



## The Fixer

*Joseph Finder*

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**The Fixer** Joseph Finder

**New York Times** bestselling author Joseph Finder delivers his next breakneck stand-alone thriller about the secrets families can keep, and the danger of their discovery

When former investigative reporter Rick Hoffman loses his job, fiancée, and apartment, his only option is to move back into — and renovate — the home of his miserable youth, now empty and in decay since the stroke that put his father in a nursing home.

As Rick starts to pull apart the old house, he makes an electrifying discovery — millions of dollars hidden in the walls. It's enough money to completely transform Rick's life — and everything he thought he knew about his father. Yet the more of his father's hidden past that Rick brings to light, the more dangerous his present becomes. Soon, he finds himself on the run from deadly enemies desperate to keep the past buried, and only solving the mystery of his father — a man who has been unable to communicate, comprehend, or care for himself for almost 20 years — will save Rick... if he can survive long enough to do it.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## The Fixer Details

Date : Published June 9th 2015 by Dutton (first published June 1st 2015)

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Author : Joseph Finder

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## From Reader Review The Fixer for online ebook

### D.B. Woodling says

Rick Hoffman, ace investigative reporter, loses his job, six-figure income, and, thereby, his gorgeous fiancée due to declining newspaper sales. Freelancing and writing only fluff pieces for a Boston magazine, Rick cringes when instructed to give an interviewee “the full Rick Hoffman treatment,” code for *to hell with journalistic ability; kiss ass, the truth be damned!*

Unable to keep his upscale apartment, Hoffman, grudgingly, returns to his now-deserted childhood home. While attempting to locate raucous scratching sounds within the attic, Rick stumbles on a tented tarp concealing three million dollars. Recklessly blowing through a large chunk, he quickly attracts the wrong kind of attention.

His father in a nursing home, suffering from stroke-induced aphasia (an inability to speak), he’s unable to provide any insight regarding the money’s origin. Rick dusts off his once superior investigative reportorial skills and searches for the source of his good fortune.

Once equipped with the cold hard truth, Rick delivers a powerful exposé, earning the George Polk Award for investigative journalism. More importantly, he discovers he never really knew the father he’d always assumed an innocuous, successful attorney.

Pumped-full of all the right elements, greed, money laundering, and Irish contract killers; Finder’s *The Fixer* is a satisfying, reasonably paced, methodical mystery.

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### Tricia Douglas says

Finder's novels are always exciting and entertaining, especially when he sends you an ARC himself! This storyline in THE FIXER is compelling and suspenseful and kept me on the edge of my seat (actually my bed since that's normally where I like to read). Rick Hoffman is a crime journalist currently unemployed and caring for his lawyer dad who had a stroke many years earlier. Of course, nothing is as simple as it sounds in Finder's stories. Rick decides to update the old family home in the Boston area since it's falling apart and worthless unless something is done immediately. As he is demolishing the house, he finds a "secret" room with oodles of money hidden in it. Since his dad cannot speak because of the stroke, Rick begins looking through old client records to find clues about the money. There are the bad guys who learn Rick has this hidden money and begin to threaten him. The plot gets more complicated and exciting when Rick learns about an earlier death/murder case that was never resolved. Everything ties together in the end but the ending came too quickly for me. I would love to see a sequel with Rick Hoffman solving some more crimes, but we'll have to just wait and see. Be sure to get a copy of this book when it comes out in June.

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## **Cheryl says**

Mr. Finder is another author who when I see his books I do get excited. I could not wait to get my hands on his latest book. I began to read it and the beginning was fine. Then I continued to read and read. Still fine but where is the intense build up. It was steady but not big surprises or adrenaline rush. There was no character that really stuck out for me as strong either.

Although I was missing the intensity from reading this book. I still like Mr. Finder's writing style and stuck with the book. Which by the way the second half of the book is way better than the first half. The story picks up speed and there is action. Things start happening with different players. The ending was a good one.

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## **Mark Rubinstein says**

Rick Hoffman is an unhappy guy. Has a lousy job and no real prospects. He moves into his old family house, a dilapidated structure. Living there alone, he discovers a stash of a few million dollars in part of the attic. His only relative who could shed light on where this money came from is his father who's in a nursing home with dementia. The problems start right there, and things only get worse. I hate spoilers so I won't say more about the plot. What would you do if you came across a stash of cash like this? What does Rick Hoffman do? Read this well-written novel by a master of the thriller, and you'll find out. Kudos to the author for another well-conceived and exciting thriller.

Mark Rubinstein

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## **Jane Stewart says**

4 1/2 stars. Good mystery suspense. I enjoyed it.

Rick used to be an investigative reporter. He's currently unemployed. His father has been in a nursing home for 18 years. Rick finds a large stash of money in his father's home. He begins investigating. His father cannot speak or communicate.

My only hesitation was why Rick didn't carry a weapon to protect himself. He was beaten and his life threatened more than once - because powerful people did not want him digging in the past. One time he knew who beat him, but he did not tell the cops. I wish the author explained motivations for those things better.

I was sooo happy the author wrote this in 3rd person. He has written other books in 1st person. I don't like reading 1st person.

### **AUDIOBOOK NARRATOR:**

Steven Kearney was pretty good, but not as good as Will Patton and Frank Mueller. Some of his reading was wooden. For example: "Why don't you tell me, Rick said acidly." The narrator read this in a regular tone of voice instead of "acidly." The recording equipment was good because I did not hear Kearney's breaths - yay.

### **DATA:**

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Unabridged Audiobook length: 9 hrs and 38 mins. Swearing language: I don't remember hearing any. Sexual content: none. Setting: mostly current day Boston, Massachusetts. Book copyright: 2015. Genre: mystery suspense.

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## **Judy Collins says**

*A special thank you to PENGUIN GROUP Dutton and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

Loved, **THE FIXER**, and everything about this top-notch, innovative, fast-paced riveting crime mystery suspense thriller!

*Joseph Finder* is at the “top of his game” with father and son team, which may have more in common than they know---deeply buried secrets, conspiracy, power, corruption, and greed in the city of Boston, with some tough emotional life lessons. *Set aside the time, as a read in one sitting; a page-turner!*

**Rick Hoffman** has been on top of the world with glitz, glamour, prestige and money with a high profile media Boston magazine as well as a former investigative reporter at the Boston Globe. He still has connections; however, keeping it quiet his currently unemployed; no longer the star.

Unfortunately his last career move, for more money did not last too long, due to the shift in online media world, from the former print business. Presently, he is single, alone, jobless, and broke. He finds himself back in his home town, in his father's old home, with a sleeping bag, and a BMW. His material possessions now something of the past, as well as his fiancée.

**The old home place** is a disaster, since his dad had a stroke over eighteen years ago, the house has been sitting empty, in dire need of repair. Unable to sell or lease in its present condition, taking mega bucks to renovate. (money he does not have.) Jeff, the guy next door has been watching out for the place while Rick was away. While Rick, is attempting to sleep in this rat infested house, disgusted with his life, he hears noise in the walls, and figures rats, or squirrels have set up house. The neighbor Jeff, a building contractor shows up, and attempts to assist Rick figure out where the noise is coming from, as they tear down the wall. Turns out there is \$3.4 million buried inside the wall!

**Rick is afraid** Jeff has seen some of the bills (hopefully only a few); makes light of the situation, as he does now want anyone to know about the money. This could be the answer to his prayers; however, where did the money come from, and where will he hide it? He cannot put it all in the bank, and he cannot leave it at the house, or his car. He decides to hire Jeff to begin renovation, in order to sell it, and split the money with his sister, Wendy who lives out of town.

**After putting small** amounts in several different banks, he decides to get a small storage unit. He of course keeps some, as happens to run into his former girlfriend from college; hot, as well as highly intelligent and promising. She is now divorced with a younger son and he needs to impress her. He goes off buying all these fancy designer clothes and takes her to dinner, blowing thousands, which is really a turn off for her. After all, she is no longer with Goldman Sachs; she runs a non-profit for kids helping them with math. (lots of humor here)

**Now Rick feels like a fool**, plus he runs into some people, while spending money. Not cool. Soon he has

thugs following him and threatening him. They want to know about the money? Rick decides to rent various cars daily, to throw off the guys, going from one bed and breakfast and hotel to another, while he puts on his investigative reporting hat, and begins digging into the mystery behind the money. Since his dad cannot speak, he has to find a way to communicate, in order to *find out where the money came from*.

**Rick soon learns things** about his dad, Leonard Hoffman the attorney, the father, and the man he evidently never knew. He is now in a nursing home and sits in front of a TV all day. He has not spoken in eighteen years. Seems he was connected to a shady bunch. He was a Fixer, a Bagman-- When strip clubs and porn clubs ("Combat Zone" Boston's red-light district) had cash they needed to get rid of, (money laundering) and others who needed cash for bribes, his dad was their man.

The Combat Zone was a center of bribery with some heavy hitter players surrounding the Big Dig, when Boston added new downtown roads and tunnels which transformed the city's traffic problem. It happened to be the largest and most complex and most technologically challenging construction project in the history of the country. He needs to find out the name behind the power, and why they are being so protective. Rick, now driven and obsessed to get to the bottom of this mystery will utilize all his investigative skills to uncover this complex web of deceit.

**However, Rick soon learns** everything is not as it appears. His dad was connected to some powerful men, and he is determined to find the answers and bring them down. His dad may have been trying to do the right thing, when he was stopped. When researching the time period, the day of his stroke, he had a meeting with the head of Boston's PR firm which specializes in reputation management.

**Danger is following Rick**, and now the numbers have increased. Not only do they want money, they want him quiet; not opening up a can of worms. This giant has paid off half of the town and is now threatened. From the police, the top media PR, a reputation management company, one of the largest developers, political leaders, and others....he has to follow every lead to uncover the misdeeds before they destroy him. In the meantime, he may learn something about his father which may turn out to make him a hero in his eyes, after all, plus learn what really matters in life.

What makes **THE FIXER** so unique and engaging, is the emotional human dynamics, quite different than the normal crime thriller of finding a stash of money and simple corruption. Finders dives deep into the complex relationship of a father, who longer cannot speak for himself; however, actually speaks volumes. His character, his values, his goals and ambitions did not turn out the way he planned, and the sacrifices he made for his family after his wife died to give his children the best life possible. We also see the transformation of Rick from a selfish self-centered man grow into a man of character. This time he may not be able to be bought, for any price. *Well done*.

**An action-packed**, well-written, engrossing plot and compelling suspense thriller of secrets, lies, payoffs, blackmail, and corruption of the underbelly of Boston city business and politics. Mixed with humor, drama, and mystery crossing several genres. Highly recommend –an ideal gift for Father's Day, an excellent choice for book clubs, discussions, and thriller fans.

*On a side note:* Thank you for the *Judy Collins* mention (the folk singer-not me) as you have to be in the age range to be familiar "From Both Sides Now" and "Send in the Clowns". We share the name; however, I now use Judith, versus Judy, as she dominates the internet domain world. :) Namesake: Was named after the star (so flattered)-a product of the 50s. A *classic, especially if you are from the sixties era*.

Also pre-ordered the audiobook, and look forward to listening, as well!

### **Freda Malone says**

I like books by Joseph Finder but I'm not a real big fan. His books have a little of this, a little of that, and not much of the twists, turns and shocking revelations I crave. I do like his writing style and he tells a good story.

Investigative reporter, Rick Hoffman, finds out his father held secrets. Deadly secrets. While Rick's father, Leonard Hoffman, sits in a care facility after a massive stroke, Rick finds over 3 million dollars inside the walls of his childhood home. In dire need of renovation, Rick hides the money, hires his neighbor for the task and begins to investigate. Follow the money, and that is just what Rick does.

As the story progresses, Rick is finding out there are more than just secrets, there is corruption, bribery and cover ups. Hitmen are on his tail and Rick must search the facts and delve into his father's past where no one dared to question Leonard Hoffman's actions or motives. Beaten several times within an inch of his life, this does not stop Rick from finding out the truth and the Fixer is behind it all, but who and what is the Fixer?

I love a good fact finding story when there is a big mystery and this one did not disappoint. It was an easy read, not fast, not slow and there is always something going on. I'm not a big fan of Joseph Finder but I could become one easily if his creativity and imagination were to pick up a little more. I think there could have been more to *The Fixer*.

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### **L.A. Starks says**

The tagline is appropriate: the protagonist's problems are just beginning when he finds \$3.4 MM of cash.

Finder has given readers a wonderful Boston setting--including The Combat Zone--and a ripping mystery with enough plot complexity to keep us wondering until the end.

The fact that I would have liked more of a reconciliation between father and son shows the extent of my involvement with the characters.

While I may be the only reader who misses his corporate/financial thrillers, in *The Fixer*, Joseph Finder delivers again.

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### **Mike French says**

GREAT! A stand alone novel that kept me glued to the edge of my seat from start to finish. If you have not read Joseph Finder, read *THE FIXER ASAP!*

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## **Lawrence says**

Another good book by Joseph Finder. If you're a fan of JF and love his writings or just looking for a new author , then I highly recommend the book to you. It has non-stop action from the beginning to the end.

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## **Frances says**

2.5\* Rick Hoffman was spending his nights in a rundown 1903 Queen Anne home with no heat and furry animals running around inside the walls and rafters. With the only option of sleeping in his car, the house was a place for him to crash after he lost his well paying job, his fiancée, and all the money he freely spent living it up. When his neighbor Jeff offered to renovate it for selling, they immediately got underway by taking a crow bar to a wall and discovered a hidden crawl space. Peering in Rick could see it had been used for storage and decides to take a closer look. Inside he spots a large black tarp and yanks the corner uncovering stacks of hundred dollar bills. Rick thinks he has hit the jackpot, but instead he was about to go down a dangerous path and ends up running for his life. Unfortunately I found 'The Fixer' tedious at times, the characters to be bland, and the plot uninteresting.

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## **Barb says**

I had a difficult time with this novel, I didn't find the protagonist likeable or sympathetic. Rick Hoffman's father Lenny, had a stroke 18 years ago. When Rick begins a renovation on his father's home he finds millions of dollars between the walls. The first thing this supposed former investigative journalist does, isn't to go look for whose money it is and where it came from, but rather to adopt a finders keepers attitude and spend it as if it's his own. And not in a modest way but in an unnecessarily lavish way, in an attempt to impress an old girlfriend.

Later we learn that "a few weeks ago he didn't care that his father couldn't speak. the Lenny he'd grown up with was gone, replaced by a gaunt, spectral Lenny who bore no relation to his actual father. So for the last twenty years he'd parked this replacement Lenny in a nursing home, just waiting for him to die a quiet and anticlimactic death. Until it turned out that there was a lot of money at stake." Which made me dislike the guy even more than I had before.

Beyond the fact that I didn't care for the protagonist, I found the unraveling of the mystery to be more comic than suspenseful. There is a clue in his father's planner that someone named P was involved with the money and where it came from. Supposedly he looks into who P could be but for some reason doesn't look at his father's old computer which is still in the house. He's also a bit of a slow learner as far as the bad guys go, instead of erring on the side of caution when he thinks he might have someone tailing him, he generally tends to talk himself out of thinking they're on his trail and time and again his location is discovered.

He's so self centered that he never talks to his sister about their father's health and medical treatment until he needs to call her and ask her for a piece of information related to the money and then only mentions their father as an after thought. At one point he's saved by some less than likely heroes, in a scenario which was not at all believable. He, of course, runs into more trouble later and gets help from the old girlfriend he was trying to impress, then sneaks away without saying goodbye or leaving a note.

I finished this book but didn't find anything enjoyable about it. The writing lacked any polish at all, the dialogue was uneven and the whole story felt more like a rough draft than a finished novel. I thought this was going to be an edge of your seat speed through without sleep kind of book. Unfortunately it wasn't anything like that.

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### **Michelle says**

*ARC provided by publisher in exchange for an honest review*

This is my first Joseph Finder book and it surely won't be my last. Mr. Finder did an amazing job with this book. He was able to blend a perfect amount of suspense into this thrilling and captivating book. Right off the opening pages, this book was a real page-turner!! This story was an engaging read that had a compelling and engrossing plot filled with secrets, lies, corruptions and secrets waiting to be unraveled. So if you are in a mood for a captivating thriller suspense, then I highly suggest you to read The Fixer by Joseph Finder.

*Review can also found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages*Joseph Finder

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### **James Elliot Leighton says**

This is appallingly bad. Lately I seem unable to find any new writers who can write well, tell a story and have a clue about life, (basic human psychology) and technology.

In this lame attempt at a thriller, the protagonist stumbles from one violent situation to another, does NOTHING to defend himself - like get a gun or hire a body guard (he can easily afford it) and generally acts like the foolish woman in horror stories who goes to investigate a noise in the basement although aware from news reports that an escaped homicidal maniac is on the loose in her area. I can relate to nothing in this collection of nonsense. I know of no man who would respond in such an idiotic fashion to the circumstances this guy finds himself in. I cannot imagine violent bad guys who would deliberately beat someone so badly that they need hospitalisation - but not kill them - in order to make them keep quiet about something. It is counter-intuitive.

The very weak premise that the plot revolves around is nonsensical. All major construction companies carry Public Liability and Indemnity insurance. It is a requirement for public tender. Accidents OFTEN happen. Windows fall from high rise buildings, elevators fail. It is what the insurance is for. No company is held responsible for any mistake or poor workmanship on the part of one of possibly hundreds of employees or sub-contractors. They certainly would not pay millions to "keep it quiet" in preference to using their compulsory insurance.

This is a very poor effort, with unrealistic characters and a nonsensical plot.

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## **Ed says**

Laid off investigative journalist Rick Hoffman is dead broke and camping out in his father's old Victorian house in Cambridge Massachusetts when he accidentally discovers 3.5 million dollars in cash hidden in the walls. Rick's father Leonard, now totally incommunicado and hospitalized from a stroke he suffered 20 years earlier, was a low profile lawyer representing dodgy clients in Boston's old "Combat Zone" so named for downtown's notorious area of bars and strip clubs. With the "Big Dig", Boston's massive construction project to depress the central artery bisecting the city in full swing in the early 1990's, he became a bag man or "fixer" for a construction industry desperately trying to avoid derailing the 20 billion dollar money train generated by the "Big Dig". Everyone involved in the project had both hands out and the construction industry had a licence to print money.

Rick parks the cash in a self storage locker and starts asking questions about the provenance of the 3.5 million. Even 20 plus years later, Rick's father's practice remains shrouded in mystery and unknown forces start leaning on Rick to stop asking questions even to the point of telling him to keep the 3.5 million in exchange for dropping his investigation. Rick deduces there was a major bribe paid or not paid for something by someone to someone and by searching for the truth he learns a lot about the incapacitated father he never knew. He also learns a lot about himself, his values and what really matters in life.

This is an extraordinarily good novel masquerading as a page turning mystery about an undiscovered 20 year old crime and the courage and integrity needed to investigate it. Very highly recommended.

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