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An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers
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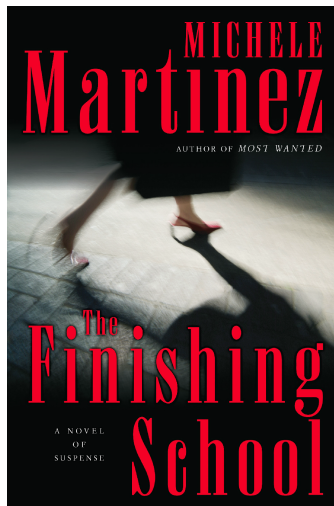
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**A SEXY PAGE-TURNER ABOUT UPTOWN SCHOOL GIRLS,
DOWNTOWN NIGHTCLUBS AND MIDTOWN LAW & ORDER**

**Former Federal Prosecutor Michele Martinez Delivers a Knock -Out
Thriller with the Pace, Energy, and Lurid Appeal of New York City**

THE FINISHING SCHOOL

By Michele Martinez



On Sale: 1/3/06
ISBN #: 0060724005



Publisher: William Morrow
Price: \$23.95
Type: Hardcover

“As a federal prosecutor in New York City, I spent most of a decade locking up hardened criminals. Specializing in narcotics and gangs cases, I knew crime inside out. By the time I left that job, I’d done so many drug trials, listened in on so many wiretaps, and debriefed so many cold-blooded killers and thugs about so many different types of crimes, that I could have gone out and committed one myself. And gotten away with it. So it seemed like an obvious evolution to start writing suspense novels based on my gritty real-life experiences.”—Michele Martinez

With her natural gift for storytelling and a versimilitude gleaned from her experience in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Michele Martinez delivers a delicious new thriller that is plotted and characterized with the precision of the lawyer she used to be. In **THE FINISHING SCHOOL** (Morrow; January 2006), the follow-up to her debut, Martinez sets an energetic narrative pace and keeps readers guessing until the very last page.

The story opens in a glittering penthouse high above Park Avenue, where two beautiful teenagers, students at an exclusive Manhattan private school, lie dead under suspicious circumstances. Federal prosecutor Melanie Vargas takes on this high-profile new assignment, and soon finds herself on a dangerous chase that leads her from the rarefied world of New York's elite private schools, to the darkest recesses of the city's underground drug and nightclub culture, and the beaches and rain forests of Puerto Rico. Ultimately, she finds herself in a life-threatening struggle with a devious murderer who has no intention of getting caught.

The second installment in a critically acclaimed new crime series by Michele Martinez that has been hailed as a "breakout" by USA Today, **THE FINISHING SCHOOL** offers not only high-voltage suspense but one of the most appealing heroines to come out of crime fiction in years. A smart, ambitious professional who rose from humble beginnings in one of New York's toughest Puerto Rican neighborhoods, Melanie Vargas is also a dedicated mother and betrayed wife, struggling to balance her personal life (including a powerful attraction to the handsome FBI agent she's teamed with) against her demanding career.

THE FINISHING SCHOOL is an intelligent, highly entertaining, and gripping contemporary thriller by a talented newcomer with a tremendous future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born to a first generation Puerto Rican father and a Russian Jewish mother, Michele graduated from Harvard University and Stanford Law School and spent years as a federal prosecutor in New York City. She lives in Manhattan with her husband and two sons. Learn more about Michele at www.michelemartinez.com.

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By Michele Martinez

On-Sale January 3, 2006

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ALSO AVAILABLE IN AUDIO CD

**To Arrange Interviews with Michele Martinez or for more information,
please contact Dee Dee De Bartlo,
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