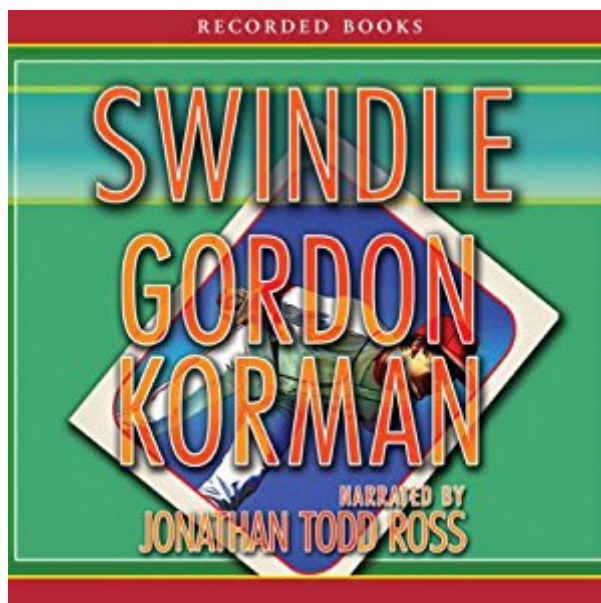


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# Swindle



## Synopsis

Ocean's 11 . . . with 11-year-olds, in a super stand-alone heist caper from Gordon Korman! After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card. There are many things standing in their way -- a menacing guard dog, a high-tech security system, a very secret hiding place, and their inability to drive -- but Griffin and his team are going to get back what's rightfully his . . . even if hijinks ensue. This is Gordon Korman at his crowd-pleasing best, perfect for readers who like to hoot, howl, and heist. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours 31 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: October 24, 2008

Language: English

ASIN: B001JDPYOY

Best Sellers Rank: #91 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Animals #866 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fiction

## Customer Reviews

I love this book for kids to read. I love this book for me to read! This book conjures up memories of the old "Hardy Boys" series where relationships and friendships were an important part of growing up. In an age where kids today interact more through social media than face-to-face contact, this book brings you back to the basics of friendship and family. The loyalty that Ben Slovak has for his friend and main character Griffin Bing, aka "The man with the Plan", is admirable. The plan that Griffin puts together to right the wrong that was done to him by an adult store owner is ingenious. Of course, keep in mind that this is a fiction/adventure story and you must take the leap of faith and enjoy the ride. Griffin's understanding that, in order to carry out his rather elaborate plan, it would require a very special team. From his school acquaintances, he recruits the proper people for the jobs at hand; a "dog whisperer", a rock climbing expert and I especially liked the way he includes a high-tech, loner nerd girl. Her involvement was the first time she was ever a part of a team and this established a level of confidence and acceptance that she had never experienced before. Please

remember that this is a fiction/adventure story and I do not advocate kids planning and carrying out major heists. But this book teaches the value of friendship, planning, team work and follow through of a plan as a valuable life lesson. Besides that, it was fun to read.

Gordon Korman has been around for what? 30 years at least and the guy still knows how to write. SWINDLE comes across like an OCEAN'S ELEVEN or MISSION IMPOSSIBLE for kids. Griffin Bing is "The Man with a Plan," and his plans are often huge. The book starts off with Griffin's plan to spend a night with a bunch of his classmates in a creaky, old, rumored-to-be-haunted, ready-to-be-torn-down house, a plan that doesn't exactly come off with a bang. At least not the one he intended. The only person to show up is Ben Slovak, the runt of the sixth grade and Griffin's best friend. The first part of the book is intended to draw in youthful readers with gory tales and details of gruesome events that allegedly took place in the house. It works. I've read a few negative comments that the author endorses lying to one's parents and like sentiments. Korman doesn't endorse such behavior; he uses it to create characters. The book is not intended to be hagiography. Find me a child who's never lied to his/her parents. Find me a parent who's never lied to her/his child. Santa Claus, anyone? Anyway, without giving much of the plot away, Griffin finds something quite valuable in the house, but is quickly swindled out of it by a slimy "antiquities" dealer. So Griffin has to concoct another scheme to get his treasure back. Kudos to Korman for his pacing. With a hundred pages to go, the master plan is already being implemented. "How's he going to stretch this thing out that far?" I wondered. But he does, with surprises, twists, screwups, and backstabblings that pop up at breakneck speed throughout the long, climactic event. Of course, much of the overall premise is ludicrous, if you're going to get technical. Everything is timed to the second; missteps can be corrected within two pages, a bad guy's hands are within inches of a treasure right as the good guys steal it away with a Batman or James Bond like device. Real life isn't like this. But this is not written as a realistic crime thriller. It's written for kids and the main thing that will attract them is the fast-paced action in which kids outwit adults. Any of your typical bank heist movies could use whizzes like these. And in the end, good triumphs over evil, Griffin saves the day (though inadvertently), and kids have devoured an entertaining read. I did have some problems keeping all the characters apart at times, but Korman helps by assigning one or two distinctive traits/talents to each character, kind of like a baseball scorecard might assign positions to players. One girl is the climbing expert, another is an "animal whisperer," another has narcolepsy, etc. I also commend him for salting the early part of the story with details that will become important later on. So SWINDLE may not be chock full of vitamins for kids, but it is a very enjoyable bowl of popcorn, perfectly

seasoned. If I had this book in sixth grade, I would have loved it.

When a valuable baseball card is stolen by a swindling store vendor, an unlikely group of kids join forces to get it back. Quirky characters and hilarious mistakes break up the tension as a group of kids face dangerous guard dogs and almost get arrested. A great read for kids looking for adventure!

inappropriate for children. This book starts off with some graphic violence that is completely unacceptable for a book targeting for young children. We were shocked and disgusted that this book had no warnings or indications of its violent content. Deplorable and disgusting.

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I first encountered this book when I worked as a substitute teacher n a 5th grade classroom. It interested me so much I had to read the whole book. I was not disappointed in the rest of the book. It has a lot of action.

I loved this book. Excellent story, I ate up 30% of it on the night I finished this. To be honest I have not loved a story this much for a while. Eight out of eight mate! Getting the second one as soon as I get some money for more kindle books.

Purchased this book for my grandson as a required reading for school. He totally loved this book giving me updates as the story progressed.

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