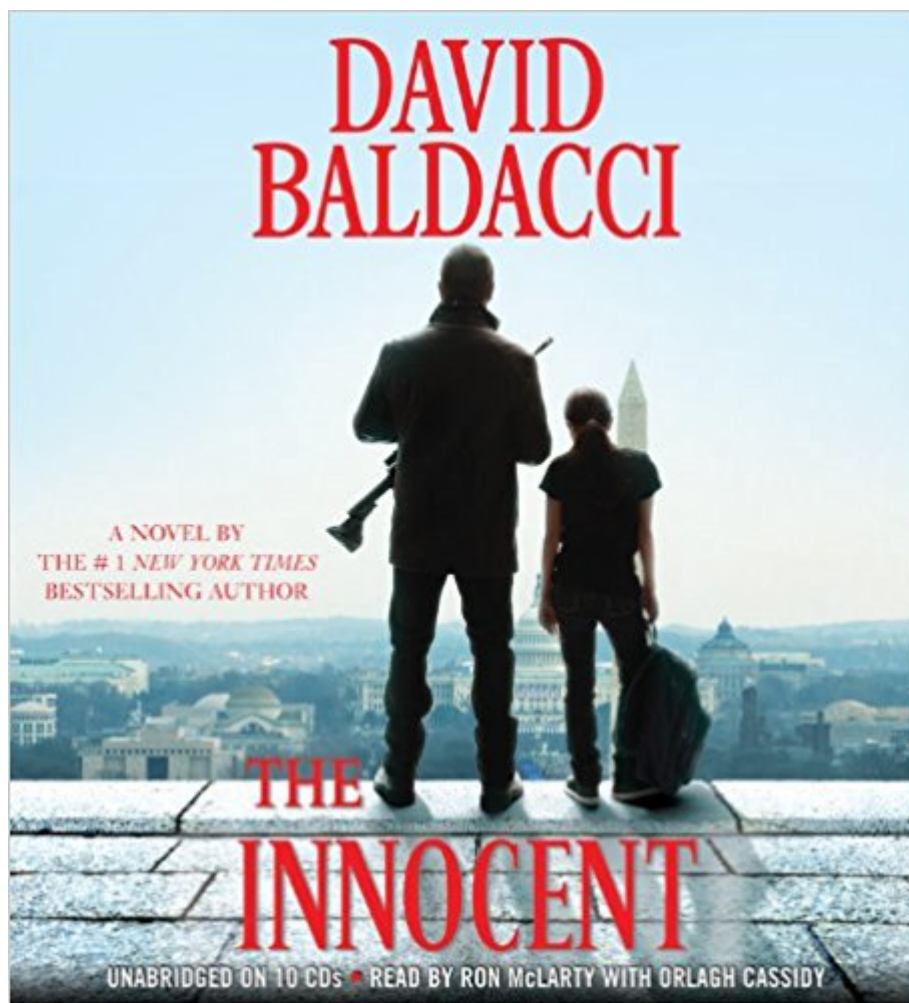


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The Innocent



Synopsis

America has enemies--ruthless people that the police, the FBI, even the military can't stop. That's when the U.S. government calls on Will Robie, a stone cold hitman who never questions orders and always nails his target. But Will Robie may have just made the first--and last--mistake of his career . . . THE INNOCENT It begins with a hit gone wrong. Robie is dispatched to eliminate a target unusually close to home in Washington, D.C. But something about this mission doesn't seem right to Robie, and he does the unthinkable. He refuses to kill. Now, Robie becomes a target himself and must escape from his own people. Fleeing the scene, Robie crosses paths with a wayward teenage girl, a fourteen-year-old runaway from a foster home. But she isn't an ordinary runaway--her parents were murdered, and her own life is in danger. Against all of his professional habits, Robie rescues her and finds he can't walk away. He needs to help her. Even worse, the more Robie learns about the girl, the more he's convinced she is at the center of a vast cover-up, one that may explain her parents' deaths and stretch to unimaginable levels of power. Now, Robie may have to step out of the shadows in order to save this girl's life . . . and perhaps his own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A] spectacular entry into the hardcore action-adventure world...a tour de force of storytelling power and grace. Baldacci at his best, which is as good as it gets."-- Providence Sunday Journal
"This is another great novel by a brilliant writer. Baldacci catches you from the very first page and grabs your attention until the last word. Read it."-- Lincoln Journal Star (NE)
"Another action tale of

espionage and betrayal from a master storyteller. Baldacci brings his unusual, distinctive skill in character development to portray people who seem very real, with a degree of unpredictability that advances this very clever plot."-- The Free-Lance Star" This book is a definite one-day, 'edge-of-your-chair' read, with an ending that is a complete surprise. One of the best Baldaccis since *Absolute Power*, this is one that will have all suspense readers enthralled."-- Suspense Magazine" Baldacci...crafts government-inspired thrillers like nobody else."-- Inside Jersey" The Innocent is....all-American, all-heart... a maze of bread-crumbs clues keeping you riveted to the page as each precious minute ticks toward its deadly ultimatumHis talent for weaving so many disparate and delicate strands into a perilous web of deception is masterful, resulting in a remarkable, intellectually satiating experience."-- Everyday eBook" The Innocent is Baldacci at his absolute best...Baldacci provides the reader a non-stop pulse pounding ride that will keep you on the edge of your seat into the wee hours of the morning...Five Stars."--Examiner.com" David Baldacci is still at the top of his game...He is a meticulous writer who blasts his plot into a million pieces yet is able to pull it back together before the final page is turned. [He] continues to impress."-- The Huffington Post" The spine-chilling action begins on the first page and doesn't let up until the last...The Innocent is not just a scary read; this is heart-stopping stuff!"--BookReporter.com" Forget *Fifty Shades of Grey*--the page-turner of the season is *The Innocent* by David Baldacci...The reader wants for nothing: there are car chases and shootouts, snipers and moles, safe houses and digestible bio-transmitters...The tale starts at a blistering rate and accelerates through 100 short action-packed chapters...this is Baldacci back at his best."-- The Times (London) --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

David Baldacci is a global #1 bestselling author, and one of the world's favorite storytellers. His books are published in over 45 languages and in more than 80 countries, with over 130 million worldwide sales. His works have been adapted for both feature film and television. David Baldacci is also the cofounder, along with his wife, of the Wish You Well Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting literacy efforts across America. Still a resident of his native Virginia, he invites you to visit him at DavidBaldacci.com and his foundation at WishYouWellFoundation.org.

My first Will Robie book was #2: *The Hit*. Read it back in July of 2013. I loved that book and might just go back and reread it one of these days. I had planned on reading *The Innocent* back then, but one thing led to another and I did not. I did read book 3: *The Target* and the Will Robie novella (2.5): *Bullseye*. Loved them all. Anyways, I liked this thriller, enjoyed it a lot. Will Robie is one of my

favorite characters. I seem to be on an assassin kick lately. I am on a list at my digital library for American Assassin, and recently read *The Enemy* and *The Kill Artist*. Right now to me things are pretty much a tie between Victor (*The Enemy*) and Will as to which assassin I enjoy the most reading. Did not really about *The Kill Artist*. Plenty of action and suspense. Now I need to keep going in the Will Robie series and read books 4 and 5.

...does not equate to a good read. I broke a semi-rigid long standing self imposed rule and bought a book by a popular author with seemingly formulaic and contrived characters and story lines with 1,000's of 5 star reviews on . My need for this "rule" was substantiated by "*The Innocent*" as the story was so full of ridiculous plot holes and awe inspiring flat characters that my ability to suspend disbelief was challenged in ways I've never before experienced. The author seems to have some sort of personal rule about sentences not having more than 6-8 words as well as the dialog and verbal interaction between literally all of the characters was almost without exception stoical and fragmented and most of the story struck me as a superb candidate for the next film starring Jason Statham or Keanu Reeves. I'm definitely in the minority here but consider yourself warned. If you're looking for well thought out and plotted espionage tales with rich characterizations and thought provoking dialog I'd heartily recommend the Gabriel Allon series by Daniel Silva.

Fairly good character development for the first novel in the Will Robie series. I am expecting to get to know him a bit better with each book. There were a lot of characters to follow in this and each one of them finally came together. The only character, the daughter, Julie, was a bit harder to understand. She had a difficult life with her drug using parents but she adored the very same parents who had lost her several times to social services. She wasn't as believable as a 14 year old because she was just a bit TOO smart and forgiving for a teen, in my experience. But all in all, a good read.

This is one of the few (good) novels that are fun to read from the very first page (first line, in fact). Usually, thrillers tend to have a slow, boring build-up and only get exciting anywhere from 10-30% into the book. I was apprehensive about *The Innocent* because of this missing build-up that all good novels have. But it didn't let me down at any point. It's also my first David Baldacci novel. Although there was no build-up, it wasn't that exciting from the get go. The first 5 or 10% of the book had almost no dialogue. Will Robie, the protagonist doesn't speak for several chapters in the beginning. This made me feel uncomfortable and I was already getting tired of his character. But the book

eventually transformed into a regular crime-thriller novel. Robie was an interesting character, although not extremely likable. This was understandable because of his line of work. He is a highly trained government hit man who has been taught to keep information to himself and not give stuff away readily. Therefore, he doesn't talk easily. But there was some interesting development as the novel progressed. Same can be said about the development of other characters. I thought Nikki Vance, the FBI agent was a very cool person. I loved the story and the writing style. The whole thing was comfortably complex and not overdone to the point of overwhelming me with information. Baldacci also did a great job of explaining everything that's happening at the moment and also conveniently going over all the information and leads the characters are using for investigation multiple times as revision (without making it sound boring, repetitive or annoying at all). It was very easy to follow the story despite the healthy complexity of it. The whole mystery unravels itself at the end pretty efficiently like a drain being unclogged all at once. Baldacci did a spectacular job of explaining tiny loose end within just a couple of pages. The whole novel had me turning page after page at the edge of my seat for long periods of time. One of the reasons was that the chapters are very short and I would binge on them thinking 'eh, one more won't hurt.' My Kindle kept telling me it would only take about 3-5 minutes to read this new chapter and I just kept going. This was a very close to perfect thriller novel. It has got me hooked to this author.

I recently finished the Baldacci's Camel Club series, including the novella that brought Will Robie into the plot. It's a great series. I enjoyed it so much that I finished all the books in a couple of weeks and immediately went searching for another Baldacci series. With the introduction of Will Robie into the Camel Club group, it seemed that this The Innocent would be a great choice. Alas ~ it was not. Not only are the characters flat and dull, their dialogue is incredibly unnatural. I considered abandoning the book many times, but I kept thinking that at least the plot might have an interesting twist. But again, alas, not so much. It was all very obvious, and if I could figure out what was going to happen with all my bells and whistles were going off, it's hard to believe Super FBI Agents and Professional Government Assassins couldn't figure it out, which made me feel even more annoyed with the characters. I might try another series by Baldacci, but not too soon. This book was a waste of money. It's a shame ~ I know Baldacci can do so much better.

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