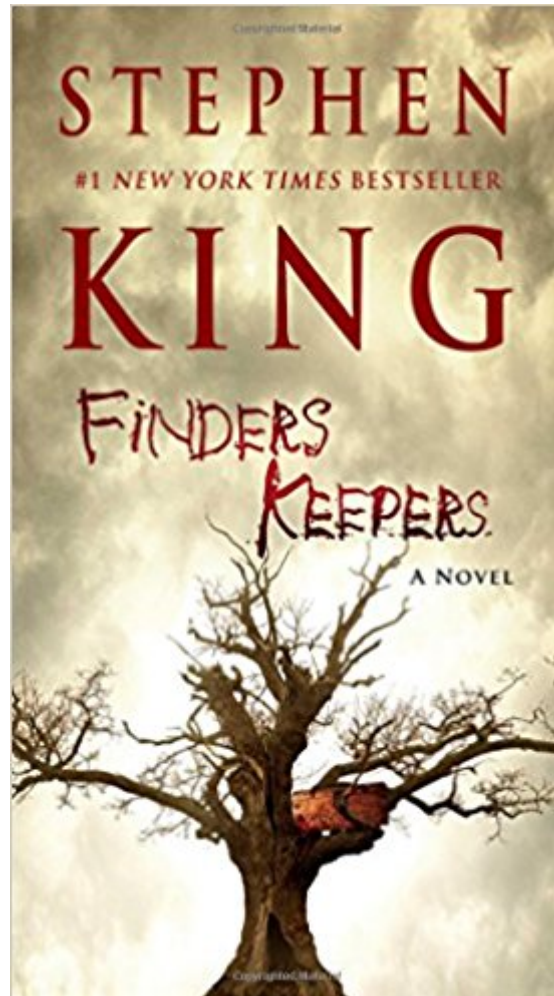




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# **Finders Keepers: A Novel (The Bill Hodges Trilogy)**



## Synopsis

Now an AT&T Audience Original Series A masterful, intensely suspenseful novel about a reader whose obsession with a reclusive writer goes much too far— the #1 New York Times bestseller about the power of storytelling, starring the same trio of unlikely and winning heroes Stephen King introduced in Mr. Mercedes. “Wake up, genius.” So announces deranged fan Morris Bellamy to iconic author John Rothstein, who once created the famous character Jimmy Gold and hasn’t released anything since. Morris is livid, not just because his favorite writer has stopped publishing, but because Jimmy Gold ended up as a sellout. Morris kills his idol and empties his safe of cash, but the real haul is a collection of notebooks containing John Rothstein’s unpublished work...including at least one more Jimmy Gold novel. Morris hides everything away before being locked up for another horrific crime. But upon Morris’s release thirty-five years later, he’s about to discover that teenager Pete Saubers has already found the stolen treasure—and no one but former police detective Bill Hodges, along with his trusted associates Holly Gibney and Jerome Robinson, stands in the way of his vengeance.... Not since Misery has Stephen King played with the notion of a reader and murderous obsession, in this #1 acclaimed bestseller filled with “nail biting suspense that’s the hallmark of [his] best work” (Publishers Weekly).

## Book Information

Series: The Bill Hodges Trilogy (Book 2)

Mass Market Paperback: 544 pages

Publisher: Pocket Books; Reissue edition (March 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1501100122

ISBN-13: 978-1501100123

Product Dimensions: 4.1 x 1.1 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 4,900 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,414 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Supernatural > Psychics #67 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Psychics #412 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Police Procedurals

## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of June 2015: For those of you who spent part of last summer being thrilled by Stephen King's *Mr. Mercedes*, this worthy sequel arrives just in time for summer 2015. Of course you can read *Finders Keepers* on its own if you're so-inclined. King takes time to introduce new characters and new crimes in the first half of the book before carting out some familiar faces from the past. The story begins with a murder (of an author) and a robbery (of the author's notebooks, including at least one unpublished manuscript). The crimes will linger in your mind, but what might linger most is when King explores his obsessions with, well, obsessions: obsession with reading, obsession with writers, even the need to get revenge. The book is well-plotted, but there remains an organic feel to this series, like the characters are writing themselves to some extent. As a character in *Finders Keepers* puts it, "a good novelist does not create events, he watches them happen then writes down what he sees. A good novelist realizes he is a secretary, not God. Amen. That's why we love you, Stephen King."--Chris Schlupe --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Praise for *Finders Keepers* "Stephen King's superb new stay-up-all-night thriller, *Finders Keepers*, is a sly, often poignant tale of literary obsession that recalls the themes of his classic 1987 novel *Misery* a love letter to the joys of reading and to American literature | wonderful, scary, moving. (Elizabeth Hand, *The Washington Post*) "[A] taut thriller about the thin line separating fandom from fanaticism | Bellamy is one of King's creepiest creations • a literate and intelligent character whom any passionate reader will both identify with and be repelled by. His relentless pursuit of a treasure that his twisted thinking has determined is rightfully his generates the nail biting suspense that's the hallmark of King's best work. A sharp closing twist suggests Hodges will be back. (Publishers Weekly)" "King's many, many fans will want this, especially those who enjoyed *Misery*, but the second volume in King's projected trilogy will appeal to anyone who enjoys suspense and action, or anyone who finds enlightenment in reading about the internal struggle between right and wrong. It's not necessary to have read the previous book to enjoy this one. (Library Journal)" "As in *Misery* and *The Shining*, King swan dives into the looniness lurking at both ends of the writer-reader transaction | the narrative hums and roars along like a high-performance vehicle | a rip-snorting entertainment; one that also works as a sneaky-smart satire of literary criticism and how even the most attentive readers can often miss the whole point. (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) Praise for *Mr. Mercedes* "Classic Stephen King. Creepy, yet realistic characters that get under your skin and stay

there, a compelling story that twists and turns at breakneck speed, and delightful prose that, once again, proves that one of America's greatest natural storytellers is also one of its finest writers." (Associated Press)"On one level, Mr. Mercedes is an expertly crafted example of the classic race-against-the-clock thriller. On another, it is a novel of depth and character enriched throughout by the grace notes King provides in such seemingly effortless profusion. It is a rich, resonant, exceptionally readable accomplishment by a man who can write in whatever genre he chooses." (Washington Post)"A taut, suspenseful race-against-time book . . . [King is] in reliably fine form." (New York Times)"A taut, calibrated thriller . . . The majority of the book is merciless and unforgiving, and the scariest thing about it is how plausible the whole scenario is." (Miami Herald)"Nicely dark, never predictable and altogether entertaining." (Kirkus Reviews)

So many people have already rated this book so I doubt this will be read by anyone. But here goes anyway. These two books... Mr. Mercedes and Finders Keepers, though the books didn't have any other worldly characters or monsters, doesn't make it any less terrifying and leaves to our imagination that there may be some very real monsters who may live next-door and we just don't know about it. These two books are classic King which means a total page turner and gripping suspense to the last. Stephen King has said that he doesn't write about extra ordinary people who deal with normal things but instead he writes about regular people who are in extraordinary situations. That's almost a direct quote from him. I enjoyed every part of it. I listened to the audible versions of these two books and say that the narrator was one of the best that I've ever heard and was so completely appropriate for these Stephen King books. Only having Stephen King narrate them could have been any better. I highly recommend these two books and state unequivocally that this is the best "King" writing that he is done in about five years.

I really enjoyed this story. Stephen King is such an excellent writer, and it was truly a joy to read. It was clear, came together well, made sense, and had a very appropriate ending with a few minor unexpected twists. The characters are well thought out, complete, and developed in a way that few authors can rival. Pace is excellent, and everything here happens for a reason - there are no loose ends or extraneous scenarios that leave you wondering "what was he trying to do here?". This is a thrill ride that is hard to put down. You do not need to have read the first book in this 'series', Mr Mercedes. King is a master storyteller, and the characters are so alive that you don't need the additional context. The only reason I don't give it 5 stars is that I felt that it was a bit too predictable. I

found myself pretty much anticipating everything that happened ahead of time. Luckily, King is such a great writer that I looked forward to it. Still, I also enjoy surprises and not knowing what is going to happen.

[Copied from my Goodreads account] However, Stephen King does some of what he does best in the first 160 pages before bringing in characters we already know. A great character work with two new leads. First, we're introduced to Morris Bellamy who's in the middle of an armed robbery of reclusive, retired author, John Rothstein in 1978. Rothstein feels like King's version of Jack Kerouac, except his Holden Caulfield (Jimmy Gold) stars in a trilogy of novels of teen angst, instead of just one. Further, the third novel has Gold turning into a Don Draper-like ad man, completely selling out all of his young rebellious ideals. Bellamy attacks Rothstein for this betrayal of Jimmy's character & asks if there were more novels bringing back the character he loved from the first two novels (there are rumors he never stopped writing). Bellamy ends up killing Rothstein in an argument over the notebooks (and thousands of dollars) hidden away in his safe. Bellamy obsesses over the dozens (hundreds?!) of notebooks hidden away, so much so that he kills his partners (who wouldn't appreciate the talent inside them) & ends up heading home to avoid the heat around Rothstein's murder. He hides the notebooks and cash away until he can find time to read them (and maybe find a buyer for them) but gets drunk, rapes a woman, and gets sent to jail for life. In present day, we meet Pete Saubers, the oldest child of Tom & Linda and older brother to Tina. In 2009, Tom Saubers becomes a victim of Mr. Mercedes and the family begins to break down financially and emotionally... During one of many fights between Tom & Linda, Pete escapes to some undeveloped land behind his house and stumbles onto the trunk Bellamy hid away over three decades earlier. He anonymously sends the money to his parents to help them out and reads the notebooks, falling in love with Jimmy Gold himself. When Bellamy is granted parole (after his victim finally gives her blessing) the two characters are destined to meet. Bellamy has spent years agonizing over what he missed out in those books, and Pete struggles with figuring out a way to sell his treasures notebooks to help his family more. Enter Hodges & Holly, who run a business (called Finders Keepers) tracking down bail-jumpers and repossessing property. Young Tina happens to be friends with Barbara Robinson (who was almost killed at the boy band concert in Book #1). Tina starts to worry after her brother starts acting strangely & Barbara brings her to Mr Hodges. The two get on the case (and Jerome, luckily, is home from college to join them) and everything eventually leads up to some exciting final moments. The novel is kind of a struggle through the first 3/4. While the first part has some interesting characters, it felt like such a weird

sequel. There were nods to the previous novel but I feel like they would have been less meaningful had I not just read the first one. Who knows what will happen when I eventually read End of Watch later this year...There's a lot of great writing (and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't interested in reading the Jimmy Gold novels myself) but this didn't have the same page-turning quality of the first (until I got about 75% of the way through). I doubt it's a coincidence that this is also the same part of the novel where our three main characters (Hodges, Pete, and Bellamy) finally meet. The last quarter is an adventure (again with the series' main three barreling through town in the big Mercedes) that kept me glued to the page. Overall, it's an interesting continuation of Hodges's story. There are a few mentions of Brady and I'm curious if Book #3 will enter the supernatural territory King often deals in.

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