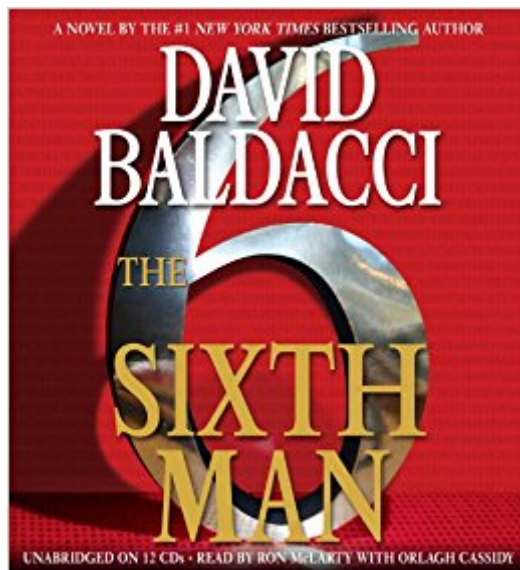


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The Sixth Man



Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing; Abridged edition (April 19, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1607885816

ISBN-13: 978-1607885818

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 1,227 customer reviews

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Authors, A-Z > (B) > Baldacci, David #5152 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

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Customer Reviews

"Equal parts Hitchcock and James Bond, it's the perfect literary cocktail...One of Baldacci's best." — Richmond Times-Dispatch on *Deliver Us from Evil* "It's his eager, expansive imagination that drives his books . . . Like other thriller writers, Baldacci depends on a mixture of inventive plotting, appealing characters, luck, and consistency. Unlike others, his books rely more on characters' relationships than whiz-bang technology or procedural twists . . . What he offers is in some ways more unusual." — Newsweek on *First Family*

David Baldacci lives with his family in Virginia. He and his wife have founded the Wish You Well Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting literacy efforts across America. He invites you to visit him at www.david-baldacci.com and his foundation at www.wishyouwellfoundation.org, and to look into its program to spread books across America at www.FeedingBodyandMind.com.

I loved this book. The intrigue, suspense and electrifying nature of the story kept my rapt interest throughout the story. It begins with a new way of analyzing intelligence data from all over the world by discovering those rare savants who are able to absorb enormous amount of data and process them akin to a modern computer, but with human intelligence. This person that is capable of performing these analyses becomes an invaluable asset to the country that he serves. The person who discovered this technique began selling consultancy to the American government for enormous

amounts of money. Peter Bunting was the discoverer of this method, and indeed, he became exceedingly rich and his asset, Edgar Roy became a desirable asset to have control over for those who had less than the country's interest at heart. So an elaborate plan was devised by persons way high in the government food chain to frame Edgar Roy for serial murders, have him incarcerated and eventually spring him for use on their own nefarious intents. Enter Maxwell and King, private investigators, hired by the attorney who will represent Roy to perform investigations relative to the case. Immediately into the story, the attorney is murdered, their lives become in danger, and everyone who touches the Edgar Roy case is a target. Unraveling this unusual set of circumstances becomes a page turning thriller that is difficult to put down. So many turns of events take place that it is dizzying, but exceptionally interesting. For pure intrigue, this book delivers.

I think the interplay between King & Maxwell has been one of the best things that has continued through the King & Maxwell series, and in this book it was no different. Without saying much about what happens, the continued building of the relationship between the two protagonists is the reason this book is one of the better ones in the series. The main mystery was built like an onion, filled with many layers, and I was surprised at Baldacci's ability to ensure the mystery itself stayed a mystery, but didn't weave too many uncomprehensible strings that weren't tied up. It seemed at all times he knew the end game, and it worked very well. The biggest difficulty at times I had was he called a main female character by her last name, which happened to be a man's name and at times I forgot that was her last name and thought it was a man who I didn't know; probably bad on my part, but it was the one confusing thing in the narrative.

As I've written before, Baldacci's plots are good and intricate as well. However it's his dialogue that tends to bore me. The characters seem to only talk to deliver information to one another, with the occasional flirtatious aside. No subtext, no define speech patterns, etc. Again, not bad, but doesn't amaze me.

Just a tad far-fetched (at least for me) re the "Sixth Man" and his abilities, but all things are possible, so maybe these people exist. Thought that Baldacci kept me guessing at the right pace re the perpetrators, good/bad guys, involved in the story line. Read other books by the author and think this one was probably a notch higher than his other stories, if not only for the story line, but the interweaving of the characters and how they became a part of the scenarios playing out. I always choose a Baldacci book when I want an exciting detective story. King and Maxwell work well

together and are an interesting combo, equally balanced with strengths and weaknesses. I'll continue to read this author's books.

The proof of the quality of the pretext of this book was Hollywood decision to make it the subject of the Pilot of the new King & Maxwell TV series. Of course in the name of time constraints they took what should have been a movie and made it into a 45 minute show. Partly to enable them to bring Roy Edgar into the context of their investigation business. That by no means reduces the quality and suspense that the entire novel delivers right up to the very end. Even the possible loss of Ms Maxwell at the end of the novel. To accept the concept that a persons mind is capable of analyzing the wall and delivering in real time a plan to thwart the efforts of those who mean to do us harm delivers us to the understanding of how a billion dollar intelligence contract can cause the power struggle on capital hill where it is the allegiance to money that trumps one's patriotic duty. Of course these maximums were lost in the TV pilot but not in the book. The desire for power and money resulted in the death of a dozen innocent people and destruction of property as well as violation of the so called rights that we in the US cling to as the difference between us and the rest of the world. I would recommend this book on many levels. First on Mr. Baldacci's ability to weave a plot along the story line, constantly bringing and connecting the dots that at first seem not to pertain to each other but slowly they come together. Then there is the cross the double cross, then a triple cross as those who swore to be our protectors but conspire to benefit themselves as they deprive everyone else of their rights. Even our elected officials and those who are appointed to head the agencies are not free of guilt. One can draw examples from this book into public life and see current events unfold to show that our elected leaders are more concerned with themselves than the constituents they are supposed to represent. This book should be made into a movie. I thought it was that good. If you looking for a book to read in bed before extinguishing the light to sleep, then don't get this one. Once the action starts, which is not long into the book, the suspense and the desire to find out what else Mr. Baldacci has in store for us will propel you into probing the next page then then next chapter. It is a never ending addiction that can't be satiated until the end is found. The relationship between King and Maxwell is also extended as they continue there love for each other but fear that getting too close would cause unimaginable pain at the loss of the other. Though it is not stated it is at the end that Sean learns that his feeling for Michael is far deeper than even he would like to believe. I expect David will continue this train of thought as both continue to embed themselves into each others lives and become more inseparable in future publications. It is their dichotomy and their synergistic approach to ever battle that creates the story line that has continued throughout all the

King & Maxwell novels. David Baldacci has hit on great set of characters I hope continues.

The Sixth Man is one excellent story. What an interesting story. Yes, it is intense and makes you wonder about what may be behind everyday's deadlines. OTHER Readers will get hooked, too.

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