



Crashed (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1)

By Timothy Hallinan

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Quick-talking burglar Junior Bender gets blackmailed into starting a new career as a private investigator for crooks in this hilarious Hollywood mystery

Junior Bender, a burglar with a magic touch, is being blackmailed into taking on a new freelance job. One of LA's biggest crime bosses is producing a porn movie that someone keeps sabotaging; Junior's job is to figure out who's responsible and keep the movie on track.

The trouble is, he's not sure he can go through with the job, blackmail or no blackmail. The actress lined up to star in the film, Thistle Downing, is an ex-child star who now lives alone in a drug-induced stupor, destitute and uninsurable. This movie would be scandalous fodder for tabloids around the country. Junior knows what he should do—get Thistle out and find her some help—but doing the right thing will land him on the wrong side of some scary people.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Crashed (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1) By Timothy Hallinan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Hallinan, author of the Simeon Grist and Poke Rafferty series, introduces a new hero: Junior Bender, a career crook (burglar, to be precise) who, after the reasonably successful conclusion of an especially danger-fraught job, is blackmailed by a disreputable cop into helping one of Los Angeles' most notorious crime bosses with a little problem. It seems she's trying to take her family's operations legit, and she needs a quick cash infusion, so she's found a once-beloved child star, Thistle Downing, and enticed her into performing in a trilogy of hard-core pornographic movies. But someone's trying to sabotage the films, and she wants Bender to find out who. If you read this book without a smile on your face, you're not reading it right. Bender, who narrates the story in the first-person, is a charming and immensely likable guy, the master of the wisecrack. Sure, he's a crook, but he never steals from people who can't afford it, and he's got a moral center that's stronger than that of most of the people around him. The story is well designed and well told (Hallinan doesn't over-rely on out-of-left-field plot twists), and the dialogue sparkles. In a genre perhaps slightly overstuffed with crook-heroes, the book is like a breath of fresh air. --David Pitt

Review

Praise for *Crashed*

"If you're looking for a mystery with a fresh new hero then you'll want to run right out and get this book. It's just fabulous. If you have a plane to take, then this is the book to grab."

—NPR's Morning Edition

"Loved loved loved *Crashed*, Tim Hallinan's first Junior Bender mystery. Great narrative voice, complex plot, 3-D characters. Hallinan's deft comic tone and colorful characters have earned him comparisons to Donald Westlake and Carl Hiassen. Check it out now."

—Nancy Pearl

"If Carl Hiaasen and Donald Westlake had a literary love child, he would be Timothy Hallinan. The Edgar nominee's laugh-out-loud new crime series featuring Hollywood burglar-turned-private eye Junior Bender has breakout written all over it... A must-read."

—Julia Spencer-Fleming, *New York Times* bestselling author of *One Was a Soldier*

"Junior Bender is today's Los Angeles as Raymond Chandler might have written it. Tim [Hallinan] is a master at tossing out the kind of hard-boiled lines that I wish I thought of first."

—Bruce DeSilva, Macavity & Edgar Award-winning author of *Rogue Island*

"Timothy Hallinan's affable antihero, an accomplished thief but inept sleuth named Junior Bender, makes a terrific first impression in *Crashed*.... Bender's quick wit and smart mouth make him a boon companion on this oddball adventure."

—*New York Times*

"A fresh turn on Raymond Chandler... In *Crashed*, Hallinan's fabulously convoluted, wise-guy detective potboiler featuring Bender, the California author's voice — intelligent, sarcastic, profane but never coarse, unfailingly honest — is like a fast ride over a potholed road in a vintage Cadillac."

—*San Antonio Express-News*

"This is Hallinan at the top of his game. It's laugh-out-loud funny without ever losing any of its mystery. It's a whole new style and I love it. Junior Bender—a crook with a heart of gold—is one of Hallinan's most appealing heroes, rich with invention, and brimming with classic wit. I can't recommend it highly enough."
—**Shadoe Stevens, Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson**

"The story is well designed and well told, and the dialogue sparkles. In a genre perhaps slightly overstuffed with crook-heroes, the book is like a breath of fresh air."
—**Booklist**

"This is one of those books you long for, wait for, and find once or twice a year"
—**Beth Kanell, proprietor of Kingdom Books, Vermont**

"This fast-paced first in a series is great fun."
—**Stop You're Killing Me (blog)**

"Timothy Hallinan does everything a writer should do whose goal is to keep a reader entertained from the first sentence to the last."
—**Tzer Island (blog)**

"Hallinan builds a believable plot, filled with both humor and pathos."
—**Reviewing the Evidence (blog)**

"The writing is intelligent, relaxed, and fun to read. *Crashed* is a pleasurable outing, without the personal risk, to the criminal underbelly of Los Angeles, where moral ambiguity fills the air."
—**Read Me Deadly (blog)**

"This detective potboiler with its oddball characters will keep you chuckling."
—**The Martha's Vineyard Times**

"If you're in the mood for a mystery that's just plain fun, this is the one for you... Timothy Hallinan knows how to write a smart aleck main character who has his own set of morals and a heart of gold."
—**Kittling Books (blog)**

Praise for Junior Bender

"Timothy Hallinan's *The Fame Thief* has everything I've come to expect in a Hallinan novel: indelible, complex characters, fantastic plot, and moments of hold-your-breath suspense."
—**Charlaine Harris, author of the New York Times bestselling Sookie Stackhouse series**

"Could not stop laughing. Tim Hallinan is sharp as a blade, has a wicked eye for human nature and keeps the reader guessing and rooting for Junior Bender all the way."
—**Helen Simonson, New York Times bestselling author of Major Pettigrew's Last Stand**

"Junior Bender is bound to be the topic of conversation amongst book lovers and crime fiction fans for a long, long time."
—**Robert Carraher, Seattle Post-Intelligencer**

"Hugely, splendidly entertaining... Full of delightful characters, and dialogue that provides at least one good laugh on every page, the book is so hard to put down you'll swear it's been glued to your hands."

—**Booklist, STARRED Review** (*Little Elvises*)

About the Author

Timothy Hallinan is the Edgar- and Macavity-nominated author of thirteen widely praised books, including *The Fear Artist*, *Crashed*, *Little Elvises*, and *The Fame Thief*. After years of working in Hollywood, television, and the music industry, he now writes fulltime. He divides his time between California and Thailand.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Debbie Luken:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Crashed* (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1). Try to stumble through book *Crashed* (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1) as your good friend. It means that it can being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we need to make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Jeanne Gonzales:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love *Crashed* (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1), you could enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Martin Herrin:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this *Crashed* (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1) publication written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still uncertainty *Crashed* (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1) as good book not just by the cover but also by content. This is one guide that can break don't ascertain book by its cover, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Jamila Coles:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, you think reading a book really can hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Crashed (A Junior Bender Mystery Book 1) which is finding the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's see.

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