



Mastermind

Helen Goltz

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An ambitious plan to switch two planes in mid-air began as an online game...but now it is more...much more. It is one of a select number of plans to mastermind the perfect crime and only a chosen few will play for real.

From Washington DC to the London Underground, can Special Agent Mitchell Parker and his team shut down the crimes before it is too late?

If you love it when a plan comes together, hold on tight, because nothing is about to go right!

Mastermind Details

Date : Published 2014 by Atlas Productions (first published January 22nd 2010)

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Author : Helen Goltz

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review Mastermind for online ebook

Phrynne says

This is the first book I have read from this author and it will not be the last! It turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable crime novel with lots of action, a really good story and some very interesting characters. Mitchell Parker is the star and he is as intelligent, skilled, attractive and slightly flawed as every lead character in a detective novel must be. We discover a little about his past and what made him how he is but a lot more could be developed in the sequels. The dialogue is well written and I enjoyed the humour in the banter between the different members of the team. A very readable book and one that you do not want to put down.

Kathryn says

This took a little while to get into - just sorting out who was who and on which side, but after I'd worked that out, I really enjoyed this. There were a few typos, which didn't detract too much from the reading experience (but enough to stop me giving it 4.5 or 5★), but it was well-written and suspenseful and I actually stayed up into the wee hours finishing this one night!

I'm looking forward to reading more Helen Goltz, but my library doesn't have the second in the series, so I've requested it and hopefully they will buy it for me!

Rachel Chiapparine says

I was blessed enough to receive a free ebook copy of the book from Netgally in exchange for my honest review of the book which is as follows:

To be completely honest I almost didn't finish the book, for me personally it didn't get readable until page 148 after that I got lost a few more times but only on smaller storyline details.

It would have been nice to see some payoff in this book for all of the "will they won't they" between Mitch and the woman whom he is interested in however I understand that it probably won't be addressed until book #2. Overall I personally rate this book a 4 and half out of 10.

Craig Williamson says

I absolutely loved it! Suspense, drama, great storyline, international plot. I couldn't help imagining it as a movie someday. HM Goltz really gets the reader involved in this one! I believe HM has some other books out which I fully intend to get my teeth/eyes into!

Michael says

This book was given to me as a gift from the Author.

What do you get when you combine full on action, intrigue, girls that would put Bond girls to shame and even the odd humour? In book form it is this great action adventure read by Helen Goltz. The story goes of billionaire Lawrence Hackett who runs a secret web site where players are invited to mastermind the perfect heist. With a huge prize for the winner the rewards are high but the risks are great with either prison or death a distinct possibility.

In Washington D.C. special agent Mitchell Parker and his Trans-national crime unit foil an attempted gold heist only to find the crime is part of Mastermind competition and set out to foil it with agents from the team sent over the globe. The team know they have to think outside the box to shut down the operation and along the way will put their own lives at risk, have an agent who becomes rouge and another who decides to do things her own way. All roads will lead to Hackett's home town London. Will the team be able to shut down Mastermind and bring Hackett to justice?

As an action fan Mastermind was well up my alley and had me in its grip right from the first page. The best part for me was that the story didn't seem over the top while the subtle bits of humour added to what was a great read. If you are a fan of action and adventure then this book will provide you with all you will need to last you to the new year.

Brenda says

Billionaire Lawrence Hackett was excited – the next game of Mastermind was about to be unleashed. Once every five years a selected few would be chosen to participate – it was time again; he was sure this would fix his boredom; it was always intensely exciting. His directors joined him and they began their plotting...

Special Agent Mitchell Parker of the TransNational Crime Unit knew they would get results – his plan was flawless; he needed those security tapes. He just didn't need the stress and tension it took to get them. But what was on those tapes made it worthwhile and exceeded their expectations well and truly. It seemed a plan was afoot regarding a gold shipment – as he assembled his team, they dug deeply. And found there was much more involved than they had initially thought.

As Parker and his team joined forces with other government agencies across the globe, the danger was immense. Stopping the crimes before they occurred was their only agenda – could they do it? Or would they be too late?

This fast moving, suspense filled novel by Aussie author Helen Goltz is full of mystery and intrigue. The plot is excellent, the characters are well crafted and the tension is gripping! Stand aside Jack Reacher, Mitchell Parker is in town! I have no hesitation in recommending *Mastermind* highly.

With thanks to the author for my copy to read and review.

Chris Adams says

I thought it was a great read with some of the best written, credible and easily followed dialogue I have come across in this genre. The plot is fast moving and yet never confused me with useless information or irrelevant distractions. HM Goltz has captured the intrigue, mystery and power associated with international crime. Hopefully there will be more Mitchell Parker mysteries.

Steve says

Excellent book. Great characters, plot and action sequences. This is one that's hard to put down once you start. Only problem I saw is the mix between American and British idiom use with the characters. It was OK in the narrative, however when an AMERICAN character is using British phrasing occasionally only it would make me stop and make sure I was following correctly.

Kerri says

An enjoyable, fast paced read with lots of action that kept me turning the pages to see what was going to happen next. I loved the banter between the characters. I will be reading more from this author.

Carolyn says

This is a fast paced thriller with plenty of action. Mastermind is a competition to see which select team can pull off the perfect crime. US special agent Mitchell Parker and his team have stumbled across one plot and must race against time to find out where and when it is going to happen and somehow prevent it. The action is fast and thrilling as Mitchell and the team race around the country and around the world tracking some very clever and determined criminal minds.

The novel is mostly written in dialogue and while this is fast and often witty and moves the story along at a good pace I felt it did limit the character development somewhat. As the main character, Mitchell scores most of the dialogue and the action is centred around him so his character comes across quite well and I finished the book having a good idea of what he was like but felt the other characters were a bit flat and underdeveloped and I often had trouble distinguishing between them. However, if you like fast, plot driven thrillers you will enjoy this. 3.5★

Lorraine Montgomery says

Mastermind is an intricately crafted spy adventure by Australian author Helen Goltz that will keep you guessing right up to the last page. The premise is quite clever and multi-layered, involving a variety of characters who are readily acceptable yet not necessarily predictable. There is quite a bit of high tech involved as this is based on the idea of a high stakes, exclusive, Internet game where entrants submit what they think is "the perfect crime" and then 6 are selected to play for keeps off-line. The *mastermind* behind the scheme is bored billionaire Lawrence Hackett who sends out his board members from his corporate headquarters in London, England, to supervise 6 different *Mastermind* teams in various locations around the world.

This is **Book 1** in the **Mitchell Parker crime thriller series**. Mitch is a team leader for the FBI's Trans-National Crime Unit. He carries some personal baggage from his childhood that surfaces in nightmares when his schedule becomes erratic and days merge one into the other. Working with him on a tip-off to strange shenanigans in a university lab in Washington, D.C., are Samantha (Sam), Ellen (Ellie), Jameson

(J.J.), and their boss, John Windsor. Mitch also has a roommate, Charlotte, who is somewhat complicating his life, but in a good way.

Then, there are the players in the university lab. As Mitch and the team try to find out what kind of scam is being perpetrated, Mitch recognizes one of the players as his best friend growing up and through his air force years, Nick Everett. Even once they begin to unravel the boldness of what appears to be the planned theft of a planeload of gold, it still takes the team time to realize that the scheme extends far beyond this one bold scam in the U.S., and that there are 5 more crimes to prevent if time will allow. They have to come up with a way to uncover the involvement of a global corporation that is protected by layers of secrecy; a corporation that, in order to continue to protect themselves, will leave no witnesses behind. Mitch's team must split up, information seems to have leaked, and the life or death responsibility of the team weighs heavily on Mitch.

There are many twists and surprises as the plot develops, and the various daring crimes are wonderfully inventive. There is also some romance thrown in along the way. Goltz certainly seems to know her ordinance and there are some tense flying scenarios that keep the reader up in the air. At the beginning of the novel, I had a bit of trouble following the setting/character changes which flip around between the boardroom, the FBI team, the D.C. crime team, and Mitch's home life, as there are no asterisk divisions or anything like it other than extra spacing between them. However, I soon picked it up, and never looked back.

This is an extremely entertaining story with engaging characters, solid research, and lots of adventure. I'm looking forward to reading **Book Two** in the series, **Graveyard of the Atlantic**.

Amanda Apthorpe says

A great read that kept my heart racing until the end. This would make a fantastic movie or mini series.

MarciaB - Book Muster Down Under says

This book was kindly provided to me by the author for review.

*"A website inviting game players to mastermind the perfect crime is more than a game, much more!
It is the façade for billionaire Lawrence Hackett's real-life invitation-only competition to see who can perform the perfect heist. Only a select few are invited to play for the bounty at stake.
Special Agent Mitchell Parker and his Washington D.C. based team span the globe trying to prevent the real-life crimes before they happen!
Washington, Paris, London ... the clock is on!"*

The book is broken up into two parts and Part 1 follows Mitchell Parker (Mitch), Special Agent with the Washington DC-based Trans-National Crime Unit as he acts on a tip-off and, along with his team, carries out a reconnaissance to pilfer security tapes from the University. Those tapes contain important images which will assist Mitch and his team in identifying the key players of the game.

After watching the footage and through various investigations and surveillance, most of the players are identified and with a plan in place, Mitch and his team trail the suspects in an attempt to figure out how they all connect and to uncover the identity of the Mastermind.

There are some nail-biting scenes, for instance when Mitch, during surveillance, comes face to face with one of his oldest friends whom he has just discovered is playing for the other side as well as a heart-stopping mid-air battle between Mitch and a member of his team who has double-crossed them.

In Part 2, the countdown begins as we see Mitch and the team widen their search for the Mastermind and the final contestants in order to bring the whole operation down before any real damage is done. The clues are few and far between but Mitch and his team do a great job of anticipating what the next move is going to be.

I really liked this book, although it had me a bit confused in the beginning as it jumped around quite a bit. Mitch's character comes across as a bit anal, especially in relation to his work and the actions of his team members, which is not a bad trait at all for an investigator, but personally, I would have liked a bit more information on his past which would have afforded me a deeper connection to him. There are, of course, some glimpses, such as him struggling with bad memories and nightmares of a childhood with an abusive alcoholic father, but these are rare and I feel this back-story could have been expanded upon.

Aside from that fact though, for a first novel, Helen Goltz has produced an engrossingly compelling thriller which is well-written and action-packed. An elaborate and complicated plot makes this book one which is bound to keep you interested. I certainly will be looking out for the next one in this series.

Helen Goltz has worked as a journalist, marketer and producer for print and television in Australia for more than twenty years. Mastermind is the first in a series of novels featuring Mitchell Parker and his crime-fighting team.

Maggie says

Too much like a boys own adventure. Flat characters, either good or bad. Lots of adventure, a bit like Matthew Reilly but not as good.

Kerrie says

Contestants in Mastermind must plan and carry out the perfect crime. A prize pool of five million pounds will be divided among the Mastermind entrants who succeed. Entry is by invitation and only six entries will be selected to play. Each Mastermind act is allocated a supervisor and must take place in the month of November. Each Mastermind crime has to be unique, a crime that has never been carried out before. There have been two rounds of Mastermind in the past, and five crimes have been successful. The stakes are high, but the profits for the brains behind it are high as well.

Mitchell Parker's team from the FBI's Trans national Crimes Unit uncovers something suspicious during a routine surveillance of university activities, an extended booking of a high level science lab, and the rollercoaster ride of the novel begins there. The story is a thriller, a times a real page turner, a mix of ambitious plot lines and personal interest stories.

Helen Goltz is a new-to-me Australian author although she now has two books in this series published, and another one due out soon. I thought there were signs that MASTERMIND is a debut title, a few wavery plot lines, and some questions that at the end I had no answer to, but in general it is a good read.
