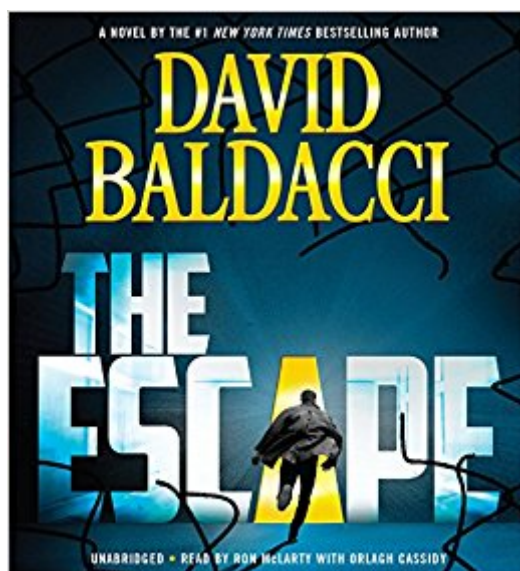


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## The Escape (John Puller Series)



## Synopsis

David Baldacci is one of the world's most popular, widely read storytellers. In his blockbuster thrillers *Zero Day* and *The Forgotten*, he enthralled readers with John Puller. A combat veteran and special agent with the U.S. Army, Puller is the man they call to investigate the toughest crimes facing the nation. But all his training, all his experience, all his skills will not prepare him for his newest case, one that will force him to hunt down the most formidable and brilliant prey he has ever tracked: his own brother.

**THE ESCAPE** It's a prison unlike any other. Military discipline rules. Its security systems are unmatched. None of its prisoners dream of escaping. They know it's impossible . . . until now. John Puller's older brother, Robert, was convicted of treason and national security crimes. His inexplicable escape from prison makes him the most wanted criminal in the country. Some in the government believe that John Puller represents their best chance at capturing Robert alive, and so Puller must bring in his brother to face justice. But Puller quickly discovers that his brother is pursued by others who don't want him to survive. Puller is in turn pushed into an uneasy, fraught partnership with another agent, who may have an agenda of her own. They dig more deeply into the case together, and Puller finds that not only are her allegiances unclear, but there are troubling details about his brother's conviction . . . and someone out there doesn't want the truth to ever come to light. As the nationwide manhunt for Robert grows more urgent, Puller's masterful skills as an investigator and strengths as a fighter may not be enough to save his brother-or himself.

## Book Information

Series: John Puller Series

Audio CD

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing; Abridged edition (August 25, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1478904623

ISBN-13: 978-1478904625

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.5 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (7,300 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

David Baldacci returns again this year with an exciting thriller, the third of his series featuring John Puller, a former war hero who is one of the best military investigators in the US Army's Criminal Investigative Division. This time Puller is faced with one of the most dangerous and controversial cases of his career - to find a maximum security prisoner from the Leavenworth Military Prison who has made a miraculous escape and left an unknown dead body in his cell. The case is controversial because the escapee is Puller's elder brother Bobby who was convicted by a military court of serious national security crimes. The first couple of chapters about how the escape happened set the scene for an absorbing and exciting chase to work out how and why the escape happened and to find and arrest Bobby. What is surprising is that a trio of top military brass ask Puller to find his brother and bring him back for justice especially as Bobby has an almost eidetic memory of important military secrets. Puller soon finds that the whole thing reeks of conspiracy at the highest level with possible overseas influence within the security agencies of the US. Also he is soon not sure if Bobby was actually guilty of the crimes for which he was imprisoned. Puller is normally a loner but he is forced to work with enigmatic (and of course attractive) US intelligence officer, Captain Veronica Knox who he has problems trusting. Of course she has problems trusting Puller, especially about how he will react when they finally hunt down his brother. The plot has many twists and turns and is great reading. As with other recent Baldacci thrillers the plot sometimes verges on the unbelievable but this time it doesn't go over the believability barrier too much.

When I first started reading David Baldacci, I would purchase a hard back as soon as one was published. And I started reading him from his very first book, *Absolute Power*. After awhile, I would wait until them came out in paperback. I'm at the point now that I get new Baldacci books from my county library-- they're just not worth the money. His latest novel, *The Escape*, is the third in his John Puller-series. The good news is that at least John Puller is developing a personality and is less a Jack Reacher clone. The bad news is that there are just too many issues with *The Escape* to make it one of Baldacci's better novels. John Puller is an investigator with the US Army Criminal Investigative Division. His brilliant older brother, Robert Puller, was a major in the USAF and a fast-rising star in the intelligence community. That was until he was convicted of treason. Serving a life-term in a military jail at Fort Leavenworth, he escapes when a storm wreaks havoc on the facility. John Puller is brought in by three very important people who have a mission for him: find his brother. Early on, Puller runs across some very bad men who want nothing better than to shut down the investigation by killing him. He realizes that he not only needs to find Robert, but he also needs

to discover whether or not the treason charge was a frame. He is also assigned as a partner, Veronica Knox "a captain with the United States Army's Intelligence and Security Command. Throughout the book, Puller doesn't know if he can trust Knox, or not. He also doesn't know what her motives are. Their investigation will leave many dead bodies in their wake, as well as evidence that top officials in the government are working for the enemy.

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