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**CONTACT: Paul Oliver**

**Director of Marketing & Publicity**

**poliver@sohopress.com**

**(212) 260-1900**

**SOHO CRIME PRIORITY TITLE**

**KING MAYBE**

TIMOTHY HALLINAN

"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**

Soho Crime • Hardcover/eBook• **PUB DATE:** April 12th, 2016•**PRICE:** $25.95
**Page Count:** 400 • **ISBN:** 9781616954321•**eISBN:**9781616954338

**Hollywood heist-man Junior Bender is back in his most tinsel-lined adventure yet—in order to pay back a nearly insurmountable debt he must successfully burgle the home of one of the industry’s most hated, and dangerous, film moguls.**

Drawing on decades of his own life and work in the company town of Hollywood, Timothy Hallinan’s Junior Bender series is comedic L.A. noir at its best. In ***King Maybe* (Soho Crime | April 12th, 2016)** Hallinan offers up his most tinsel-lined mystery yet – a book that is both a snickering take on Hollywood’s absurd business practices and a brilliant play-by-play of the burglar’s craft—criminal showbiz insights that you’ll marvel you ever lived without.

Junior is in the middle of burgling a house and has just gotten his hands on one of the world’s rarest stamps when the job goes terrifically wrong. After barely escaping, Junior realizes the danger is far from over. He’s gotten himself on the wrong side of a man whose name is synonymous with violence, and to save his own skin he’s set off a chain reaction of blackmail, strong-arming, and escalating crime. To pay off his underworld debts, Junior is forced to break into the house of the most powerful man in Hollywood, the shadowy, widely feared studio mogul known as King Maybe.

The producer’s moniker comes from his penchant for buying intellectual property and then sitting on it until it’s all but forgotten. All the while killing interest with a sea of “Maybe(s)” until the property is devalued enough for him to make it on the cheap. The writers and artists involved are left holding the scraps and leavings while the King makes money on the cheap.

Junior would typically have no qualms about robbing someone like King Maybe except for one small problem: It’s an impossible break-in, and to get out of the house alive Junior will need to use everything he’s learned, plus a few skills he knows he doesn’t possess.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Timothy Hallinan has been nominated for the Edgar, Nero, Shamus, and Macavity awards. He is the author of seventeen widely praised books, including *The Fear Artist*, *For the Dead*, *The Hot Countries*, *Crashed*, *Little Elvises*, *The Fame Thief*, and *Herbie’s Game*, which won the Lefty Award for Best Humorous Mystery. After years of working in the television and music industries, he now writes full-time. He divides his time between California and Thailand.

**The Junior Bender Series: Reader Tested, Critic Approved**

**“A modern-day successor to Raymond Chandler.”**
***—Los Angeles Daily News***

**NPR Best Books of the Year (*Little Elvises*)
Winner of the Lefty Award (*Herbie’s Game*)
A *Philadelphia Inquirer* Best Book of 2014 (*Herbie’s Game*)
3 x *BookPage* Top Pick in Mystery
3 x *Crimespree Magazine* Book of the Year**

"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."
**—Nancy Pearl, on NPR's Morning Edition**

"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 Book Review***

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

"**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***

"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***

"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***

"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.**"
**—Derek Hill, *Mystery Scene***

“Bender's been a burglar since he was 14. He's "never been caught, never been charged," but he has been kissed. In *Little Elvises*, he describes one particular smooch as full of "sweetness" with a "shot of cayenne." And that's a perfect description for Bender himself. He has a big heart. It's just crooked. Bender still loves his ex-wife, adores his precocious daughter, but he's become the go-to guy for folks who can't go to the cops. **Think of him as a detective for the delinquent, a fixer for felons.**"
**—Carole E. Barrowman, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel***

"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**

"**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***

"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**

"**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***

**"A whirligig of a caper . . . Junior, drop by anytime. The valuables will be in plain sight."**
**—Bill Ott, *Booklist***