

New York Times best-selling author Joseph Finder's latest novel, **POWER PLAY** (August 21, 2007; St. Martin's Press; \$24.95), explores the ultimate corporate nightmare: What if the entire top leadership of a major corporation were abducted and held for the largest ransom in history?

Could it *really* happen? The answer is yes. Kidnappings and abductions of American business executives have increased dramatically in recent years.

Most of the time, however, they're kept quiet, though once in a while, an incident becomes public. The long captivity of the American businessman Thomas Hargrove, which inspired the Russell Crowe/Meg Ryan movie "Proof of Life," is the best known instance. A Lockheed-Martin engineer was kidnapped and beheaded in Saudi Arabia three years ago. Three Northrop Grumman contractors were kidnapped in Colombia four years ago and are still held hostage to this day. In certain countries such as Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia, kidnapping and holding for ransom wealthy foreigners or business executives has become a growth industry.

A new, highly secretive industry has thus evolved to deal with it—"risk management" firms that handle and try to resolve kidnappings on behalf of corporations, on call twenty four hours a day, around the world. No longer can a Fortune 500 company be without a "kidnap-and-ransom insurance" policy. And in **POWER PLAY**, Joseph Finder has finally penetrated the secrecy surrounding corporate security.

"At long last someone has done for executives what John Grisham did for lawyers," *Fortune* magazine proclaimed about the bestselling novels of Joseph Finder, which include *Paranoia*, *Company Man*, and *Killer Instinct*. Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point* and *Blink*, has says, "Joseph Finder is doing for the business thriller what John le Carré did for the spy thriller, moving it from the level of simple genre to something more complex and ultimately satisfying."

But **Joseph Finder**, whose sources in the intelligence community are legendary, is known for something else as well: his eerie track record at predicting the future. His first novel, the international bestselling *The Moscow Club*, was premised upon a coup in the Kremlin against Gorbachev — and published six months before the actual coup attempt took place. His novel *Extraordinary Powers*, which revolved around the exposure of a high-level CIA mole, came out shortly before the exposure of the notorious CIA mole Aldrich Ames. His novel *The Zero Hour*, concerning a terrorist attack on lower Manhattan, anticipated 9/11 by several years.

Now, in **POWER PLAY**, Finder has created another breathlessly paced thriller grounded in voluminous research — which may turn out, like his other novels, to be prophetic.

For more information, contact:
Steve Troha
Associate Director of Publicity
Steve.Troha@StMartins.com
646-307-5569