

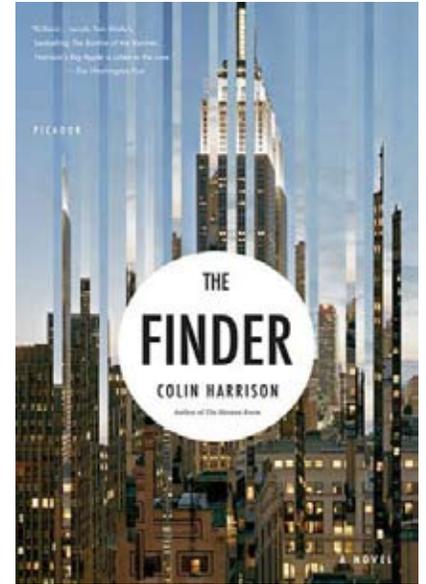


Reading Group Gold

The Finder

A Novel

by Colin Harrison



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About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *The Finder* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *The Finder*.

About the Book

Colin Harrison's crime novels have considerable literary style and scope; they delve deep into large themes such as the nature of wealth, power, desire, and secrecy, but always within the propulsive storytelling of the genre. From the inventively brutal murders in its opening scene, to the intricate financial scheming of its final chapters, *The Finder* in many ways expands the possibilities of what a thriller can do. Harrison is especially known for creating characters of depth, nuance, and vulnerability; they each possess recognizable thresholds and desires, and this effectively raises the stakes of the novel—the characters are more real, and therefore in far more danger. *The Finder's* masterfully drawn characters – from Jin Li and the wave of new immigrants of which she is a part, to blue collar workers like Ray, to power brokers like William Martz—are each a part of an expansive and vibrant mosaic, representing every stratum of New York City at the beginning of the millennium, a place that is diverse, volatile, and in flux. With its incredibly detailed setting and characters, *The Finder* is a thriller of uncommon ambition, and one that offers much to discuss.

About the Author

Colin Harrison is the author of 5 novels, most recently, *The Finder*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife, author Kathryn Harrison.

Discussion Questions

1. In the first chapter of *The Finder*, Harrison writes about ethnic pariahs. “They are Nigerians in London, Turks in Paris, Koreans in Tokyo, Filipinos in Riyadh—outsiders in their new homelands.” How does the



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idea of being an outsider play into *The Finder*? What examples are there of outsiders in this novel?

2. In New York, ethnic diversity is a big part of the city's culture. What is the importance of the various characters' ethnicities in the book?
3. At the end of chapter 3, why does Ray berate himself for fighting back after Chen's men had kidnapped him?
4. "You do what you gotta do" is a line uttered by both Ray and Jin Li in *The Finder*. Can you think of examples where they had to employ this type of thinking and attitude?
5. In Chapter 15, what does Ray notice when he drives by the house where Richie was murdered? What is the implication of what he sees?
6. Why does Harrison withhold Ray's dark past until more than halfway through the book? How did its revelation change the way you thought of him?
7. Jin Li often refers to her brother and his fellow investors as the "pig men." If she dislikes her brother and his dealings, why would she continue to work for him in America? What factors complicate their relationship?
8. How does Jin Li's knowledge of chemical properties help her in the end of the book? Where did she acquire this knowledge?
9. Vulnerability is a recurring theme in *The Finder*. What are each character's vulnerabilities? And why is it so important for each character to be vulnerable to some degree in this book?
10. There are bad guys and good guys in every crime novel, but Harrison is careful to make his characters more complex, often mixing good attributes and less favorable ones in the same character. Is there a scale from bad to good on which the characters in *The Finder* can be arranged? Where would each character fall on this scale? How would you judge them?
11. When Ray Grant, Sr. risked injury by going to the basement of his home, what was he looking for? How did his discovery there help Ray Grant, Jr. track down Jin Li?
12. Ray Grant, Jr. survived the 9/11 attacks on The World Trade Center, but his partner suffered a gruesome death. When authorities came to Ray in the hospital, he was asked to keep the details of his partner's death a secret for the peace of mind of the family. Is this a good idea? Or should the family know exactly what happened to their father/husband? Which story would you want to be told if it was your family member?
13. In the end of the book, William Martz is successful in his attempt to regain the money he lost on Good Pharma's stock. What does this mean for Martz as a character? Was the reader led to believe he would lose the money, or suffer in other ways? Did you want him to lose his money? Why?
14. Who is *The Finder* in this novel? Is there one finder or are there many?