



# Book of the Month

## ***The 6:20 Man* by David Baldacci**

**Book Review by Linda Buehler, Friends of the Starkville Library Board Member**

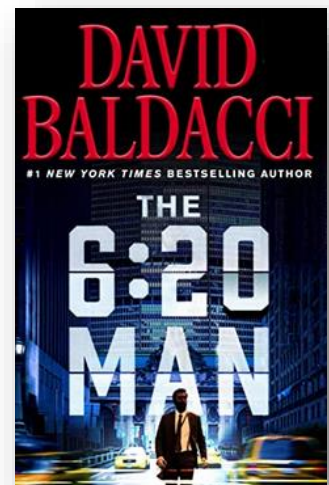
David Baldacci is one of the most popular writers in both the spy thriller and political thriller genres. He has published almost fifty books so far. He tells the story that his mother gave him, when he was still a child, a lined notebook in which to write his stories. (His mother later admitted she did it to keep him quiet.)

His first published book was *Absolute Power* and since that first book he has published almost fifty additional books for adults—with all being bestsellers and several having been made into movies—and seven novels for young readers.

His books include varied series from which to choose including his Memory Man series with Amos Decker, an FBI consultant who not only has a photographic memory but synesthesia which manifests in seeing, hearing, and tasting colors. Other series include: the Aloysius Archer series, Attlee Pine series, Will Robbie series, John Puller series, King and Maxwell series, the Shaw series, and, probably his best-known series, the Camel Club series. He has written quite a few stand-alones as well, and one of them is *The 6:20 Man*, one of his most recent books published in 2022.

The central character is Travis Devine who, every morning, boards a 6:20 commuter train into Manhattan where he works as an analyst at one of the best-known investment firms in the city, Cowl and Comely.

This position would have been coveted by many, but not Travis. Travis has taken this position to finally try to prove to his father he was worthy of his father's respect. Travis has two older siblings who have "made their marks" in the world much to their father's delight. But Travis had a different dream. He pursued and won a position at West Point Military Academy upon graduation from high school and had risen quickly up the ranks and earned recognition for his skills and bravery in battle. But he does an about face and begins his pursuit of wealth and fame in the financial world. As his morning train speeds towards Manhattan, he, and the other passengers likewise heading to their grueling jobs in finance, look



with envy as they pass the mansions of the uber-wealthy along the way. Each day on the job is torturous for Travis, but Travis is determined to earn his father's respect.

Travis's life is brought to a screeching halt when he receives an anonymous email saying "She is dead." And the next day at the office he learns his good friend and co-worker, Sara Hewes, has been found hanging in a storage room of the office building where he works. And so begins a cascade of events that threaten to entangle Travis himself. There's a killer loose in the city and Travis is being set up to take the fall.

This book like all of Baldacci's books will keep the reader guessing til the end.

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