



Killer Instinct: A Novel

By Joseph Finder

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Killer Instinct: A Novel By Joseph Finder

Jason Steadman is a thirty-year-old sales executive living in Boston and working for an electronics giant, a competitor to Sony and Panasonic. He's a witty, charismatic guy who's well liked at the office, but he lacks the "killer instinct" necessary to move up the corporate ladder. To the chagrin of his ambitious wife, it looks as if his career has hit a ceiling. Jason's been sidelined.

But all that will change one evening when Jason meets Kurt Semko, a former Special Forces officer just back from Iraq. Looking for a decent pitcher for the company softball team, Jason gets Kurt, who was once drafted by the majors, a job in Corporate Security. Soon, good things start to happen for Jason—and bad things start to happen to Jason's rivals. His career suddenly takes off. He's an overnight success. Only too late does Jason discover that his friend Kurt has been secretly paving his path to the top by the most "efficient"—and ruthless— means available. After all, as Kurt says, "Business is war, right?"

But when Jason tries to put a stop to it, he finds that his new best friend has become the most dangerous enemy imaginable. And now it's far more than just his career that lies in the balance. A riveting tale of ambition, intrigue, and the price of success, *Killer Instinct* is Joseph Finder at his best.

**San Francisco Chronicle*

** *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In Finder's newest business thriller (after *Company Man*), Jason Steadman, a middle-management salesman for an international electronics firm, befriends mysteriously well-connected tow-truck driver Kurt Semko and suddenly finds himself on the fast track to the executive suite, thanks mainly to the misfortunes of others. When a suspicious Steadman confronts Semko, his benefactor turns into a deadly foe who threatens to kill him, his wife and newborn baby. Finder's informed view of the dark side of the corporate world is deliciously devious and he is shrewd and witty enough to provide his likable hero with a particularly credible weapon against the seemingly omnipotent opponent: his salesmanship. Steadman, the narrator of this terrifying tale, is blessed with the gift of gab, and Scott Brick, one of the busier audio book performers, smoothly adjusts his delivery to the novel's carefully crafted patter and pacing. This includes quick shifts of tenor and tone to give voice to the self-confident sociopath Semko, Steadman's level-headed but needy wife, and his disgruntled and pink-slip-prone co-workers. Finder has created first-class material, but here it's Brick's impressive pitch that makes the sale. *Simultaneous release with the St. Martin's hardcover. (Reviews, Mar. 13). (May.)*

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Both *Paranoia* (2003) and *Company Man* (2005) captured the power plays implicit in the business world and put Joseph Finder at the top of the corporate thriller game. *Killer Instinct* doesn't disappoint. Finder, who convincingly portrays how salesmen close the deal in a cutthroat environment, focuses on character development: Steadman's wife, for example, is no Lady Macbeth but an empathetic character. Although the plot never suffers, a few reviewers called it more predictable and less intricately conceived than those of Finder's other books. Despite this criticism, *Killer Instinct* shows that "political thrillers and spy novels are tame compared to what goes on in the cubicles and offices" (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*).

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From [Booklist](#)

Finder writes a special brand of business-world thriller one might call Dilbert noir. His previous best-sellers, including *Paranoia* (2003) and *Company Man* (2005), spliced corporate cubicle routines with murderous plots and international intrigue. In his latest, Finder takes a man least likely to swim with the sharks--Jason Steadman, a very happy, contented salesman for an electronics giant--and places him on Fortune's wheel. The first spin of the wheel comes from Steadman's wife, a lovely Lady Macbeth type consumed with ambition for a picture-book family and a much bigger house. The next spin comes from a car accident that ends up with Steadman meeting a tow-truck driver, a special forces officer recently returned from Iraq. Steadman takes a liking to this man's man and gets him hired in his firm's corporate security department. Suddenly and inexplicably (to Steadman), his career skyrockets as his rivals experience a run of bad luck and even worse accidents. Part of the dreadful fun of this thriller is figuring out ahead of Steadman who is behind his good fortune; the rest of the suspense comes from watching Steadman seek to outwit his malevolent benefactor. Finder is a first-rate story weaver, though he sometimes lavishes too much detail on unnecessary scenes or bits of dialogue. Still, Steadman's 10-month ride from complacency to terror is filled with the requisite number of thrills and chills. *Connie Fletcher*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Walter Chacon:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for people. The book Killer Instinct: A Novel had been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The book Killer Instinct: A Novel is not only giving you far more new information but also being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship while using book Killer Instinct: A Novel. You never sense lose out for everything if you read some books.

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