon Tattoo*). The white and blue collar criminal world of New York is as interesting here as in *Michael Clayton* or *Duplicity* (great movie, bad title). I'm eager to read other books by Harrison and excited to have a new author. The amount of knowledge of international business seems authentic and it never bogs down and kills the story. That said, I was a little disappointed by the last few chapters on this book. It went from low but real stakes to an Ashley Judd movie with someone tied up in a warehouse. Seriously. But on balance, I liked the vivid and unusual characters and it zipped along very well.

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### **Henk Roi says**

Enjoyable enough if you want some light reading and can stand the gratuitous violence and gruesome filth. The book paints a believable enough picture (alas) of corporate New York but goes too much into technical detail to my taste. The scenes between Ray Sr and Jr are some of the strongest in the book. The relationship between the son and his dying father is described in terms of practical filial care and paternal final making up the reckoning kind of help that try to make light of the implicit emotions. For the rest, the characters are not memorable and sometimes even superfluous. However, good enough for a summer break.

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