



## The Downside

*Mike Cooper*

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**The Downside** Mike Cooper

**The acclaimed author of the Silas Cade Thrillers introduces Finn, a thief who's about to learn that when you steal big, there's always a downside.**

In an age of cybercrime, Finn is the last hardhat. He's a professional thief with a unique specialty: He only steals big things--autoracks, factory lines, machinery. You might call what he does "heavy lifting." And he's no stranger to the downside of his chosen profession; he's done seven years' hard time to prove it.

Fresh out of prison and flat broke, Finn has a line on his biggest job ever. A beautiful woman with her own agenda has put him back in touch with a shady Wall Street billionaire. The job? Breaking into a private commodities vault and hauling out fifty million dollars worth of the precious metal rhodium. It's big, it's heavy, and it'll pull a lot of exposure. In other words, it's right up Finn's alley.

The vault is located underground in a high-security rail yard in New Jersey. The plan? Tunnel in. But there's only one group that can get it done, and Finn will have to call in the crackerjack team that landed him in prison in the first place: Asher, a cranky oilfield driller; Corman, a bearlike railway man; and Jake, a charismatic machinery expert--joined by Nicola, a female hacker who alternates between white and black hats.

Cracking the most heavily guarded private vault in North America? No problem. Hauling fifty million dollars in precious metal out past guards, dozens of policemen, and an armored SWAT battalion? Even easier. But navigating the betrayals of double-crossing partners, the machinations of a hedge-fund billionaire gone bad, and the ambiguous proposals of a woman with her own agenda? That's when things get twisty. This is the heist that will truly test Finn's mettle, and he'll need nerves of steel just to get out alive. But he's sure of one thing: This time, there's got to be an upside.

Says Brad Thor, "If you like Nelson DeMille, you will love Mike Cooper." From the author of *Clawback*--hailed by *Library Journal* as "a fast-moving thriller leavened by wit" and starring an unforgettable blue-collar antihero--*The Downside* hurtles along at a breakneck speed.

## The Downside Details

Date : Published September 5th 2017 by Mysteriouspress.Com/Open Road

ISBN : 9781504044615

Author : Mike Cooper

Format : Paperback 300 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Audiobook, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Downside for online ebook

### Michelle Kidwell says

The Downside

by Mike Cooper

Open Road Integrated Media

MysteriousPress.com/Open Road  
Mystery & Thrillers

Pub Date 05 Sep 2017

I am reviewing a copy of The Downside through Open Road Integrated Media and Netgalley:

Finn is the last hard hat in the age of cybercrime. He is a professional thief who only steals big things, autoraks, factory lines and other machinery.

Finn is just out of prison when he has a line on his biggest job yet. He is flat broke so the timing is right. A beautiful woman with an agenda of her own puts him in touch with a crooked Wall Street Billionaire. He wants him to break into a vault and haul out fifty million dollars worth of the precious metal Rhodium. It's big and heavy and right up Finn's alley?

Will he be able to pull this job off, or will he get caught trying to break into the high-security underground vault in New Jersey?

Find out in The Downside.

Five out of five stars.

Happy Reading.

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### Steve says

I was unfamiliar with this writer but boy, am I glad that I picked up this action filled crime caper. There is a lot going on in this book. The continuous action is compelling. Before the book ends, we are sharing time with all sorts of bad people, computer hackers and crooked CEOs alike. I especially liked the cybercrime because it rang true, especially given today's perilous tech environment.

Mr. Cooper concocts a fascinating blend of low and high tech crimes and criminals. Add a dash of homicide, sex, and violence and you have the ingredients for an outstanding crime adventure.

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### **Pamela says**

THE DOWNSIDE by Mike Cooper is advertised as being a "fast moving thriller....hurtling along at breakneck speed". This reader did not experience the thrill AT ALL. In my opinion, I felt it the pace is laborious, slowed down by technical jargon ( tunnel boring machines, excavator dimensions and weight, tapping into high voltage power lines, etc). All the technical details muddle the action of the storyline. The transitions from one chapter are choppy, jumping from one scenario to another, which disrupts the flow of the plot and is confusing. The characters are flat and one dimensional; I did not relate to or embrace them, and did not care about them or their fate. Therefore, the characters nor the action push the plot along, and instead of building to dazzling excitement, I was dazed with frustration and confusion. Another major flaw in the ( lack of) character development is the fact there is no MOTIVE behind their actions to commit another heist, funded by the same person who betrayed them before, which caused their arrest and imprisonment. I mean, how stupid is that? These are intelligent people, supposedly, yet they jump back in the fray after just being released from prison? No mention was made of parole checks? All the red flags are presented as a warning they are being duped and betrayed again...Whaaat? As has been quoted by Jodi Picoult, " When you have been burned by fire once, you don't jump into the flames again." Exactly. But these people do just that, defying logic and common sense, which makes this caper silly, implausible, and a waste of time.

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### **Jay Williams says**

If this was a movie it would be "Oceans something." It includes a variety of colorful and interesting characters attempting an impossible heist. The well-written story has twists, surprises, and betrayals as the plot unfolds. Despite the difficulty involved and the final betrayal, the ending is satisfying. Finn is a brilliant, old-fashioned criminal dealing with the different world he finds when his prison sentence is completed. The suspense deals with his growth, the attempt to find his betrayer, how to conduct a major crime without being caught, and how to deal with his growing interest in the woman who is his contact. There is more than enough to keep the reader occupied and interested. Definitely a great book.

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### **Linda Steighner says**

Mike Cooper's "The Downside" is a short heist/caper book that is an easy fast read. The main character Finn just gets out of prison (after 7 years) and is offered a job. Rather than having learned from his past mistakes, he gathers his old crew together and prepares for the vault heist. However an environmental protest may impede the success of the caper. The story was short so there was not much time to fully develop the characters. Sometimes the story got bogged down in the planning rather than the action. It showed potential but while I liked it, I was not upset when halfway thru I accidentally left the book at an aunt's house and did not get a chance to get back to finish it for several months. I was glad to complete the book, but not driven crazy by not being able to finish it right away, like I would have been with some other books.

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### **Rosann says**

Loved this fast-paced suspenseful heist adventure. The characters were fun, interesting, and surprising. Author Mike Cooper grips then carries you along for the ride without weighing you down with too much jargon, too much character analysis, too much extraneous detail. I found just the right amount of action and information about the characters/situations to keep me reading to the exclusion of the other books I am already reading. From the get go, *The Downside* was refreshing, compelling, and a thoroughly enjoyable read.

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### **Jannelies says**

Thank you Netgalley for this book.

*The Downside* happens to be almost exactly the kind of book I like to read. It is unconventional, with a very reluctant 'hero', full of action and reads almost like a movie script. Almost, I said, because there are some flaws. Sometimes the technical details are baffling and why in heaven's name is Finn making the same mistake twice? All in all, I liked reading it but I hoped for just a little more.

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### **C Cox says**

What do you do when you get out of jail? You plan to break in and rob the most secure vault in the world. Finn has just done 7 years for a similar crime. Finn did the most jail time of the group that worked the last heist and really wants to know who turned them in. One of them did. He's approached by one of the group involved in the last heist - to see if he wants to plan and manage the goes after this vault job. There's a multimillion dollar payoff if they succeed. But Finn's real motivator is revenge-gather the same crew together for this job and figure out who dropped the dime on them last time. This book took a few pages to get into but then you're hooked and have to keep reading to see if they succeed and Finn gets his revenge. Some technical construction jargon may put some readers off. With much thanks to Mysterious Press for the ARC.

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### **Shay Williams says**

Wow! I just finished *THE DOWNSIDE* and fell in love with Finn who is definitely an old school criminal. No computers for him. In fact, he reminds me of guys that you will meet in your local neighborhood bar after their shift except for the fact that he tends to get paid a lot more when things go right. And it's his turn for things to go right.

I do have to say that Mr. Cooper does a brilliant job with his characters. Some of them you will click with,

others not so much. Just like the folks that you meet in real life. Along with Finn, I really liked the characters of the hacker Nicola and Corman who is a jack of a lot of trades.

The reader is given the inside view to a caper that definitely involves some heavy lifting. We get to see as all the details fall into place as the big night comes closer and closer. We even get to join the gang as the heist takes place. A lot of twists and turns as the tension ratchets up.

I would recommend **THE DOWNSIDE** to any of my readers who enjoy a good thriller or crime drama. Personally I am hoping to see some more books with Finn and his crew.

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\*\*\* I received this book at no charge from NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review. All opinions expressed within are my own.

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### **Richard Uhlhorn says**

Great read! I love books that are complex, accurate and mysterious, and that end with a great twist. I'll read more Cooper in the future.

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### **John McKenna says**

#### **The Downside**

**Mysterious Book Report No. 316**

**by John Dwaine McKenna**

The MBR is kicking off the New Year 2018 with one of the best caper novels to come our way since *The Sting* was made into a movie back in 1973. It features one of the most unique bad guys in current crime fiction. His name is Finn and he's a professional thief who calls himself the last of the hard hats, that's because he only steals big things . . . like a tractor-trailer load of new luxury automobiles, or heavy machinery . . . even a couple of railcars full of exotic ores for processing high strength steel. Finn's a guy who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty, knows how to operate anything with a motor and has a hand-picked crew of men with calloused hands, dirty fingernails and larceny in their hearts. We meet them all in *The Downside*, (Mysterious Press/Open Road, PB \$14.99, 286 pages, ISBN 978-1-5040-4461-5) by Mike Cooper. Finn is fresh out of prison and flat broke. He's contacted by a beautiful woman named Emily who's the executive assistant to a shady Wall Street billionaire who wants to finance Finn's next job. It's easy . . . all he has to do is break into a high security commodities warehouse and make off with fifty million dollars worth of the precious metal Rhodium. Big and heavy, it's right up Finn's alley. He reassembles the very same crew from his last job, the one that put him in prison for seven years, and prepares to tunnel into an unbreachable vault. His only problem? Somewhere in his crew of construction workers is a turncoat . . . the rat who put him in prison. Determined, focused, and wary of everyone, Finn lays out a plan and starts buying heavy equipment to do the job. This novel moves at breakneck speed and never slows down, with a blue collar anti-hero you'll be rooting for, long before the novel comes to its dynamic conclusion. The MBR is fascinated by Finn, and looking for more of him from the award winning pen of Mike Cooper, which is the

pen name of author Mike Weicek.

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### **Rick Mitchell says**

Boring. Like reading a recipe - 95% of the book was preparation with no characters developed

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### **Don Gorman says**

(1 1/2). Here's the scoop: a good start, a fun finish and a pretty darn muddy middle. Finn is a pretty good protagonist but the two ladies in the plot, Emily and especially Nicola, are the characters that make this one go round. Not worth a great deal of brain power but modest fun.

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### **Viva says**

3 stars = I liked it as per GoodRead's rating system.

This short heist book reads like a movie script. It's short on detail but to the point on action and a fast read.

Short summary: Finn is out of prison after a 7 year stint. He is immediately offered a vault heist of valuable metals. He gathers up his old crew to plan a tunnel job. Meanwhile, activists gather for an environmental protest at the same time and around the same place that the heist is taking place. What will happen? Will Finn succeed or will the activists and police derail his caper?

A lot happens in 286 pages. The characters have to be introduced, the heist planned, scouted and made. The "other side" in the form of special railway agents is also shown, but it's somewhat a halfhearted effort that was better off not included, with the word count better off given to the heist instead. So while each event or character is given an adequate treatment, none was really fully developed enough for me to feel it. If it was a movie, I would have enjoyed it but forgotten all about it once I walked outside into the bright sunshine. As a book, I enjoyed it, now I'm writing a quick review and on to the next one.

I got this book free as an uncorrected proof.

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