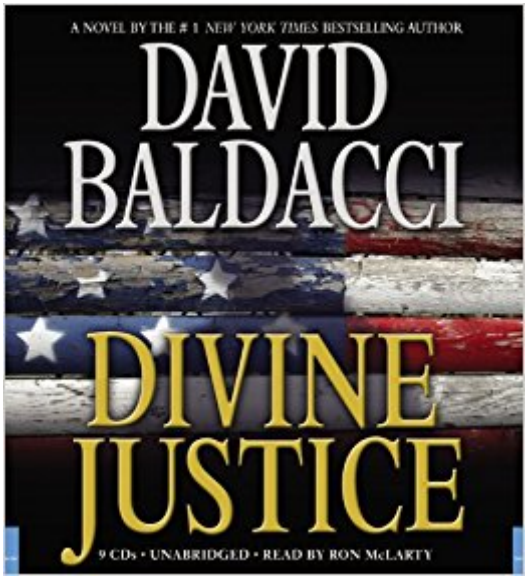
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Synopsis

Known by his alias, "Oliver Stone," John Carr is the most wanted man in America. With two pulls of the trigger, the men who hid the truth of Stone's past and kept him in the shadows were finally silenced. But Stone's freedom has come at a steep price; the assassinations he carried out have prompted the highest levels of the United States Government to unleash a massive manhunt. Joe Knox is leading the charge, but his superiors aren't telling him everything there is to know about his quarry-and their hidden agendas are just as dangerous as the killer he's trying to catch. Meanwhile, with their friend and unofficial leader in hiding, the members of the Camel Club must fend for themselves, even as they try to protect him. As Knox closes in, Stone's flight from the demons of his past will take him far from Washington, D.C., to the coal-mining town of Devine, Virginia-and headlong into a confrontation every bit as lethal as the one he is trying to escape. (2009)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Near the start of bestseller Baldacci's less than compelling fourth Camel Club thriller (after Stone Cold), former CIA assassin Oliver Stone (aka John Carr) boards a New OrleansÃ¢â ¬â œbound train at Washington's Union Station after shooting to death a well-known U.S. senator and the nation's intelligence chief, the two men responsible for his wife's murder. Ever the Good Samaritan, Stone intervenes in a fight on the train, but when the Amtrak conductor asks to see his ID, he gets off at the next station, knowing his fake ID won't withstand scrutiny. So much for Stone's vaunted ability as a resourceful planner. This sudden detour takes Stone to Divine, Va., a mining town where he becomes enmeshed in corruption and intrigueÃ¢â ¬â •and falls, in just one of several

clichÃƒÂ©d situations, for an attractive if beleaguered widow. Series fans should be satisfied, but this effort lacks the imagination that distinguished Baldacci's debut, Absolute Power (1996). (Nov.)
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--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Starred Review Readers who have been holding their breath since the end of Stone Cold (2007), the previous Camel Club novel, can inhale: Oliver Stone did survive his plunge into the water. For the uninitiated, BaldacciÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Oliver Stone isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t the noted film director; heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a former government assassin who has made a risky living foiling government conspiracies. Now, having eluded capture after committing a pair of necessary assassinations, Stone (or John Carr, if you prefer to use his real name) is on the run, hiding out in rural America, where he discovers that small-town intrigue is at least as intricate and dangerous as anything heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s come up against previously. Combining the Camel Club seriesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ wit and fast pace with a Fugitive-like story (casting Stone as Richard Kimble, the man on the run who risks his life to protect the lives of strangers), Baldacci shows once again that he is a sort of thriller Renaissance man: a master of plot, dialogue, and character. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fascinating to observe how Stone operates when heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s entirely on his own, too. Not only is he evading his pursuers, especially Macklin Hayes, whose obsessive determination to capture Stone may be based more on personal reasons than professional ones,Ã Â butÃ Â heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s also cast himself adrift from his comrades, who are working feverishly behind the scenes to find him and keep him safe. A rousing success, although this should come as no surprise to faithful Baldacci readers. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This book was recommended to me by a friend. I don't read a lot of fiction, but I think I'll read some more Baldacci books after having experienced this one. The author is good about moving the story forward in a purposeful way, and he develops the characters well. His sentence structure and vocabulary made his book easy to read, but not so simple as to insult the reader. I read it in two evenings and enjoyed it greatly. The story is about a CIA man who is on the run from another CIA man who is trying to have him terminated. That sounded pretty realistic to me. In fact, there are a number of things that occur in the book that seem very plausible with regard to the CIAs capability and their tactics. There are a number of sub plots and plot twists which add much to the enjoyment. The language is sometimes a bit offensive, but not as bad as some I've read. Anyone who likes a fast-paced, suspenseful novel with lots of action will enjoy this book.

The villains are vile, the heroes flawed, the women are strong and weepy, and the plot is Sydney Sheldon at his worst. Yet it all works and is deeply satisfying. The end is predictable and just as you wanted it to be. Plus Stone gets a girlfriend, after twenty years of living in a tent, he deserves something good to come his way.

I really like the set-up for the Camel Club, but this book seemed like a first draft. The plot sagged badly in the middle, then picked up toward the end, but I found myself bothered by the "phoned-in" quality of the writing.I've never warmed up to the Annabelle character (I quit Book 3 in the series mid-way because of her). Don't think I'll be buying any more Camel Club books (if there are any), and I'll think twice about Baldacci. The writing in this book really wasn't up to bestseller standards.I gave it 2 stars because it does have a bestseller plot.

I don't know how I missed this Camel Club Book but I am very much glad that I did finally get to read it. If you have never read the Camel Club series of books, you gave really done yourself an injustice.

David Baldacci's books are great! Not only are his plots great BUT you learn so much about the hidden parts of government. This a book that is part of the Camel Club series... Fascinating reading!

Baldacci did it again. The always enjoyable Camel Club cohorts saved the day, protected their friends and their country, and stopped the drug ring. It doesn't get any better!

I've read many books by Clive Cussler, Tom Clancy and David Baldacci. David Baldacci is the best. Baldacci is not limited to one character, or plot style for all his books. Baldacci has more variety, greater range and depth in all his characters, story lines, twists and turns then any writer past it present.I even read his 'Thank you' pages. He sounds more sincere then most other authors and I really love his words to his wife. MY Thanks to you both. Rock on!

I enjoyed reading this next chapter of the Camel Club story. The characters are interesting and the location was different. Great storyline.

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