

Nighttown

by Timothy Hallinan

Los Angeles burglar Junior Bender has a rule about never taking a job that pays too well—in the criminal underworld, if someone is offering you more money than a job is worth, someone is going to end up dead. But he's bending his rule this one time because he and his girlfriend, Ronnie, are in desperate need of cash so they can hire a top-notch kidnapper to snatch Ronnie's two-year-old son back from her evil ex. The whole thing is pretty complicated, and has Junior on edge.

The parameters of his too-well-paying job do nothing to calm his nerves. A nameless woman in an orange wig has offered Junior fifty grand—twenty-five up front—to break into the abandoned house of a recently deceased 97-year-old recluse, Daisy Horton, and steal a doll from the woman's collection. Junior knows no doll is worth 50k, so he figures there must be something hidden inside the doll that can get him in a heap of trouble. It takes Junior less time than he would have hoped to realize he's not the only person looking for the doll. When an old friend ends up murdered, Junior decides he will stop at nothing to figure out who the woman in the orange wig is, and why she wants the doll so bad she's leaving a trail of bodies in her wake.

Praise for the Junior Bender Mysteries

"Bender's quick wit and smart mouth make him a boon companion."

— *The New York Times Book Review*

"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."

— *NPR's Morning Edition*

"Every now and then a writer comes along with the imagination and skill to make the whole thing feel fresh and new again. That's what veteran crime novelist Timothy Hallinan has accomplished."

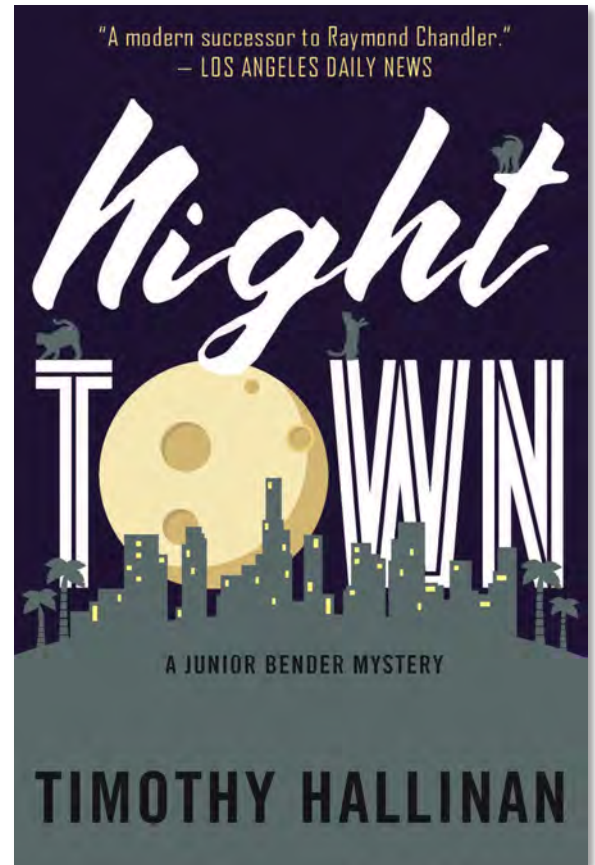
— *The Washington Post*

"Laugh-out-loud." — *The Boston Globe*

"Donald E. Westlake, the casually brilliant master of the comic caper, may be pushing up daisies, but his spirit clearly lives on in Timothy Hallinan . . . Swift, sure-footed and awfully funny." — *The Seattle Times*



Timothy Hallinan's novels have been nominated for the Edgar, Nero, Shamus, and Macavity awards. After years of working in the television and music industries, he now writes full-time. He divides his time between California and Thailand.



US publication: November 2018

World

Full manuscript available upon request.

- ◆ A comic caper featuring a smart-mouth sleuth and truly compelling prose.
- ◆ Soho controls translation rights to the full Junior Bender series.

Please see the next page for more information on the Junior Bender mysteries.

The Junior Bender Mysteries

by Timothy Hallinan

About the Series

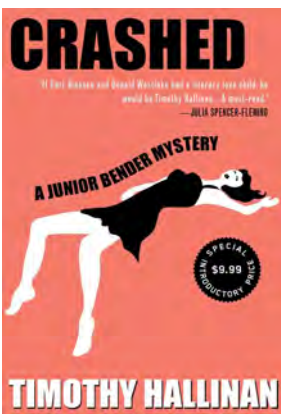
Junior Bender is a professional burglar who keeps being blackmailed into being private investigator for Los Angeles' most dangerous criminals. Luckily, he's got a sense of humor and a very particular skill set.



World

Film rights currently under option.

- ◆ **Hilarious, Carl Hiaasen-esque crime novels set in/around Hollywood.**
- ◆ **A critically acclaimed, well-established series arriving on the foreign market!**



Praise for the Series

"If Carl Hiaasen and Donald Westlake had a literary love child, he would be Timothy Hallinan."

—**Julia Spencer-Fleming**

"Donald E. Westlake[']s spirit clearly lives on in Timothy Hallinan . . . Swift, sure-footed and awfully funny." —**The Seattle Times**

"Dangerously outrageous." —**Associated Press**

"A modern-day successor to Raymond Chandler."

—**Los Angeles Daily News**

For more information about the author, please see the previous page.

For more information or a full list of publicity, please visit:

<http://sohopress.com/authors/timothy-hallinan/>

Crashed (#1)

Junior Bender has never been caught in his 22 years as a burglar. But now he's being blackmailed by Trey Annunziato, a terrifying LA mob boss, into acting as a PI on her pornography set. Thistle Downing, a beloved child actress (now a drug-addled teenager), is starring in the film, which someone is sabotaging. Junior knows he should get Thistle out and find her help, but doing so will anger a powerful criminal. Can he devise a miracle solution?

"Fabulous."

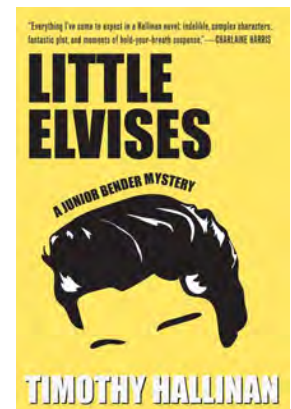
—**NPR's Morning Edition**

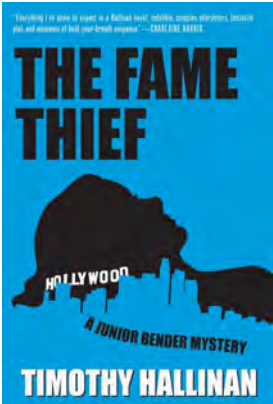
Little Elvises (#2)

Unfortunately, Junior has developed a reputation as an investigator for criminals. He's being bullied into proving music mogul Vinnie DiGaudio *didn't* murder a tabloid journalist he threatened to kill, but the journalist's widow won't stop trying to seduce him. As the investigation spirals out of control, Junior's landlady begs him to find her missing daughter. And worst both Junior's ex-wife *and* teenage daughter have new boyfriends. What a mess.

SHAMUS AWARD NOMINEE

A **CRIMESPREE MAGAZINE** BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR





The Fame Thief (#3)

93-year-old Irwin Dressler, Hollywood’s scariest mob-boss-turned-movie king, wants Junior to solve a 70-year-old “crime”—the tabloid-fueled destruction of actress Dolores Lamarre, who was ruined by compromising photos from a Las Vegas party. Dressler wants justice for Dolores and the career she never had. Junior thinks the whole thing is crazy—it’s been 70 years—but he starts digging. And he soon finds that some vendettas never die.

A CRIMESPREE MAGAZINE BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

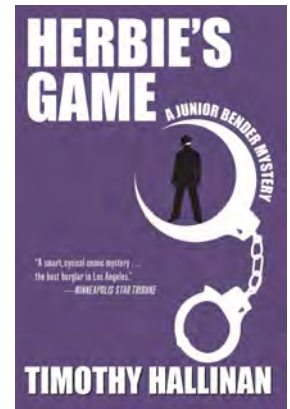
Herbie’s Game (#4)

Wattles, LA’s top “executive” crook, sets up a hit, keeping the list of criminals involved in his safe. But someone breaks in and takes the list, and the people on it start to pop up dead. Wattles then approaches Junior, who already knows who stole the list: the signature belongs to Herbie Mott, Junior’s criminal mentor. Junior seeks him out and finds Herbie murdered. As he tracks the killer, he finds disturbing secrets about Herbie’s past—and his own.

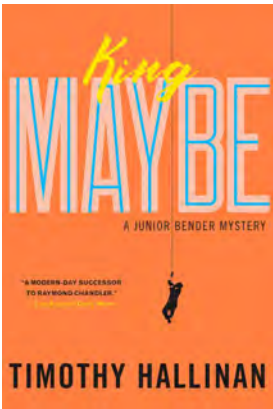
WINNER OF THE LEFTY AWARD

NERO AWARD FINALIST

A PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR



King Maybe (#5)



Junior is in the middle of stealing one of the world’s rarest stamps from an assassin when his luck turns sour. It takes an unexpected assist to get him out alive, but his escape sets off a chain reaction of blackmail and escalating crime. By the time Junior is forced to commit his third burglary of the week in the impregnable fortress that’s home to a ruthless studio mogul called King Maybe, he’s starting to wish he’d just let the killer take a crack at him.

“Too many lovable crooks in contemporary crime fiction?

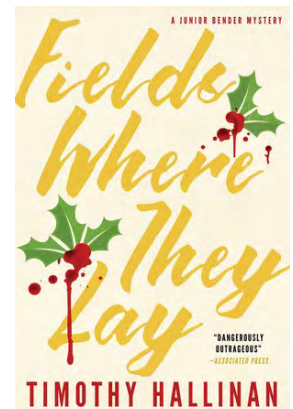
Well, one thing’s for sure: they’re all chasing Junior.”—*Booklist, Starred Review*

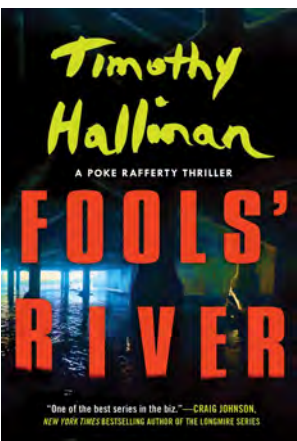
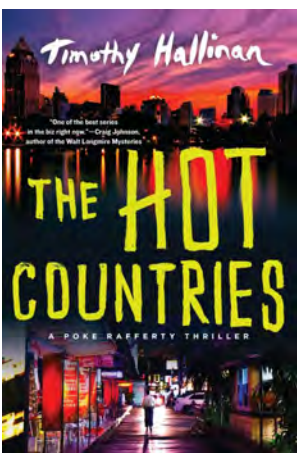
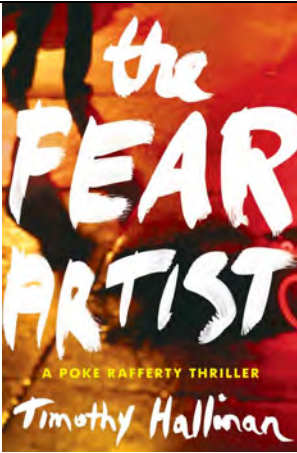
Fields Where They Lay (#6)

The Edgerton Mall isn’t exactly full of holiday cheer, despite its two Santas. It’s a fossil in decline, and has a rampant shoplifting problem. Enter burglar Junior Bender, who’s being forced to look into things by murderous Russian gangster who owns the mall. But Junior’s operation doesn’t go well: Within two days, two people are dead. It’s obvious that shoplifting is the least of Junior’s problems. Meanwhile, he must confront his own deep-seated melancholy at the very notion of Christmas—both present and past.

A KIRKUS & PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

A BOOKPAGE TOP PICK





The Poke Rafferty Thrillers

by Timothy Hallinan

About the Series

American writer **Poke Rafferty** lives in Bangkok with his Thai wife Rose, and their adopted daughter Miaow. The happy trio is rocked by their separate, often dangerous histories.



World

- ◆ Intelligent, socially minded political thrillers focused on the present-day consequences of colonialism in Southeast Asia.
- ◆ The below novels function within the series as a trilogy, and have never before been sold on the foreign market!

Praise for the Poke Rafferty Thrillers

“You could drown in the waves of corruption that surge through Timothy Hallinan’s Bangkok mysteries.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“A relentless-as-the-rain paced thriller, sprinkled with an offbeat, cynical humor.”
—*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

“Truly remarkable . . . In Hallinan’s Bangkok, the ugly truths of poverty, homelessness, corruption, caste and crime are shaded with tremendous compassion.”
—*The Arizona Republic*

“Heart-rending, unforgettable.” —*Publishers Weekly, Starred Review*

“Stellar.” —*Library Journal, Starred Review*

For more information about the author, please see p. 6.

For more information or a full list of publicity, please visit:
<http://sohopress.com/authors/timothy-hallinan/>

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***

“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.”
—***The New York Times Book Review***

“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***

“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***

“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***

“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, bestselling author of *Book Lust***

“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***

“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 detective potboiler with its oddball characters will keep you chuckling.”
—***The Martha’s Vineyard Times***

“This fast-paced first in a series is great fun.”
—**Stop You’re Killing Me!**

“Hallinan builds a believable plot, filled with both humor and pathos.”
—**Reviewing the Evidence**

Praise for *Little Elvises*

A *Crimespree Magazine* Best Book of the Year

A Shamus Award Nominee

“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***

“Hallinan introduces us to a drugged-out, pain-impervious hit man, a nonagenarian puppet master who rules the L.A. underworld, a tabloid reporter who uses his job as a cover to blackmail the rich and the famous, and a host of other characters as dangerously outrageous as the murderous crew obsessed with obtaining the black bird in Hammett’s 1930 masterpiece.”

—***Associated Press***

“Every now and then a writer comes along with the imagination and skill to make the whole thing feel fresh and new again. That’s what veteran crime novelist Timothy Hallinan has accomplished.”

—***The Washington Post***

“I have lost count of the crime writers in debt to Raymond Chandler. But appropriating the style and setting of the Philip Marlowe novels is one thing; coming up with characters and a plot that bear comparison with those of the master is another. Timothy Hallinan succeeds on all four counts.”

—***Daily Mail***

“Laugh-out-loud . . . ‘You want to be funny,’ says one of Junior’s sidekicks, ‘hire a writer.’ For that, Hallinan’s your man.”

—***Boston Globe***

“The first book in the series, *Crashed*, was great fun . . . *Little Elvises* is even better.”

—***San Francisco Chronicle***

“An intricate high-stakes plot [and] a compelling subplot.”

—***Miami Herald***

“Heart-pounding.”

—***Salon***

“As the story opens, Junior is in a fix, or rather, a bunch of them . . .”

—***Huffington Post***

“Featuring Junior Bender, full-time Los Angeles burglar and part-time private eye-style fixer for the city’s criminal element.”

—***Seattle Times***

“Rewarding . . . Captures the SoCal milieu perfectly and impeccably.”

—*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 Elvies* begs comparison to Tim Doresey or Carl Hiaasen novels: It’s quirky and hip, and often laugh-out-loud funny.”

—**BookPage, Top Pick**

“One thing that immediately hits you about Timothy Hallinan’s writing is the clarity and snap of his prose. Junior Bender isn’t a gumshoe, but the cadence of his voice and his observations harken back to other great detectives who were expert at landing a crucial, devastating remark, as well as using their fists or a pistol. It’s a cliché, of course, to bring up Raymond Chandler’s Marlowe, but the similarities are nevertheless present in fitting ways.”

—**Mystery Scene**

“A well-drawn cast of quirky characters, witty dialog, and a fast-paced and funny plot make this crime novel nearly impossible to put down.”

—**Library Journal**

“For decades I’ve been looking to scratch my Fletch itch, and *Crashed* gave me hope—it’s a well-written mystery with a smart, funny protagonist. I cracked open this sequel both hopeful that it would be as good and scared that I’d be let down. It didn’t . . . Throw out everything you think you know about genre writing. Every word in this book belongs exactly where you find it.”

—**Bill Barnes, Unshelved**

“A Hollyweird mystery that has more nuts than a Planters factory.”

—**Gumshoe Review**

Praise for *The Fame Thief*

A *Crimespre* Magazine Best Book of the Year

“Wisecracking Junior is great company, the occasional whiff of the supernatural is nicely kooky, and there’s a satisfying balance between the present-day mystery and the vivid flashbacks.”

—***The Seattle Times***

“As usual in a Junior Bender novel, the writing is reminiscent of the best of crime fiction’s golden age—as taut and hardboiled as Dashiell Hammett’s yet peppered with the sort of smart-aleck lines Raymond Chandler loved to toss off.”

—***The Associated Press***

“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***

“*The Fame Thief* will keep you laughing long after you close the cover.”

—**Molly Weston, *Meritorious Mysteries***

“The third book in any series can be expected to rest on its laurels, but Hallinan raises the bar.”

—**Bill Barnes, *Unshelved***

“Hallinan’s natural storytelling skills will hold readers rapt through his Shakespeare-quoting, five-act tale as they relish his attention to Los Angeles cultural details and ability to weave two time periods together so effectively.”

—***Library Journal*, Starred Review**

“The main character (not really a hero, because heroes are on the side of justice, right?) is a fun guy to hang out with. He’s a witty burglar who kept me reading, turning the pages as fast as I could.”

—***Suspense Magazine***

“Junior’s levity provides an excellent set-off to the dark underpinnings of the criminal world he inhabits. Along the way to the truth, he strives not only to keep himself alive, but also to bring a sort of justice to those who have been wronged, even so many years later. More please, Mr. Hallinan.”

—***Deadly Pleasures Magazine***

“The refreshingly unassuming Junior is a fun riff on the typical private investigator: his specialty—committing crimes, rather than solving them—brings him an unusual perspective. The elderly Dressler is a fabulous, deadpan wiseguy in “eye-agonizing” golf pants, backed up by two unusually

domestic versions of the standard muscled goon. And Junior's own domestic concerns—a teenage daughter, her jokester boyfriend, an ex-wife and a randy new girlfriend—fill out the eccentric, likable cast. Fast-paced action and a building body count pair nicely with humor in this series, bound to keep the reader coming back for more.”

—**Shelf Awareness**

“In Hallinan’s satisfying third Junior Bender novel (after *Little Elvises*), the L.A. burglar/PI continues to excavate show business’s forgotten past, investigating in this installment the also-rans of postwar Hollywood.”

—**Publishers Weekly**

“I started reading Timothy Hallinan’s books several years back and was drawn into his series featuring adventure travel writer Poke Rafferty. Read ‘em all, loved ‘em all . . . So I was a bit concerned when Hallinan started a new series featuring Junior Bender, occasional burglar and full-time go-to guy for those who need a bit of private investigation that strays outside the fine lines of the law. My worries were unfounded: Hallinan is three-deep into the new series, and the books are every bit as good as their forebears—with the added attraction of some Hiaasen-esque comic tone.”

—**BookPage**

“The tangled plot . . . produce[s] some surprises along the way, but the real draw here remains the fasttalking, quick-thinking Junior, a slightly seedier but equally entertaining version of Lawrence Block’s Bernie Rhodenbarr. If comic crime is your thing, you need to know Junior Bender.”

—**Booklist**

“Hallinan succeeds in crafting the wonderful blend of a Hollywood exposé and a noir mystery with the complexities of a caper . . . This third Junior Bender mystery satisfies as an extremely enjoyable mystery with loads of dark humor and a brilliant cast of characters who are enmeshed in a spider web plot that spanned through the decades.”

—**King’s River Life Magazine**

“Funny and smart and suspenseful all at once.”

—**The Long Beach Gazette**

“*The Fame Thief* is a rare commodity, a good read that is satisfying on multiple levels. Highest recommendation.”

—**New Mystery Reader**

“Junior is at the top of his game in this third in the comic crime series, dispensing facetious remarks while assembling all the disparate pieces into a masterful exposé of a long ago Hollywood frame-up.”

—**Stop You’re Killing Me!**

“There is enough gruesome violence, tense drama, and oddball characters in *The Fame Thief* to satisfy any fan of modern noir. Highly recommended for mystery fans, like myself, who enjoy humorous, but violent, noir.”

—**Gumshoe Review**

“Junior is hard not to like. He’s funny, smart, resourceful, and his heart is pure, even if his career choice is not.”

—**Over My Dead Body**

Praise for *Herbie's Game*

Winner of the Lefty Award

A *Philadelphia Inquirer* Best Book of the Year

An American Booksellers Association Indie Next Selection

Finalist for the Nero Award

“Junior Bender is on the case, wisecracking as always.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“[A] smart, cynical comic mystery . . . [Junior Bender is] the best burglar in Los Angeles.”

—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“If mysteries, thrillers, or just plain dark reads are your thing, then you’ll love this summer’s crop of twisty-turny heart-pounders . . . Junior Bender, the criminal who does detective work for other criminals, returns for a fourth hard-boiled mystery.”

—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Donald E. Westlake, the casually brilliant master of the comic caper, may be pushing up daisies, but his spirit clearly lives on in Timothy Hallinan. *Herbie's Game* is swift, sure-footed and awfully funny.”

—*The Seattle Times*

“Crackles with cleverness.”

—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“The clown prince of crime fiction.”

—*Suspense Magazine*

“Excellent . . . Chandler’s Los Angeles gets a facelift to bring it into modern times, but the humor and setting are the same. And like Chandler, Hallinan is razor-sharp on the page.”

—*Crimespree Magazine*

“The ultimate summer beach reading—as funny as the best of Carl Hiaasen, but with the kinds of puzzling mysteries and plot surprises of the best of Agatha Christie.”

—*The Brooklyn Daily*

“With complex characters, spicy dialogue, clever plot devices and a liberal dose of humor—as is always the case with Hallinan—*Herbie's Game* is a fine read.”

—*BookPage*

“Amiable burglar Junior Bender is forced to chase down a stolen list of names before everyone on it ends up dead. First to fall is Junior’s mentor and surrogate father, Herbie, who stole the list in the first place. This delightful mystery poses the question: Do we ever really know the people we love, and do we need to know everything in order to love them?”

—**Shelf Awareness**

“A laconic antihero to admire.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“A whirligig of a caper . . . Junior, drop by anytime. The valuables will be in plain sight.”

—*Booklist*

“As usual, Hallinan devotes such loving attention to a host of minor characters, all framed by Junior’s deadpan narrative.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A perfect read for a nice afternoon at the beach.”

—*Gulf News Today*

Praise for *King Maybe*

A *Booklist* Best Crime Novel of the Year

“The tricky plot is plenty funny and packed with colorful characters.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“[Hallinan] proudly carries the banner of the late Donald Westlake, whose books are the gold standard of antic capers. The result—lucky us—is a hoot and a half.”

—*The Seattle Times*

“[Hallinan] is a gifted writer with a knack for blending vivid settings, exciting plots, dynamic characters and clever humor to create captivatingly complex stories. From a lively description of a low-rent hotel room to the insightful development of Junior and Ronnie’s relationship, *King Maybe* is distinctive and refreshingly original. It would probably be fitting to crown Hallinan the caper king.”

—**Shelf Awareness, Starred Review**

“The curlicuing plot is itself the source of much of the appeal here, which is not to shortchange either the ever-quirky cast of bent but delightful characters or Hallinan’s dazzling style . . . Are there too many lovable crooks in contemporary crime fiction? Well, maybe, but one thing’s for sure: they’re all chasing Junior.”

—*Booklist, Starred Review*

“Twists and turns abound . . . A rare man of integrity in a world of tinsel and dust, Junior may steal for a living, but he has scruples and will do anything to protect his loved ones.”

—*Library Journal, Starred Review*

“There was a time when I thought that Lawrence Sanders’ character Bernie Rhodenbarr was the definitive fictional housebreaker, but that title has been surrendered by unanimous decision to Timothy Hallinan’s cat burglar extraordinaire, Junior Bender.”

—*BookPage*

“Smart and sardonic . . . An undeniable page-turner.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“[Fans] will eat up [Junior’s] adventures among Hollywood types whose moral senses are even more primitive than his.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A breath of fresh air.”

—**Reviewing the Evidence**

“Tinsel Town glitters triumphantly once again . . . Guaranteed to entertain all types of mystery fans.”

—**Gumshoe Review**

Praise for *Fields Where They Lay*

A *Kirkus* Best Book of 2016

A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2016

A *BookPage* Most Anticipated Fall Mystery

“Burglar Junior Bender may just be our favorite literary P.I.”

—*Entertainment Weekly*, **Books to Read This Fall**

“West Coast fun for the noir at heart.”

—*Sunday Times*, **“Best Christmas Mysteries of 2016”**

“Slick sleuthing, a touching romance and several good laughs.”

—*Toronto Star*

“Comparisons to Raymond Chandler and Donald Westlake are totally deserved and should give you a clue as to whether you’ll like this book as much as I did.”

—*Raleigh News & Observer*

“It’s hard to top Hallinan’s Junior Bender, the Los Angeles ‘Thief of Thieves’.”

—**BookBub**

“A plum pudding stuffed with cynical disillusionment, organized and disorganized crime, two Santas, a seasonal miracle, and an ending that earns every bit of its uplift.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, **Starred Review**

“Hallinan deserves to win an Edgar for his ingeniously plotted, often hilarious sixth Junior Bender novel.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, **Starred Review**

“Nobody does comic mystery with an edge better than Hallinan.”

—*BookList*, **Starred Review**

“Everything readers could want.”

—*Library Journal*, **Starred Review**