

TINI AY

Elle Cosimano	
(AUTHOR)	
Finlay Donovan Is Killing It	
(BOOK TITLE)	
DATE	TIME
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Award-winning author of several acclaimed young adult novels, including *Nearly Gone*, *Holding Smoke*, *The Suffering Tree*, and *Seasons of the Storm*. Elle's debut, *Nearly Gone*, was an Edgar Award finalist and winner of the International Thriller Writers Award and the Mathical Book Prize recognizing mathematics in children's literature. Her more recent young adult thriller *Holding Smoke* was an International Thriller Writers Award nominee and a Bram Stoker Award finalist. In addition to her novels, her essays have appeared in HuffPost and Time.
- She lives with her husband and two sons in Virginia.

ABOUT THE BOOK

- Finlay Donovan is killing it . . . except, she's really not. She's a stressed-out single-mom of two and struggling novelist, Finlay's life is in chaos: the new book she promised her literary agent isn't written, her ex-husband fired the nanny without telling her, and this morning she had to send her four-year-old to school with hair duct-taped to her head after an incident with scissors.
- When Finlay is overheard discussing the plot of her new suspense novel with her agent over lunch, she's mistaken for a contract killer, and inadvertently accepts an offer to dispose of a problem husband in order to make ends meet . . . Soon, Finlay discovers that crime in real life is a lot more difficult than its fictional counterpart, as she becomes tangled in a real-life murder investigation.

SETTING/LOCATION

- South Riding, Virginia
- Panera Bread - meeting place for her assassin job requests
- Sod Farm is near West Virginia state line

CHARACTERS

- Finlay Donovan - Narrator and Protagonist
- Delia Marie Donovan - Finlay's daughter
- Zach Donovan - Finlay's son
- Veronica (Vero) Ruiz - Delia and Zach's babysitter
- Steven Donovan - Finlay's ex-husband
- Theresa Hall - Steven's new fiancé
- Harris Mickler - Patricia's husband and Finlay's assassination hit
- Patricia Mickler - Harris's wife
- Julian Baker - The bartender that Finlay met
- Andrei Borovkov - The murder suspect OCN acquitted, Feliks' bodyguard
- Irina Borovkov - Andrei's wife. Patricia's friend
- Feliks Zhirov - Andrei's boss. A Russian mobster
- Nicholas Anthony - The detective, friend of Georgia
- Amiee - Theresa's sorority sister that was on Harris' phone
- Sylvia - Finlay's agent
- Bree - Steven Donovan's secretary
- Georgia - Delia and Zach's aunt. Finlay's sister
- Mrs. Haggerty - Finlay's nosy neighbor
- Ramon - Vero's cousin who fixed the van
- Aaron - A shelter volunteer and Patricia's love interest

THINGS I LOVED ABOUT THIS BOOK

- A woman who is falling apart is relatable. But when someone is falling apart this much it makes you feel better about your own hectic life
- She kept digging herself deeper and deeper
- It's a book about women sticking together
- It's a book where the bad guys die

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- What was your favorite character?
- Harris Mickler was, without question, a bad guy. Do you think his killing was justifiable?
- Are you team Nick or team Julian?
- Was there anything in the book that surprised you?

MEMORABLE SCENES

- Pg 8 - When Delia cut off her hair, Finlay attempted to fix it with duct tape
- Pg 13-20 - Finlay's initial Panera meeting with her agent Sylvia. Patricia Mickler misunderstood what she overheard at this meeting and asks for a hit on Harris, her husband for \$50k

- Pg 44-58 - Finlay goes to The Lush (bar), meets Julian the bartender (and tells him her name is Theresa) and commandeers Harris away from the woman he was going to drug, drugging/abducting him instead.
- Pg 67 - Finlay drives home with Harris in her van, then returns to garage and realizes the garage door was shut, killing Harris
- Pg 88 - Finlay and Vero bury Harris in Steven's sod farm
- Pg 98 - Vero later shaves Delia's head to correct the duct tape-fix, calls it a "mood"
- Pg 138 - Irina Borovkov puts a hit out on her husband, gives not to Patricia to give to Finlay
- Pg 161 - Finlay starts to write a book about what happens and sends draft to Sylvia
- Pg 164 - Vero and Finlay go to Patricia Mickler's animal shelter to find out where Patricia disappeared to, and they meet Aaron who is close to Patricia. Finlay again gives Theresa's name again.
- Pg 174 - Finlay receives a two-book deal for the book for \$75k each
- Pg 184 - Nick comes over sent from Georgia (sister) to collaborate with Finlay
- Pg 201 - Finlay goes to Irina's Spin Class to talk her out of the hit
- Pg 222-237 - Steven suspects Theresa is cheating on him, then Finlay sneaks into house when Theresa shows up
- Pg 279 - Takes Finlay to the lab and finds the sod from Steven's farm, talks about a warrant and Finlay freaks out
- Pg 303 - Sylvia releases book synopsis to newspaper
- Pg 312 - Finlay and Vero try to dig up the body in the sod farm, Andrei shows up and shoots himself after Finlay flings dust in his eyes
- Pg 326-333 - Warrant digs up the bodies and assumes it's all Feliks' doing, including Harris, Feliks arrested
- Pg 343 - Finlay meets up with Julian and tells him her life story
- Pg 348 - Finlay meets Irina at Panera to collect remainder of money and Irina gives her a note that Steven has a hit out for him for 100k

MEMORABLE QUOTES

- Pg 181 - "My mom was a single mother. She was resourceful and gutsy ... like you. If I had to pick a partner to stake my future earnings on—and maybe my freedom," she added with a wry smile, "I figured it was a safe bet to put my money on you."
- Pg 183 - Great, it wouldn't be the first creature I'd starved for oxygen within minutes of bringing it home. At least this one would be easier to bury.
- Pg 206 - Women must stick together.
- Pg 225 - Not because I forgave him for doing what he'd done. But because this was a fear I understood. Because I shared it. Because of all the things I had to be afraid of right now, this was the one that terrified me most, too.
- Pg 256 - 'Let us not attribute to malice and cruelty what may be referred to less criminal motives.' I make it a point never to assume the worst about people." "Maybe

you should.” “Sometimes people just make mistakes.”

- Pg 340 - Like Steven, sometimes it felt as if Nick only saw the parts of me he wanted to. For once, I just wanted someone who saw and appreciated what was really there all along.
- Pg 346 - I started where every story truly starts—not on page one, but at the very beginning.
- Pg 347 - Sometimes, I decided, you just had to sit down in front of a blank screen and start typing.
- Pg 352 - If it was sealed, I wouldn't be tempted to open it. And I couldn't be accused of knowing whose name was inside. Or how much their life was worth.