

# BF

**BRIAN FINNEY**  
*Media Kit*



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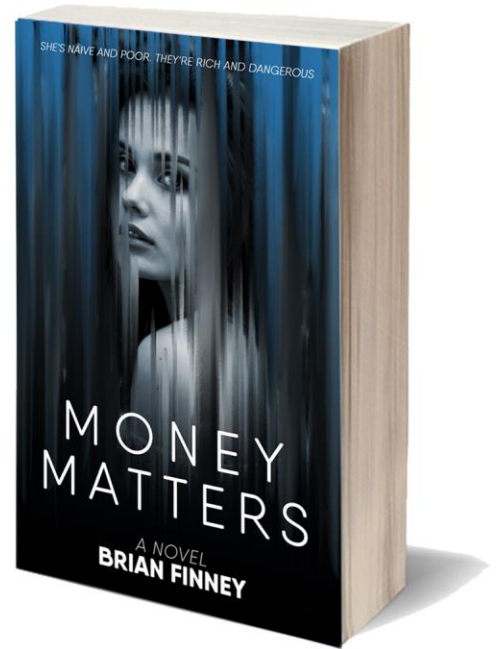
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**“A really remarkable piece of work—real, accurate, authentic, with a story that catches us at the opening and doesn’t let up.”**

*—David Peck, author of *Novels of Intention**

**“Brian Finney’s sensational new novel of manners and mystery, charts the social and political complexities of Southern California.”**

*—David St. John, award winning author of *Study for the World’s Body**



## **SHE’S POOR AND NAIVE. THEY’RE RICH AND DANGEROUS.**

Jenny is twenty-seven, bright, and barely surviving on two part-time jobs. One of them involves reviewing surveillance tapes for a major Los Angeles detective agency. But she soon finds herself out of her depth when a friend persuades her to investigate a woman’s disappearance. Her life is about to be upended. Just getting by will no longer work.

The action takes place in Los Angeles over six days surrounding the mid-term election in 2010. Jenny’s amateur sleuthing leads her into a web of intrigue that uncovers connections between big money, the election battle over immigration, and a drug cartel. The other employer for whom Jenny works is the CEO of a leading mutual fund company whose brother is running for governor on an anti-immigration platform part financed by his wealthy brother. When Jenny discovers that the CEO’s house has been bugged by the detective agency she works for the sinister web connecting politics, big money and the cartel threatens her life. Her major ally is the director of an immigrants’ rights organization to whom she is strongly attracted.

Before her search is over Jenny is forced to abandon almost every aspect of her existing life. Will she remake herself? Or will she sink under the powerful forces of big money? This short novel casts an exciting, ironic, and humorous light on the dark underside of a Los Angeles culture that is still dealing with these issues today.

# SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the book about?
2. Why did you write this book?
3. How long did it take you to write *Money Matters*?
4. What made you turn to fiction after writing non-fiction most of your life?
5. What fiction category do you think the novel belongs to?
6. Does the book's portrait of Los Angeles culture reflect your own?
7. Are you as ambivalent about social media as Jenny, the protagonist?
8. Where do you stand on the issue of immigration?

## FUN FACTS ABOUT BRIAN

1. Brian's grandmother was an opera singer from Hartford, Connecticut
2. Brian's father was a professional artist and his grandfather a miniature painter
3. Brian's father's painting of his mother and himself is in the Carlisle Art Gallery, Cumbria
4. While in London Brian organized theatre workshops with the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company
5. Brian emigrated from England in his 50s
6. Brian met with Samuel Beckett at the Closerie des Lilas, Beckett's favorite café in Paris
7. Maria Huxley told Brian years before he immigrated that he would be living in LA
8. Brian was appointed a full professor five years after being made an assistant professor
9. Since 2015 Brian has been attending a weekly life-drawing workshop
10. Brian's wife is a fine art photographer (see: [J.K. Lavin Portfolio](#) )



# AUTHOR BIO



Born in London, **Brian Finney** was educated at Bunce Court School in Wem, and Lord Williams's Grammar School in Thame. He obtained a BA (hons) in English and Philosophy at the University of Reading and a PhD on D. H. Lawrence's shorter fiction at the University of London. He spent three years as an officer in the Royal Air Force at Abingdon, then five years as an internal management consultant at Joseph Lucas Electrical in Birmingham and as a production controller at Standard Telephones and Cables in Harlow. In 1964 he transferred to the University of London's Department of Extra-Mural Studies where he taught literature and arranged extra-mural courses in the arts from 1964 to 1987.

In 1987 he emigrated to Southern California. After two years as a visiting professor at the University of California, Riverside and subsequent adjunct positions at UCLA and the University of Southern California, he became a full-time professor at California State University, Long Beach, teaching primarily in the English department, but also for Comparative Literature and the Honors program. He is currently a Professor Emeritus in the Department of English.

He has published eight books. *Since How It Is: A Study of Samuel Beckett's Later Fiction* (Covent Garden Press, 1972) was the first critical work to examine Beckett's later shorter fiction and incorporated responses by Beckett. His second book, *Christopher Isherwood: A Critical Biography* (Faber & Faber/Oxford University Press, New York, 1979), was awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for non-fiction that year. It was also voted one of the best three books of the year by Philip Toynbee in the Observer. He went on to publish *The Inner I: British Literary Autobiography of the Twentieth Century* (Faber & Faber / Oxford University Press, New York, 1985), the first full-length study of British literary autobiography; *D. H. Lawrence: Sons and Lovers: A Critical Study* (Penguin Books, 1990); *English Fiction Since 1984: Narrating a Nation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), a widely cited book about British fiction in the eighties and nineties; and *Martin Amis* (Routledge, 2008). He went beyond his discipline in his next work, one of political and social commentary, *Terrorized: How the War on Terror Affected American Culture and Society* (Amazon, 2011). He has also edited three editions of D. H. Lawrence's work, and published a range of essays and reviews, mainly centered on recent and current British fiction, in various journals and newspapers.

In 2019 he will be publishing his first novel, *Money Matters*, an unconventional detective novel in which a woman with no experience uncovers the whereabouts of a missing person with connections to the powerful CEO of a mutual fund company, a politician running for California governor in 2010, and a drug cartel. *Money Matters* will be available on Amazon's Kindle as an e-book and paperback.

He is married and lives in Venice, California.

## EMPLOYMENT

Department of English,  
California State  
University, Long Beach

- 2010-Present Professor Emeritus, California State University, Long Beach
- 2008-2010 Professor, California State University, Long Beach

## EDUCATION

1969-1973

PhD, English, Birkbeck College, University of London, England  
(Title of doctoral dissertation: "The artistic development of D. H. Lawrence as a writer of short stories.").

1953-1956

BA (Hon.s), English and Philosophy, University of Reading, England

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

2008-2009

Promotion to Full Professor Award, California State University, Long Beach

2008-2009

Assigned Time Award, California State University, Long Beach

2007-2008

Assigned Time Award, California State University, Long Beach

2006-2007

Assigned Time Award, California State University, Long Beach

2006-2007

Tenure/Initial Promotion Career Enhancement Award, California State University, Long Beach

2005-2006

Assigned Time Award, California State University, Long Beach

2004-2005

Assigned Time Award, California State University, Long Beach

1980

British Academy Research Fund Award.

1979

The James Tait Black Memorial Book Prize for the best biography of 1979.

1976

1970-1971

Arts Council of Great Britain Writer's Award. Two annual University of London Research Fund traveling scholarships.



## TEACHING COMPETENCE

### Primary fields

Post-1900 British fiction; post-1900 British literature; post-1900 drama (in English); critical and literary theory; cultural studies.

### Secondary fields

Introduction to literature, fiction, poetry and drama; English literature from Beowulf to the present; American literature since 1865; world drama from the Greeks to the present day; world literature; the humanities since the Renaissance.

## OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Occasional consultant reader, *PMLA*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, *Papers on Language and Literature*, and *Twentieth Century Literature*, 2005-8

Consultant Reader, *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory*, 1990-present

Consultant Reader, *Post Identity*, 1997-present

Consultant Reader, *Modern Language Quarterly*, 1988-1994

Organizer, Platform Lectures, National Theatre, London, England, 1978-1987

Member, management committee, Consortium for Drama and Media in Higher

Education, London, England, 1979-1987

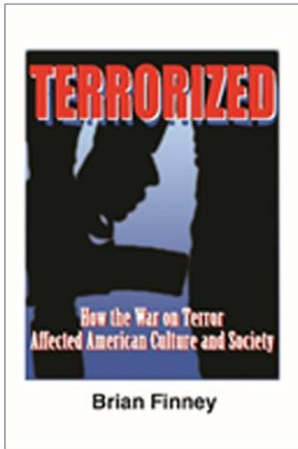
Organizer, public lectures, the Poetry Society, London, England, 1981-1987

Organizer, public lectures, the New Fiction Society, London, England. 1980-1981.

Organizer, public lectures, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, England, 1986-87

Joint organizer, drama workshops, Royal Shakespeare Company (at the Pit and the Warehouse), London, England, 1978- 1983

Secretary and member, editorial board, *The London Review*, 1967-1976



**Book Title: Terrorized: How the War on Terror Affected American Culture and Society**

Publisher: Amazon

Publication Year: 2011

ISBN-13: 978-0999800393

ISBN-10: 0999800396

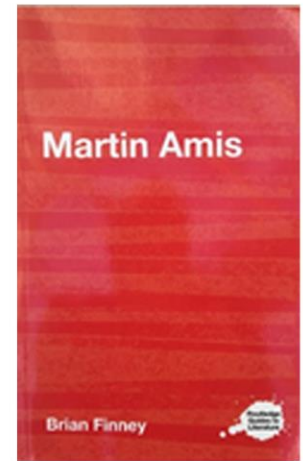
**Book Title: Martin Amis  
(Routledge Guides to Literature)**

Publisher: Routledge

Publication Year: 2008

ISBN-13: 978-0415402910

ISBN-10: 0415402913



**Book Title: English Fiction Since  
1984: Narrating a Nation**

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

Publication Year: 2006

ISBN-13: 978-0230008557

ISBN-10: 0230008550

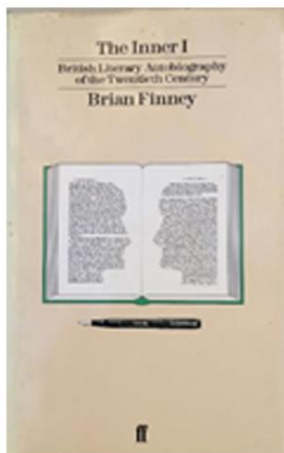
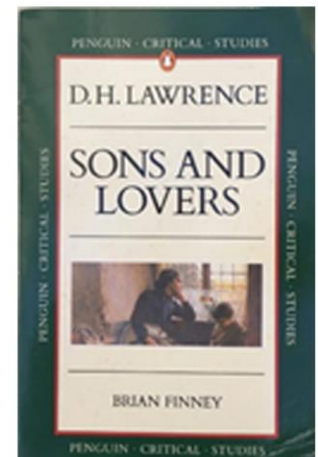
**Book Title: D.H. Lawrence's Sons  
and Lovers: Critical Studies**

Publisher: Penguin Books

Publication Year: 1990

ISBN-13: 978-0140772371

ISBN-10: 0140772375



**Book Title: The Inner I: British Literary  
Autobiography of the Twentieth Century**

Publisher: Oxford University Press, New York

Publication Year: 1985

ISBN-13: 978-0195037388

ISBN-10: 0195037383



**Book Title:** Since "How It Is": A Study of Samuel Beckett's Later Fiction

**Publisher:** Covent Garden Press

**Publication Year:** 1972

**ISBN-13:** 978-0902843363

**ISBN-10:** 0902843362

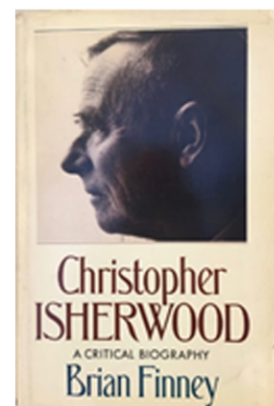
**Book Title:** Christopher Isherwood: A Critical Biography

**Publisher:** Oxford University Press

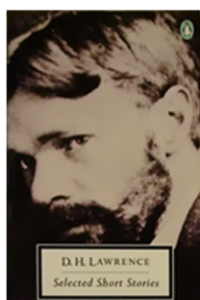
**Publication Year:** 1979

**ISBN-13:** 978-0195201345

**ISBN-10:** 0195201345



## EDITIONS



**Author:** D. H. Lawrence (Edited with an introduction and notes by Brian Finney)

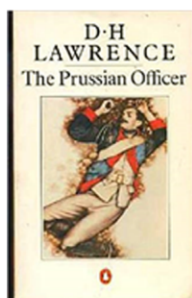
**Title:** Selected Short Stories of D. H. Lawrence

**Publisher:** Penguin Books

**Publication Date:** 1982

**ISBN-10:** 0140182144

**ISBN-13:** 978-0140182149



**Author:** D. H. Lawrence (Edited by John Worthen with an introduction and notes by Brian Finney)

**Title:** The Prussian Officer and Other Stories

**Publisher:** Penguin

**Publication Date:** 1981

**ISBN-10:** 0140005137

**ISBN-13:** 978-0140005134

**ASIN:** B001KRSUK4



**Author:** D. H. Lawrence (Edited by Brian Finney)

**Title:** St Mawr and Other Stories (The Cambridge Edition of the Works of D. H. Lawrence)

**Publisher:** Cambridge University Press

**Publication Date:** 1983

**ISBN-10:** 0521222656

**ISBN-13:** 978-0521222655





# CONTACT INFORMATION

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[@brianhfinney](https://www.instagram.com/brianhfinney)



[@brianfinneywri1](https://twitter.com/brianfinneywri1)



[www.pinterest.com/brianfinneywriter](http://www.pinterest.com/brianfinneywriter)