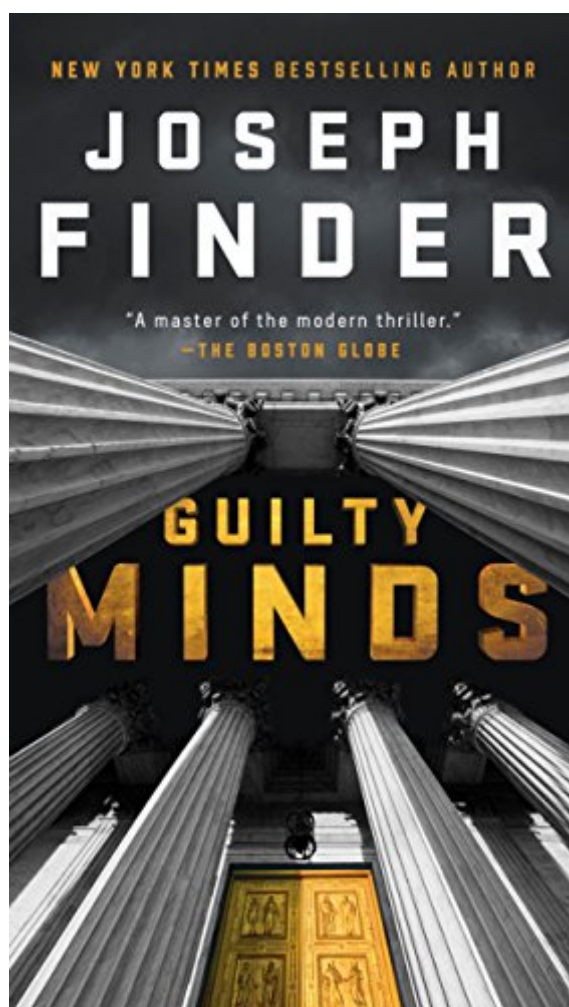


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Guilty Minds



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Joseph Finder delivers an exhilarating and timely thriller exploring how even the most powerful among us can be brought down by a carefully crafted lie and how the secrets we keep can never truly stay buried. The chief justice of the Supreme Court is about to be defamed, his career destroyed, by a powerful gossip website that specializes in dirt on celebs and politicians. Their top reporter has written an exposé claiming that he had liaisons with an escort, a young woman prepared to tell the world her salacious tale. But the chief justice is not without allies and his greatest supporter is determined to stop the story in its tracks. Nick Heller is a private spy—an intelligence operative based in Boston, hired by lawyers, politicians, and even foreign governments. A high-powered investigator with a penchant for doing things his own way, he's called to Washington, DC, to help out in this delicate, potentially explosive situation. Nick has just forty-eight hours to disprove the story about the chief justice. But when the call girl is found murdered, the case takes a dangerous turn, and Nick resolves to find the mastermind behind the conspiracy before anyone else falls victim to the maelstrom of political scandal and ruined reputations predicated upon one long-buried secret. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Guilty Minds by Joseph Finder is the third book in the Nick Heller thriller series which follows in the tradition of the first two books, *Vanished* (2009) and *Buried Secrets* (2011). Nick Heller is a private investigator who is skillful, doggedly tough and clever. He is no ordinary operative as he has experienced life as a member of the Special Forces in Iraq. His tenacious character allowed him to dig up secrets that the powerful and rich would pay anything to keep buried forever. The story in *Guilty Minds* by Joseph Finder starts with Nick Heller meeting with a Washington legend Gideon Parnell in the office of Shays Abbott Burnham, one of the biggest law firms in the world. Nick soon learns from Gideon that a man of impeccable character, a man whose entire career rests on his moral authority, is about to become the subject of a scandalous gossip website, *Slander Sheet*. And the man who is in the thick of things is none other than the Chief Justice Jeremiah Claflin of the Supreme Court. Nick learns that unless certain conditions are fulfilled, the website will run a story that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court had a regular relationship with an escort. On the surface, it looks like a simple case of blackmail but when the young and vivacious Kayla Pitts is found dead, things become very hot even for a quick operator like Nick Heller. In *Guilty Minds* New York Times bestselling author Joseph Finder produces one of his finest thrillers to date, and perhaps the thriller of the season. Ingeniously plotted, furiously paced, written in the same style that has made him a book lover's top-notch thriller writer, and twists and turns that will grab every reader, *Guilty Minds* is a fascinating read as Nick Heller race against time to dig up the truth and find who's lying and why.

Previously, whenever I read a Joseph Finder thriller -- and I've now read all twelve of them -- the only ingoing question I had was HOW good would it be; it had never been an issue of will it to be good. Through the first eleven books, my opinion of his works had always ranged between very good and excellent (i.e., a 4-star or 5-star rating). Regarding *Guilty Minds*, although I found it entertaining, I did not consider it to be of the same high standards I've come to expect from this author, and thus felt somewhat letdown by it, resulting in my giving it a 3-star rating. Nonetheless, I still consider Joseph Finder to be one of the best of the best of today's thriller writers. I won't summarize the plot of *Guilty Minds*, as this is well-described in the Book Description above. I'll just say that *Guilty Minds* is the third book in the series featuring Nick Heller, a former high-powered private intelligence company operative with Special Forces training who has now gone "private." In

this book Heller is hired to help resolve a potentially explosive situation when the chief justice of the Supreme Court is about to be defamed by a powerful website that specializes in dirt on celebrities and politicians. Typical of a Joseph Finder thriller, *Guilty Minds* has its share of suspenseful and exciting moments, and is written in a fast-paced style. However, these moments are not as plentiful and sustaining as in Finder's other books, including the two previous books in the Nick Heller series (i.e., *Vanished* and *Buried Secrets*). Further, comparatively speaking, I did not find that Finder maintained his high standards in regards to providing interesting and well-developed characters, and in regards to having his characters speak realistic dialogue.

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