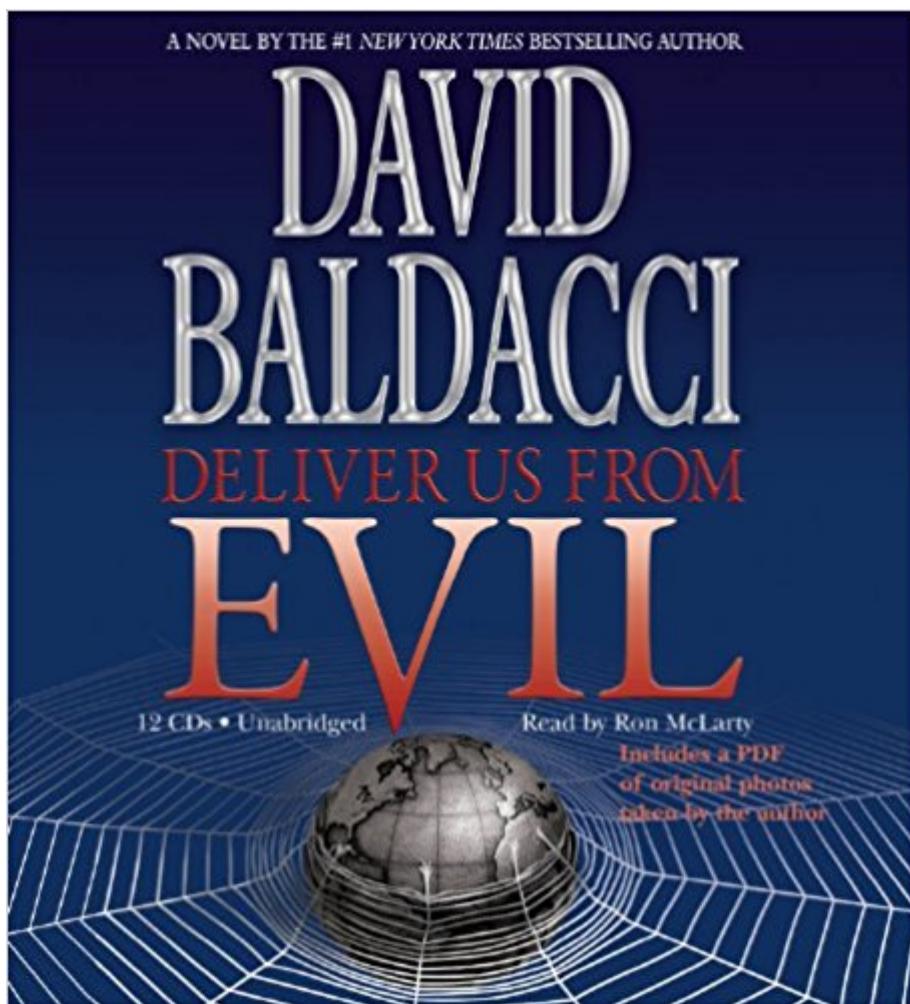


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Deliver Us From Evil (Shaw Series)



Synopsis

In South America a 96-year-old man of great wealth reads a book late one night and an hour later he lies dead in his bed, the secrets of his past starkly revealed. Six months later another mystery man lies dead at the bottom of his pool in a villa in Provence. This time, however, there's a witness at the scene: Shaw, the shadowy operative from *The Whole Truth*, who barely escapes with his life. Meanwhile, a half a world away, photojournalist Katie James is working on a story of international importance. But shortly after her meeting with a potential inside source, she is smuggled unconscious onto an airplane headed to an undisclosed destination. In the days to come, Katie and Shaw will be reunited in a deadly duel of nerve and wits against a surprising, secretive enemy and led around the world at a breakneck pace. Filled with the kind of breathtaking plot turns and remarkable characters that only David Baldacci can deliver, it will be the most explosive thriller of the year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bestseller Baldacci's sequel to *The Whole Truth* (2008) lacks the creative plotting and masterful handling of suspense that marked his earlier thrillers. Evan Waller, outwardly a respectable Canadian businessman but secretly a human trafficker who sells children into prostitution, has expanded into arranging nuclear weapons deals with Islamic fundamentalists. Shaw, the lead of *The Whole Truth*, sets out to stop Evan, as does Regina Reggie Campion, a British femme fatale, who works for a clandestine group that tracks down and executes war criminals. Reggie and Shaw,

both of whom intend to make their move while Evan is on vacation in Provence, cross paths while maintaining their cover stories. Shaw becomes attracted to Reggie, even as he fears that Evan, who's in fact a sadistic Ukrainian who served the Soviets, will abduct her. Crucial developments come across as contrived rather than clever. The ultimate resolution will surprise few. (Apr.)

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Ostensibly, Baldacci's latest is another novel (after *The Whole Truth*, 2008) about Shaw, the enigmatic agent working for an enigmatic organization. But it feels a lot more like the launch of a brand-new series, as though Baldacci is using a familiar character, Shaw, to segue to a new series lead: *Regina à œReggieâ • Campion*, a beautiful and deadly woman who works for an even-more-enigmatic group dedicated to ridding the world of evil. Both Shaw and Reggie are after the same man, Evan Waller, although each of them is unaware of it. To Shaw, Waller is a dealer in black-market nuclear materials; to Reggie, he's the former Fedir Kuchin, a Ukrainian mass murderer. Reggie and Shaw both arrive in Provence, where Waller/Kuchin is vacationing. This is a very clever novel, and full marks go to Baldacci for pulling off an especially difficult type of story: "one in which neither of the central characters knows entirely what's going on, while the reader is omniscient. It's a lot of fun watching the two scope each other out, trying to determine whether the other is a threat (even as their mutual attraction grows). We become intensely involved in the story, wishing we could step inside the book and clue its two protagonists into what's going on. The only problem: "for fans of Shaw, anyway" is that, in *Reggie*, Baldacci has created such an interesting and engaging character that he might have made Shaw redundant. --David Pitt

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Our hero, A. Shaw, is on the trail of the evil sadistic megalomaniac Nicholas Creel - no, wait, it's Evan Waller this time. Waller/Creel is a hugely successful businessman in his 60's with a contempt for weak people and thinks that the strong should rule the world, but still sees a place for going to church. His one weakness is younger women, whom he'll enjoy for a while and then kill, or at least try to. He is assisted by his loyal but weak aide, Dick Pender - no, no, that's Alan Rice - who fails him once too often and is murdered as a result. Waller arranges the murder of Shaw's current love interest, Anna - whoops, that's Katie this time, and while she nearly dies, this time she survives. Her parents thank him in the end for avenging her death/saving her life. As Shaw pursues the bad guy, he finds an attractive woman, Katie James - sorry, I mean Reggie Campion - working at cross

purposes, but they eventually team up and become more than casual friends, and it could lead to a more lasting relationship if not for Shaw's baggage from the previous relationship. So in the end Shaw waltzes off into the sunset leaving a heartbroken Katie/Reggie behind. This is the last we'll see of Shaw, operative for a mysterious off-the-books government agency, until he is reincarnated as Will Robie. Fortunately, I only read Baldacci when I want to give my brain a rest, and he never lets me down.

The bad guy in this story is quite horrid. So much so that I had to set this one aside several times. I found the sadistic torture episodes completely disturbing. However, the story is pretty compelling, and I needed to see Justice prevail. So I finished reading. I'm an animal lover (especially dogs and cats), and I must say that some scenes depicted in this book are all the more disgusting for their involvement of certain animals. If you enjoy thrillers and can get past the graphically described torture and death scenes, you might love this read.

I felt like I was in a rollercoaster while reading this book. My heart was racing, I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. Shaw's character is so well written that I want to choke him for being so stubborn, kick him for being such a knucklehead, and hug him because I love him so much! I cannot wait for the next adventure of A Shaw. The rollercoaster ride will go on! Thank you so much Mr. Baldacci for being such an amazing writer.

For an avid Baldacci fan too, this book must be a disappointment as there is nothing anywhere that is remotely different from the fare in the most standard of plots. The super human protagonists are above law with hardly anything beyond their powers except of course the villain who appears omnipotent, super rational and completely needlessly devil. The devil survived for some six decades and enjoyed life and for some reason is now being targeted by our good guys. Not only there are no nuances to the characters in this book but the plots, encounters and interpersonal relationships are as trite as one can ever imagine.

I have read 25 books by David Baldacci. This book is #26 and the last book I plan to read by him. When I started I loved books like Total Control and Zero Day. I found the Camel Club series enjoyable. Lately the books have crazy plots. I won't say too much about this book as I don't want to give anything away to someone who is considering the book. I have read 190 pages of this book and I have decided to just quit. I can't stay engaged because the plot is so artificial with supposed

sexual tension which is very weak. Sorry David. I am giving up on you.

I found the plot to be compelling, with the notion that war criminals from long ago have been replaced by those from more recent conflicts. As with other material from this author there is a good amount of repetition which is used to re-enforce particular characteristics or facts about a character or two in the book. I stopped short of really caring about any of the characters because they have been made a little too fantastical, way beyond the realms of reality. Nonetheless it's a good read if you're looking for something to take your mind off other things.

Each character had great depth. Multiple plots that merged. The details were impeccable. I couldn't stop reading but did stop, so the storyline wouldn't end too quickly. Needless to say that after reading many of this author's books, this was the best!!!

I knew this book would be good as soon as I read the premise, and it did not disappoint! The plot moves swiftly along with enough twists and clues to keep the reader thinking. The character development is better than in most of Baldacci's other books, as he uses the "slow parts" of the plot to delve into the character's pasts and explore their motivation for their work. However, to fully appreciate the story I recommend first reading the prequel, *The Whole Truth*.

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