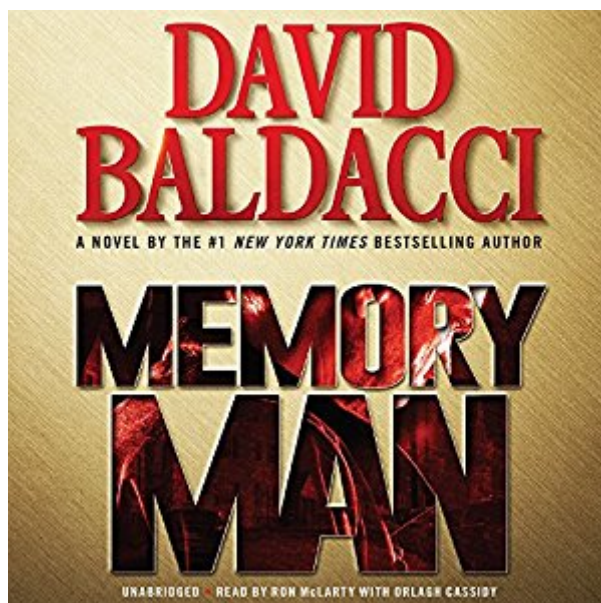


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Memory Man



Synopsis

With over 110 million copies of his novels in print, David Baldacci is one of the most widely read storytellers in the world. Now he introduces a startling, original new character: a man with perfect memory who must solve his own family's murder. **MEMORY MAN** Amos Decker's life changed forever - twice. The first time was on the gridiron. A big, towering athlete, he was the only person from his hometown of Burlington ever to go pro. But his career ended before it had a chance to begin. On his very first play, a violent helmet-to-helmet collision knocked him off the field for good and left him with an improbable side effect - he can never forget anything. The second time was at home nearly two decades later. Now a police detective, Decker returned from a stakeout one evening and entered a nightmare - his wife, young daughter, and brother-in-law had been murdered. His family destroyed, their killer's identity as mysterious as the motive behind the crime, and unable to forget a single detail from that horrible night, Decker finds his world collapsing around him. He leaves the police force, loses his home, and winds up on the street, taking piecemeal jobs as a private investigator when he can. But over a year later, a man turns himself in to the police and confesses to the murders. At the same time a horrific event nearly brings Burlington to its knees, and Decker is called back in to help with this investigation. Decker also seizes his chance to learn what really happened to his family that night. To uncover the stunning truth, he must use his remarkable gifts and confront the burdens that go along with them. He must endure the memories he would much rather forget. And he may have to make the ultimate sacrifice. **Memory Man** will stay with you long after the turn of the final tick.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Memory Man is the first book (of two so far) in Baldacci's newest series featuring a rather unique character named Amos Decker. As a 22 year old playing his first NFL game, Decker, on his very first play, suffers a traumatic head injury that not only ended his football career, it induced hyperthymesia and synesthesia -- resulting in his never forgetting anything and his counting in colors and seeing time as pictures in his head. I won't provide a plot description as this can be gotten from the Book Description above. Rather, I'll provide some of my feelings about Memory Man which, hopefully, will be of help in deciding if it is a book you'll want to read. Overall, there several key positive aspects that far outweigh what I consider to be its one, but not insignificant, key flaw. On the positive side, Baldacci writes in a brisk narrative style and composes dialogue that is realistic for the characters speaking it. The plot is multi-faceted, interesting, fast-paced and has an above-average amount of twists and turns. And, perhaps, most importantly, Baldacci's main character and more secondary "good guy" characters are pretty well-developed and likeable enough to make me interested in going along with them on their next case. Further, you're not likely to forget a villain in this book anytime soon. For me, these aspects override a number of the actions of Amos Decker and some of the motivations of a villain that I consider to be far-fetched enough to almost push me to the very edge of my ability to suspend belief. This flaw resulted in my deducting one star from my overall rating. If you can accept a plot that while fun and interesting has some credibility issues, than I think Memory Man is a book worthy of your consideration. I, for one, found Memory Man to have enough merit to make me interested enough to read the second book in the Amos Decker series, called The Last Mile.

Baldacci's novels are well written and full of detail. The details in this book are so vivid that one can actually get in the scene and feel like one is a witness to what is transpiring in the novel. Such is the way I felt while reading Memory Man. It's quite believable that a vicious NFL tackle can either kill you or make you a genius savant - which in this case happened and eventually helped the main character as a top notch detective. He is able to remember every detail of everything he sees like a video recorder so it's quite helpful in his profession. However, his family gets killed and so a novel is started with this devastating loss. The story unfolds ever so slowly and at times, painstakingly slow but there is enough detail there to get one keep reading. The reward is satisfying. If you have read other Baldacci novels, they are always full of minute details and the characters are more nuanced

than most. You get to know them as much as you want to know the character in a book. All in all, it's a great book to read. I have ordered the other 2 books in the series and regretfully, I have not started reading the second book yet. I have a lot to read before that but there is always that book to look forward to.

David Baldacci just keeps on writing one great book after another. As to how he comes up with all these new characters book after book is something to behold. It took me awhile before the story set its hook in me. But once I got past that awkward first date feeling of meeting most of the new characters and figuring out their kinks so to speak, that was when the plot took off and "the game was afoot" to borrow a phrase from another famous detective. And by foot it went, with a few subcompact car trips, a couple of train rides, and let's not forget the FBI jet flights. Talk about your major upgrade in air travel. Of course there were several plot twists and a few red herrings thrown in just to keep everyone on their toes. I think in all honesty, this is going to be a great series set in a team environment indicative of some of Mr. Baldacci's other series like the Camel Club, or King and Maxwell once they hired the Government's big analyst away from them. So, too sum it all up... Good Characters on d you get to know them and z really good murder mystery with enough foreshadowing to let you know there's more interesting books to follow.

David Baldacci is back to his bread and butter with a thriller novel that has his classic twists and turns. What I enjoy the most out of Baldacci novels, and this one is no exception, is he quickly gets you into the action and in the head of his main character *Jack* - so no pun intended - so much so that you feel as if you are the main character living out the story. Baldacci has you going one way with the novel, then has his classic twist toward the end: just when you think you have things figured out, he takes you in another direction you didn't see coming yet still works within the storyline. About the only nit I have with the book is there is quite a bit of inner reflection as the main character wallows in misery until he starts to snap out of it in the latter stages of the novel. If you are a Baldacci fan, or like a good thriller, I'd recommend picking this one up and be prepared to have a good and long read. I purchased this for \$9.99 when it was released and, as I type this review, I see the Kindle price has jumped to \$13.99. While the book was good, unless you're one of those who absolutely has to read a Baldacci book because it is a Baldacci book, I would recommend waiting until Hachette decreases the price again (and they will decrease the price).

I always try to catch the next book David Baldacci writes, and I am never disappointed. From the

first page to the last chapter it will take you on a wild ride. Each chapter flows like a beautiful river. I highly recommend this book to anyone. Five stars just doesn't seem to be enough. Well now I will start the next book in the Amos Decker series. Happy Reading ãfÂ Ã Å,Ã â œÃ Å¡. MaryAnn Brown, Wilmington DE

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