



## Mind Games

*Nancy Mehl*

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## **Mind Games** Nancy Mehl

Kaely Quinn's talents as an FBI behavior analyst are impossible to ignore, no matter how unorthodox her methods. But when a reporter outs her as the daughter of an infamous serial killer, she's demoted to field agent and transferred to St. Louis.

When the same reporter who ruined her career claims to have received an anonymous poem predicting a string of murders, ending with Kaely's, the reporter's ulterior motives bring his claim into question. But when a body is found that fits the poem's predictions, the threat is undeniable, and the FBI sends Special Agent Noah Hunter to St. Louis.

Initially resentful of the assignment, Noah is surprised at how quickly his respect for Kaely grows, despite her oddities. But with a brazen serial killer who breaks all the normal patterns on the loose, Noah and Kaely are tested to their limits to catch the murderer before anyone else--including Kaely herself--is killed.

## **Mind Games Details**

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Author : Nancy Mehl

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## From Reader Review Mind Games for online ebook

### Maddy says

SO GOOD ? RTC

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### Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

\*\*\*4.5 stars\*\*\*

I just found a new "must read series!" Unfortunately, this is book 1 and the next isn't scheduled to come out until later this year. (sigh)

I loved the quirky FBI Behavioral Analyst Kaelly Quinn. She is interesting and very good at what she does. Once you get to know more about her, her odd behavior just becomes endearing. She has been called out by a new serial killer. It is personal. He is after her. He writes a poem with clues that let her know she is the last on his list to die.

Nancy Mehl did a wonderful job at leading me to believe it was one person and then hinting that it was another. It was hard to guess who the "bad guy" really was. This book was a page turner and I really am looking forward to the next installment. I am hoping that some walls can be broken and that there may be a hint at romance in the future.

This book contains non-graphic violence and Christian themes. I received a complimentary copy from the publisher. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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### Yodamom says

3 Stars

Excellent narration

This was a good murder mystery profiler story better than most with a creative back story. I had planned on continuing the series till the last 1/4. All the characters seems to fit well in their rolls and I was not sure who did it till near the end. What threw this down was the "I'm a Christian" "I trust God" "I made an educated choice and believed in God"... There was so much of this all the sudden. Okay I was good with her being a Christian, a few sentences would have been fine. But I felt it turned into an evangelistic read at the end. There was a speech on her why's and how it was truth. The MC had several characters questioning their beliefs. Why ? This didn't fit in with the story, this wasn't a Christian book and it was directed out from the character. I'm not a Christian, but I will read Christian writings and have enjoyed them. I do not like feeling like I was snuck attacked by a hidden Christian read that wasn't marked as one.

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### Rhonda says

This is Nancy Mehl's best book by far!!! I have read almost all of Nancy's books from Amish/Mennonite's to Mystery. I really enjoy books with mystery suspense added to any romance. The romance in this book is subtle, but powerful. The characters are well-developed. I loved some....Kaely, Noah, Richard....and I suspected some through the entire book. My thoughts and feelings towards characters would often change. Nancy kept me guessing and dying to continue to read. I am very busy caring for grandchildren, and I could hardly wait til evening when I could pick my kindle and disappear into Kaely Quinn's world. This is a novel that you won't want to miss. I am highly recommending this Christian fiction/mystery/suspense. I am rating it 5 stars and I would give it 10 stars if that rating were available. Thank you, Nancy, and get to work on book #2!!!

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### **Kav says**

Whoa! I'm stunned and my head is still spinning over that twisty-turny nosedive at the end. This might just be Nancy Mehl's best book to date which is saying something because I adore her stories! But this one is...definitely on a whole other level.

A psychological thriller of a mystery with some of the elements of a Criminal Minds episode but without the TV series' over-the-top ghoul factor. :-) For cautious suspense readers I can honestly say I can't watch Criminal Minds without getting nightmares but I gobbled up Mind Games for all it's deliciously shivery suspensey goodness. Fascinating police procedural with one of the most complex heroines I've ever met within the pages of a book!

Kaely's backstory is so complex and intriguing. Her coping mechanisms -- her profiling techniques -- the brilliance that masks a touching vulnerability. And most surprising of all -- her deep and abiding faith. Something that fellow agent Noah can't understand but Kaely doesn't shy away from sharing.

"I have a lot of issues leftover from my past. God has never condemned me for them. He just keeps leading me slowly but surely out of the dark, at the pace I need." (p 165)

Engaging in mind games with a serial killer is the first case Noah and Kaely share but it won't be their last. Love the way their relationship develops over the course of this book. He's wary, she's reserved and learning to trust each other is central to their moving forward both professionally and personally. This isn't a romance, but I have the feeling that one is going to develop over the course of the series.

Intense, clever, exceptionally paced -- Mind Games is the epitome of a page-turner! I guarantee you won't be able to put this one down until you've reached the mind-blowing conclusion.

Book provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications Inc.

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### **Lilian says**

Oh my goodness! This was such a good read. I loved how the author made the book fairly long without seeming draggy AT ALL (I mean, I read it in one day. ONE DAY.). It was definitely very well paced. I really enjoyed the murder mystery. I have a tendency to dislike murder-related / creepier stories because they

CREEP THE CREEPS OUT OF ME, but I think this one was done well. There was one creepy part, but it was very... lightly creepy.

The story itself is very original- I've never read a book with a character like Kaely -I really enjoyed her way of solving crimes. Everything is solved by pure facts / intuition, instead of luck. There were a couple of times where a character's POV suddenly switched to another character's POV without any notice (without any dividers, italicization, etc.), and I found that really confusing. I'm sure it's just a little issue in formatting that the ARC copies have though?

Overall, I really liked Mind Games! I'd certainly recommend it to anyone who's interested in FBI / solving crimes. **4 stars.**

**\*FTC DISCLOSURE: I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts are my own and a positive review was not required.\***

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### **Cara Putman says**

Mind Games is the latest from Nancy Mehl, and it is an intense read. Kaely Quinn is a profiler with the FBI, but finds herself in intense danger when a reporter releases the information that she is the daughter of a serial killer. Someone is convinced she knew about her father's crimes and did nothing about it...and to that person, it's time she pays for the sins of her father. Noah is the reluctant agent assigned to be her partner and protector. As someone starts recreating deaths of killers whose cases she consulted on, Kaely knows she is running out of time. Will they stop the killer before he stops her? You'll have to read Mind Games to find out. I found this book to be a compelling read and I can't wait for the next one in this series. It's truly Nancy's best book to date.

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### **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

Wow. Wow. WOW.

Buckle up for this one, y'all! I'm not even sure how to review it because I don't want to give away any spoilers and all I really want to keep saying is 'Wow'. lol.

That ending.

Wow.

Ok. I'll try to pull myself together here and give you helpful information. (But seriously, y'all, wow.)

Kaely Quinn is one of the most complex characters I've met in a long time – perhaps the most complex heroine I've ever encountered in fiction. Her backstory alone has multiple emotional layers that are continuing to be revealed as the story – and the series – progresses. The more we learn about Kaely, the more fascinating her character becomes. Her partners Alex and Noah – one former, one current – are great

counterpoints to her character, especially as they respond to & respect her unique process as they work to solve the case.

The poem sent to Kaely – which foreshadows the events of this riveting thriller – is chilling, precipitating a race against time to stop the murders before they happen ... if they can figure out who is the next target. So much great psychological profiling as Kaely and Noah try to stay a step ahead, and if you're a fan of "Criminal Minds" on TV you're going to love this too.

I read A LOT of books, and it's not often that I am surprised by one so thoroughly. That alone earns it all 5 stars as far as I'm concerned. Once you reach a certain point in this book, forget putting it down to sleep – you'll be absolutely glued to the page. And if you're like me, once you reach the end, you may just say "wow" a few hundred times before actual vocabulary is restored to you.

Bottom Line: Mind Games is Mehl's best book yet! You may want to read this with all the lights on – and don't plan on putting it down until you've reached the very last word. There is some romantic potential here in future books, hints in this one, but it definitely doesn't overpower the storyline. Layered, complex, and compelling – the plot and the heroine – this is a must-read for fans of psychological thrillers and FBI procedurals alike. Wow.

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

first seen at Reading Is My SuperPower

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## **Sarah Grace Grzy says**

4.5 stars

First off . . . that cover! It's so gorgeous and fits the books so perfectly! I will definitely be buying a hard copy, it's so gorgeous. ;)

This book was very . . . 'mindblowing' is the word that comes to mind. So many twists and turns! I am really looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

Kaely Quinn is a very complex and interesting character. Her quirks and her job make her so unique. I'm not sure I've read a book with a character that was even similar to Kaely. Noah Hunter was also interesting, but I feel like Mehl only scratched the surface of his character in this book, and I hope she'll delve deeper in the upcoming books.

The story and plot were also very unique and grabbed my interest from the beginning. The premise of Kaely's job and her methods were fascinating as well. While a little light on action (until the end, that is.) there was definitely loads of suspense, and, as I mentioned, a ton of completely unexpected twists and turns! I thought I had the villain pegged, but was completely shocked when his identity was revealed. The faith elements were woven in very effectively and weren't too backseat or too in-your-face. While overall the story was wrapped up by the end of the book and left you feeling satisfied, there are still a lot of threads to be continued in later books.

My one issue is with a few medical inaccuracies - such as a guy with a minor gunshot wound to the chest and

a couple of broken ribs maneuvering himself around in a wheelchair . . . Um. Broken ribs alone are incredibly painful, and using your upper-body strength to push yourself in a wheelchair would be far more painful and taxing than just walking.

Overall, this is a masterfully-written novel of suspense, and I am greatly looking forward to reading more in the series! Highly recommended!

FTC disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of this book from NetGalley. I was not required to write a positive review. These are my honest thoughts and opinions.

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### **Caitlyn Santi says**

3 Stars

I've read two of this author's books in the past, and loved them both! I was immediately intrigued by this story the moment I read the description, and was excited to read it.

But, sadly it fell flat for me. It was a good read and there were some things about it that I loved, Kaely's profiling system in particular was fascinating to read about! While I really wanted to love this one, I just didn't ever fully connect with it, and I'm not really sure why that was.

Overall, even though I didn't love Mind Games I am still glad I read it, and I do plan to read the next book in the series. I'm sad to say this book just wasn't a favorite for me, but I am well aware that I am in a tiny minority, because so many people I know have loved it. So, please don't just take my word alone, and if this book interests you then I highly recommend you give it a try.

I received an ebook copy of this book from the publisher. The above review is my honest opinion. All thoughts and opinions are one hundred percent my own.

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### **Brittany says**

I am so impressed with this book! I thought that the premise for Mind Games sounded interesting, however they way the author crafted the storyline of this novel made it far exceed my expectations. It is really unlike any other book I have read.

I liked the main characters, Kaely and Noah, and found that they worked well together. I was also intrigued by various side characters in the story.

I absolutely loved the way that Kaely's mind worked. It was impressive to see how her train of thought progressed through the various options to come to the correct conclusion.

The suspense and tension of trying to figure out who the mastermind was behind the killings really propelled the story and lead to a superb ending that has me anxiously awaiting book two in the series!

I received a complimentary copy of this book. All opinions are my own.

You can read this review on my blog:  
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

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## **Jen. says**

I have never met a character quite like Kaely Quinn.

Wow!

This story is an absolute page turner! The storyline is excellent. I was on pins and needles the entire time! This book honestly kept me guessing until the very end!

And, that cover sets the mood for the story perfectly!!

There's so much I want to say about this book but I don't want to spoil the experience of reading this first hand. This book was really great thriller and I totally recommend it! I am definitely looking forward to reading more books starring Kaely Quinn!!

**Mind Games** by Nancy Mehl releases on December 4, 2018.

*I received an advanced copy of this book from Bethany House Publishers through NetGalley. A positive review was not required. All opinions expressed are my own.*

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## **Paula Shreckhise says**

Mind Games by Nancy Mehl is one of the best suspense novels I have read this year.

This is such an interesting premise: A profiler who is the target of a serial killer. It will definitely keep you on your toes. Nancy Mehl is truly playing “Mind Games” with the reader. It made me sit back and say “WOW”!

I wanted to read this book about Kaely Quinn because it takes place in St. Louis, where I lived for twenty years. This is familiar territory for me but the story is completely unique! The twists and turns of the case make it a real page turner. Excellent research makes this novel feel very authentic. And the writing style is so effortless, it puts you right there with Kaely every step of the way.

The faith thread is the “bones” of the story because Kaely truly relies on God through all the difficulties. Yet Ms. Mehl portrays her as a flawed person who is functioning well at her job as an FBI profiler.

The supporting characters were very well-drawn and pique my interest into what is in store for the next book. Without being a cliff-hanger, you know there is much more in store for Kaely Quinn.

If suspense is your go-to genre you won't want to miss this intriguing book by Nancy Mehl.

\*I was given a complimentary copy of this book by the publisher on behalf of the author. I was not required



to give a favorable review. All opinions are my own.\*

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## **Trixi says**

First off, I must confess that I have a few other books by Nancy Mehl sitting on my shelf unread. It's not due to lack of interest, but a case of way too many books and way too little reading time! I've often fantasized I could clone myself just to get more reading in! That being said, I wished I wouldn't have waited this long to discover her writing because this book was beyond my expectations! I've read a LOT of suspense in a LOT of various topics & subjects written in this genre, however, the combination of thriller/psychological angle added an extra layer that had me hooked from the start. It's just like the title conveys, a definite mind game for both the reader and Kaely Quinn. Step into her world and it's as if you've stepped into a whole other dimension where the game of cat and mouse has dangerous & fatal consequences!

Kaely's character was excellently portrayed; she's smart as a whip, excels in her job as an FBI behavioral analyst, and has a natural knack for reading people. She's what I would call a slayer of human monsters; those who kill without remorse or thought for life. The killer who has a personal vendetta against her wants to trip her up, make her doubt her abilities and mete out revenge for some unknown crime committed against him. She's desperately racing against time to save not only herself but those who are victims in a sick & twisted poem the killer writes just for her. With the help of special agent Noah Hunter as lead, can they stop this reign of terror and bring the psycho to justice before it's too late?

Like I said, this exceeded my expectations! I had an inkling of who might be behind it all about halfway through, but not until the very end did I find out if I was correct or not. Mehl throws in a lot of twists and turns to throw off the reader. The only thing I was a little disappointed in, there wasn't a lot of romance in the story. It was hinted at, and subtly under the surface, but it never fully developed. I love romantic suspense and watching the hero and heroine falling in love in the midst of danger. In spite of this, it didn't deter my enjoyment of the story. And I get to look forward to the second book where we revisit both Kaely and Noah, so there's hope for romance yet! A definite page turner and a thrilling mind game all through the pages, I honestly couldn't put this down. She hooked me from the start and never let up on the tension throughout. I really love an author who can stump you and keep you guessing until the very end.

\*I received a complimentary copy from Bethany House and was under no obligation to leave a positive review. All opinions are my own. \*

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## **Hallie Szott says**

4.5

Wow! Nancy Mehl's *Mind Games* is a wild ride from start to finish. With artful suspense, surprises, and detail, the mystery unfolds on the pages and kept me guessing until Mehl reveals the killer in the end. It's an unputdownable page-turner, for sure.

At the center of all the action is Kaely Quinn, an FBI behavioral analyst who is also the daughter of a serial killer. Her methods are unusual, but she knows how to do her job well, motivated by her haunting family history. So, when a chilling poem arrives promising a string of deaths leading to Kaely's, there is little question who should take on the investigation.

To catch this new serial killer, Kaely begins working with Special Agent Noah Hunter. The partnership highlights the complexities of Kaely's character and faith and prompts a bit of fun banter—and a hint of potential romance, too—all while closing in on the culprit. Kaely and Noah challenge and balance each other well, and I look forward to seeing how they progress together in Book Two.

A thriller reminiscent of *Criminal Minds*, *Mind Games* is twisted and entertaining and does not disappoint. I highly recommend it.

This review is also posted on [Book by Book](#).

Thanks to Celebrate Lit, I received a complimentary copy of *Mind Games* and the opportunity to provide an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review, and all the opinions I have expressed are my own.

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