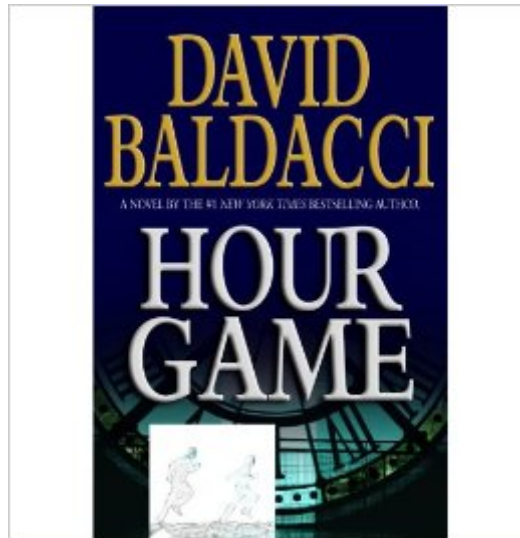


The book was found

Hour Game (King & Maxwell)



Synopsis

Two disgraced former Secret Service officers team up to solve a series of copy-cat crimes in this exciting new thriller by a master of the game. Sean King was momentarily distracted when a presidential candidate he'd been guarding was assassinated a few feet from where he stood, and Michelle Maxwell left the Service under a similar cloud when she lost a "protectee" to an ingenious kidnapping scheme, events told in Baldacci's typical terse, fast-paced style in *Split Second*. Now partners in a private investigation firm in a small Virginia town, they're hired to investigate a burglary at the home of a wealthy local family. But even before the chief suspect in the break-in meets his death in a gruesome slaying reminiscent of a serial killer long since caught and punished, King and Maxwell get caught up in a string of other murders, each of which copies the techniques of another madman, from San Francisco's Zodiac Killer to Chicago's infamous John Wayne Gacy. While the two protagonists aren't especially complex or well-developed, the action never stops, and Baldacci's trademark pacing keeps the reader turning pages until the denouement, which unfortunately isn't quite as satisfying as the rest of the novel. --Jane Adams.com Exclusive Content

Why Hour Game: An Exclusive Essay by David Baldacci It's hard not to notice that the majority of fictional serial killers are cut from the same mold. When David Baldacci wrote *Hour Game*, he went out of his way to create a murderous original. Read this .com exclusive essay to learn how and why he did it.

Book Information

Series: King & Maxwell

Audio CD

Publisher: Hachette Audio; Abridged edition (October 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1586217038

ISBN-13: 978-1586217037

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (1,229 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,660,913 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Â Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (B) > Baldacci, David #2946 in Â Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#3239 in Â Books > Books on CD > General

Customer Reviews

I asked myself, a third of the way through "The Hour Game," what more could a reader want in a

mystery, suspense thriller than what author David Baldacci has offered up in his latest novel? There are two fascinating protagonists with great mutual chemistry, interesting secondary characters, an intriguing plot and a bevy of subplots. Needless to say, I looked forward, with delight, to reading the rest of the book - only to be let down, cruelly. I just hate to be disappointed by a novel. I am an avid reader and pride myself on my ability to concentrate. However, Baldacci introduces so many characters of great import, and more of lesser standing, along with so many plots, subplots, potential plots and all sorts of motives, that I found it difficult to keep them all straight. And this book is far too long! I began to study the novel, actually taking notes, as if it were homework for a class in thermodynamics. Not fun! I just finished reading many positive reviews for "The Hour Game" and am beginning to wonder if I am the only one who was effected negatively. Although I am tempted to fudge a bit on the rating and go with the crowd, I have to call it as I see it. Reviewer's integrity and all that. Mr. Baldacci introduced us to two disgraced secret service agents in "Split Second," Sean King and Michelle Maxwell. Since we last saw them, these two have changed careers and joined forces by becoming partners in a private investigation firm, King and Maxwell, located in small-town Wrightsburg, Virginia. This odd couple, of sorts, is what makes the novel work. Their combined energy, skills, intelligence and humor cannot be beat. King is a "neatnick," everything-in-its-place type. He is a connoisseur of rich food and fine wine, and a steady rock when it comes to dependability. Michelle is a slob!

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