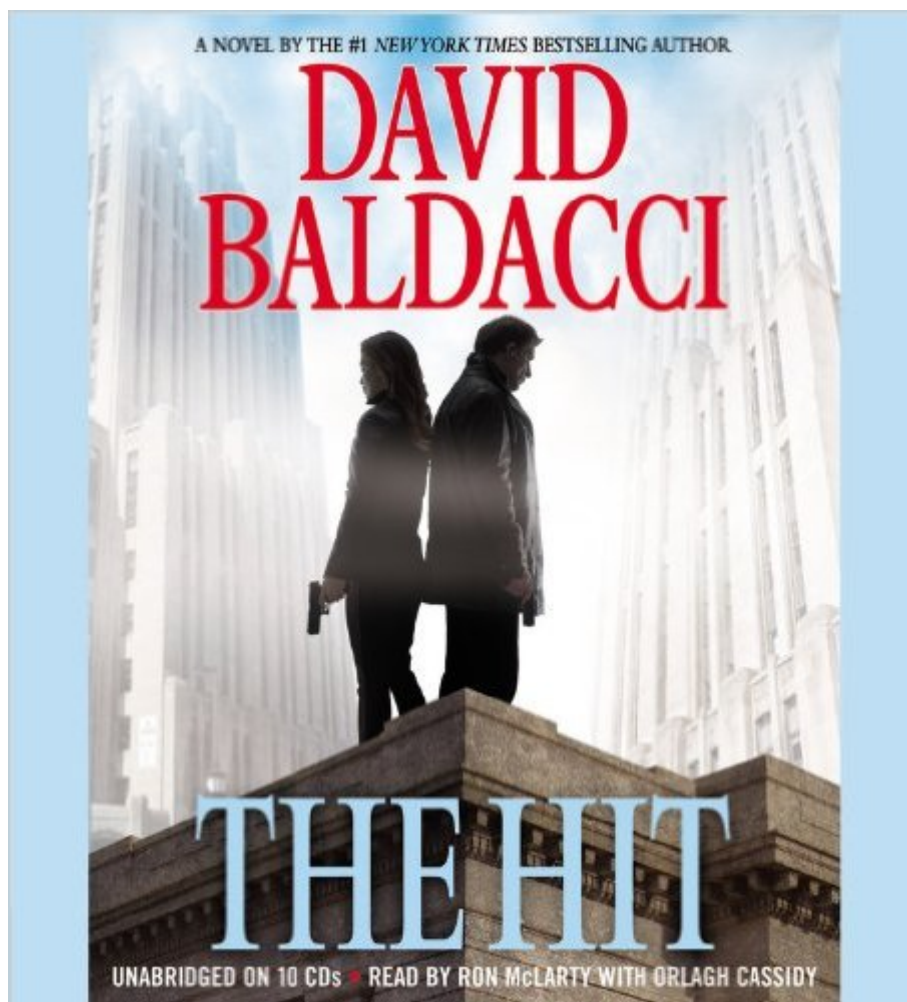


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The Hit



Synopsis

From David Baldacci--#1 bestselling author and one of the world's most popular, widely read storytellers--comes the most thrilling novel of the year. THE HIT Will Robie is a master of killing. A highly skilled assassin, Robie is the man the U.S. government calls on to eliminate the worst of the worst-enemies of the state, monsters committed to harming untold numbers of innocent victims. No one else can match Robie's talents as a hitman...no one, except Jessica Reel. A fellow assassin, equally professional and dangerous, Reel is every bit as lethal as Robie. And now, she's gone rogue, turning her gun sights on other members of their agency. To stop one of their own, the government looks again to Will Robie. His mission: bring in Reel, dead or alive. Only a killer can catch another killer, they tell him. But as Robie pursues Reel, he quickly finds that there is more to her betrayal than meets the eye. Her attacks on the agency conceal a larger threat, a threat that could send shockwaves through the U.S. government and around the world.

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Customer Reviews

"The Hit" is David Baldacci at his brilliant best - a page turning action thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat right through to the very end. Once again we meet Will Robie (from "The Innocent"), a larger than life cold-blooded professional killer for the US government. Robie is given his hardest and most dangerous assignment yet - to hunt down and eliminate rogue fellow assassin Jessica Reel who has killed her handler and is systematically killing associates. Reel is especially deadly because she is almost Robie's match as a professional killer. His thoughts on the assignment are simple - "Sending a killer to catch a killer actually made sense. We talk a different language and

we see the world through a separate prism that no one else could possibly understand....So Reel dead, or me. It really was that simple. And also that complicated."As with most of Baldacci's stories, nothing is as it seems and the plot has more exciting twists and turns than a fast paced game of snakes and ladders and nobody can be trusted. Along the way Robie encounters booby traps, firebombs, ambushes and big games of double-cross and conspiracy.Over the years Baldacci has built an enviable collection of amazing characters and Will Robie is amongst the best, especially because at rare times he does show some signs of humanity and trust in others. Robie painfully reflects on the conflict between being a killer and being a human being. "The only problem is, I can't be both". As you get to know her, Jessica Reel is another complex and compelling character.This book is David Baldacci at his best with great actions and characters. Highly recommended - it will keep you guessing to the end so sit back and make time to read this book because once you are hooked it will be hard to put down.

I have read many of the reviews written about this book and just can't agree with the people who gave it five stars. I love David Baldacci's books and have enjoyed most of them but this one was predictable and just didn't grab me. The opening scene got my attention and led me to believe that it was going to be another Will Robie page turner however, it fell flat after that. I continued to read hoping that it would pick up, which it did, somewhere around the middle of the book. It was, indeed, full of twists and turns but was still predictable with flat characters and boring dialogue. Will I buy the next Baldacci book? Yes, because this author is capable of writing wonderful novels - just look at the Camel Club series and the two previous novels featuring Will Robie.

Got 37% of the way in and couldn't take any more. Loved the first Robie book. This one is terrible. The first third of the book was dedicated to constantly setting up the showdown of Robie and the woman Assassin and who will be better. Poor writing, dull plot, lame lines.

The author must have been in a big hurry when he wrote this book. It was not up to his usual standards. The plot was an out of world experiences; so far out of world that it never came back to earth. Poor, poor, poor.

Baldacci used to be one of my favorite authors, but in the last 3-4 years, his characters have become more 2-dimensional and his plots less original. The Hit doesn't match his Absolute Power or Total Control from years gone by. Still - an entertaining read.

It got to the point that I was expecting one of the characters to "click the safety off of his Glock." For example: She dis-assembled her loaded 9mm pistol in her pocket with one hand. He was shot with a 357 that luckily "jammed." He pulled back the hammer on his Glock. The ballistics of the bullet could not be determined because he pulled the firing pin out of the rifle. I could forgive the firearms ignorance, but once it became clear that a neo-NAZI group had infiltrated the US government, I had to put it down. This is the first and last Baldacci book that I will attempt to read.

I was amazed when I read "The long distance flight of a 7.62 round built up astonishing kinetic energy. In fact the farther it travelled the more energy it built up." This is not just wrong, but profoundly wrong. It makes me wonder if Baldacci is not only ignorant of how firearms work, but fundamentally ignorant of basic physics. It is also amazing that the publisher did not have someone with knowledge of firearms and/or science read the manuscript before they published the book. Maybe he has bullets confused with simple skyrockets, which can actually build up velocity the longer they fly. He also thinks that the barrel of a sniper rifle will float: "... plugged the barrel of his rifle with the quick-hardening solution and pitched it down one tunnel; a constant flow of water would carry it out to the East River, where it would sink into oblivion." I'll give it 2 stars. It would have been more except for the bizarre "facts" he inserts about how things work.

I like superficial, plot driven thrillers and Baldacci usually writes very entertaining ones. But this story was more like a super hero comic book with two main super spy assassins using their super spy powers to get out of one impossible mess after another to finally thwart an omni-present evil villain in the end. The book needed some humor or something...but it was just way below par.

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