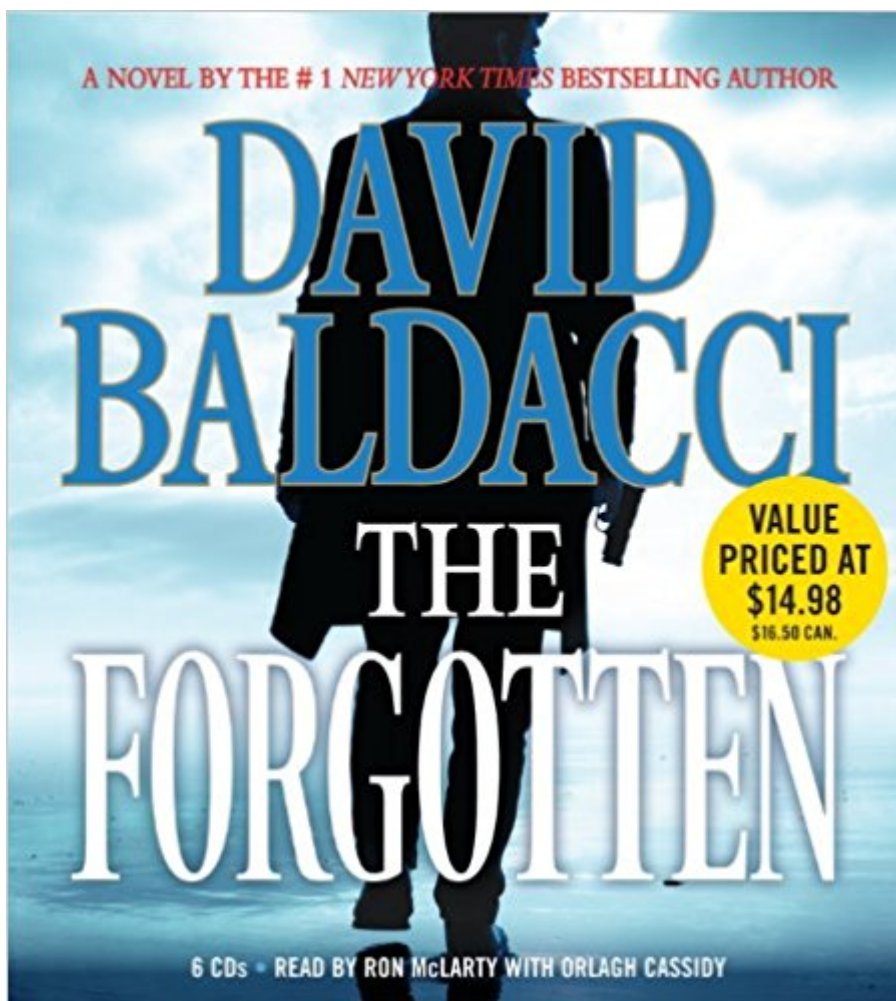




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The Forgotten (John Puller)



Synopsis

In Paradise, nothing is what it seems... THE FORGOTTEN Army Special Agent John Puller is the best there is. A combat veteran, Puller is the man the U.S. Army relies on to investigate the toughest crimes facing the nation. Now he has a new case-but this time, the crime is personal: His aunt has been found dead in Paradise, Florida. A picture-perfect town on Florida's Gulf Coast, Paradise thrives on the wealthy tourists and retirees drawn to its gorgeous weather and beaches. The local police have ruled his aunt's death an unfortunate, tragic accident. But just before she died, she mailed a letter to Puller's father, telling him that beneath its beautiful veneer, Paradise is not all it seems to be. What Puller finds convinces him that his aunt's death was no accident . . . and that the palm trees and sandy beaches of Paradise may hide a conspiracy so shocking that some will go to unthinkable lengths to make sure the truth is never revealed.

Book Information

Series: John Puller (Book 2)

Audio CD

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing (August 27, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 161969803X

ISBN-13: 978-1619698031

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 5,020 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #780,736 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (B) > Baldacci, David #989 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

#1946 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General

Customer Reviews

"Another fast paced page turner that will keep you glued to the couch...by an author who continues to stand out in the increasingly crowded thriller field." (Examiner.com)"Baldacci is a master when it comes to writing about small-town conspiracies and a lone hero who fights against all odds to clean up corruption. The narrative moves slowly, so the reader has a chance to solve the case along with Puller. It might seem straightforward, but the final reveal will surprise even hardcore thriller junkies." (The Washington Post)"Rife with intriguing, memorable characters and tense situations....deftly providing solid escapism in an exceptionally fast-paced tale." (Lansing State Journal)"The Forgotten

is a prime example of Baldacci at his action adventure best." (The Huffington Post)"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)"This book is a definite one-day, 'edge-of-your-chair' read, with an ending that is a complete surprise. One of the best Baldacci's since Absolute Power, this is one that will have all suspense readers enthralled." (Suspense Magazine on The Innocent)"Baldacci's palpable tension keeps the pages turning-and leaves you eager for the next in this new series." (The Star-Ledger on Zero Day)"Readers expect excitement and intrigue in David Baldacci's books, and Zero Day is no exception...As Baldacci's new hero narrowly escapes countless close calls, the pairing of the author's imagination and knowledge create a wild ride for the reader. Puller is gutsy, brash and likable. Best of all, he survives to reappear in the next book of this new series." (The Free-Lance Star on Zero Day) --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.

The last time we left John Puller he was riding off into the sunset with an unknown designation. John isn't usually a man to do anything without a plan, but this time he did. He had try and forget or get over the pain of his last mission. Only time would tell if he would be successful. Now, Agent John Puller is back, not at his best yet but the day was just beginning. John will receive a call that will plant his feet on Florida soil in what at first looks like taking care of his aunt, his father's older sister. When John arrives, what greets him is another loss. The longer he stays in Florida, the more clues he finds that something is amiss just like his aunt suspected. More begins to follow than simply taking care of business in regards to his aunt. In fact, it's about to get really dangerous maybe even life-threatening! There is man who wears a size 16 shoe who is evidently on the hunt for something or someone while working for a lawn care company that pays in cash. In addition to the mysterious big-footed man, now there is something about a very rich man who has secrets. The man will do whatever is necessary to keep his secrets, his lifestyle and people who are treated like slaves a secret. John Puller can't be sure who is on what side as he

begins to slowly peel back layers of what goes on in the small town in Florida after dark. As he does, the body count goes up with few clues. One can never tell by the cover of a novel what is inside. I knew I wanted to read more about stories that centered on Agent John Puller. Military, political, suspense or thriller type novels are one of my favorite genres to read. The only part I didn't care for in this book were a couple of short scenes that while the author didn't describe relations between people it was certainly enough to understand. When I completed the novel, I could see why the author included it as it did bring home a point of human trafficking and slavery. However, I still could have done without even the few short descriptions. What I enjoyed was the tenacity of Agent John Puller's character in solving multiple crimes that were occurring at the same time. The action, adventure, danger and suspense were at epic proportions! The author does do a magnificent job of describing the scenes of action so well I felt I was actually there observing it while it was unfolding before my eyes. So, if you read the book, just skip the few unfavorable parts and enjoy the character of John Puller as he seeks justice, honor and bringing hope to people who were hopeless.

There is lots of action and will keep you reading. The author seems familiar with the location of the main action. But, as good as it is, the military situations are too improbable. A one star general will not become overly friendly with a CWO. I'm retired military and found this part of the plot not believable. Otherwise a pretty good read.

I tend to spend a lot of time with pretty heavy literature, and once in awhile I enjoy a "beach read." In fact, I'm reading a James Patterson novel right now, and enjoying it very much. But I abandoned *The Forgotten* after 150 pages. The first few chapters did pull me in, but then the thing just sags so badly I just didn't care anymore. The Puller character is not terribly interesting. The writing is flat and cliches abound ("This wasn't over. Not by a long shot.") You get these 2 or 3 page chapters, which often signals a book that moves along at a good pace. (That's true of the Patterson book I'm reading.) The Baldacci book, on the other hand, just goes nowhere. Or maybe it goes somewhere slowly. Stretching out a plot line works when you can enjoy the ride, when the writing is engaging and polished. As is often the case with big-selling authors, the editors let this kind of thing go.

Good reading with a thoughtful, analytic plot. Baldacci is a very good writer of mysteries. I particularly liked the tempo of the book. It gave me the time to engage the story; many other authors mesmerize me with the intensity of the intrigue they present (which is an incredible talent).

Mr. Baldacci is becoming as prolific as James Patterson if that is even possible. The genres they focus on are no longer nuanced entries but factories and assembly lines spitting out similar yarns and tales. The thriller genre that features a near super action hero is very good business. Think Jason Bourne, Mitch Rapp, John Wells, and Scot Harvath. Now Baldacci has conjured up John Puller who is a decorated warrior and uncannily gifted military investigator. His name comes across as an inside joke when one thinks of Lee Child's Jack Reacher. Now we have a 'puller' and a 'reacher' and the similarities between them are warranted. Even funnier is Child naming a bad guy Ronald David Baldacci in his book *Never Go Back*! *The Forgotten* is the second in what should be a series with long legs. In the first go, *Zero Day*, we get a sense of John Puller and his family's storied military honours and dishonours. That is the thread that will hang the series together while Puller goes on individualized adventures. In *The Forgotten* he is brought into a human trafficking ring of extensive proportions. It was interesting as plot but dragged and repeated. The attempts at feints and misdirections were more tiresome and obvious than clever. I hung in because of a supporting character who was much more intriguing than Puller and to the baddies get their comeuppance (which is really what it is all about). In the end, it was satisfying as comic book action but even babies know that formula grows boring.

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