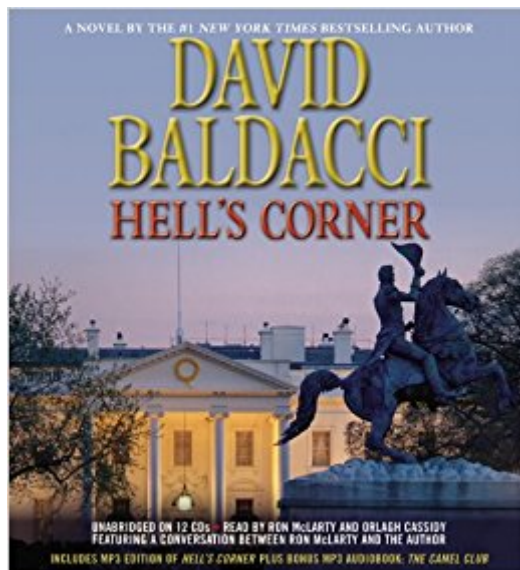


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# Hell's Corner (Camel Club)



## Synopsis

Oliver Stone and the Camel Club return in #1 bestselling author David Baldacci's most stunning adventure yet. An attack on the heart of power . . . In sight of the White House . . . At a place known as . . . HELL'S CORNER John Carr, aka Oliver Stone—once the most skilled assassin his country ever had—stands in Lafayette Park in front of the White House, perhaps for the last time. The president has personally requested that Stone serve his country again on a high-risk, covert mission. Though he's fought for decades to leave his past career behind, Stone has no choice but to say yes. Then Stone's mission changes drastically before it even begins. It's the night of a state dinner honoring the British prime minister. As he watches the prime minister's motorcade leave the White House that evening, a bomb is detonated in Lafayette Park, an apparent terrorist attack against both leaders. It's in the chaotic aftermath that Stone takes on a new, more urgent assignment: find those responsible for the bombing. British MI-6 agent Mary Chapman becomes Stone's partner in the search for the unknown attackers. But their opponents are elusive, capable, and increasingly lethal; worst of all, it seems that the park bombing may just have been the opening salvo in their plan. With nowhere else to turn, Stone enlists the help of the only people he knows he can trust: the Camel Club. Yet that may be a big mistake. In the shadowy worlds of politics and intelligence, there is no one you can really trust. Nothing is really what it seems to be. And Hell's Corner truly lives up to its name. This may be Oliver Stone's and the Camel Club's last stand.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Baldacci's implausible fifth Camel Club novel (after *Divine Justice*) disappoints with cartoonish plotting and characterization. The night after the U.S. president persuades former assassin Oliver Stone (aka John Carr) to re-enter government employment to tackle the growing threat of Russian drug gangs, Stone finds himself in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, when gunfire breaks out and a bomb explodes. Apparently, the intended target was the visiting British prime minister, who was scheduled to walk across the park before an ankle injury modified his plans. Taken off his original mission, Stone seeks to identify the forces behind the assassination attempt. Stone's old Camel Club allies involve themselves in his search, which includes the de rigueur mole hunt and the McGuffin of choice these days, a lead on Osama bin Laden's whereabouts. Those who prefer intelligence in their political thrillers will have to look elsewhere. (Nov.) (c) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Shortly after the events related in *Divine Justice* (2008), Oliver Stone, former CIA assassin and now the leader of the shadowy group known as the Camel Club, is whisked away to a top-secret meeting with the president of the U.S. Russian drug cartels are operating on American soil, possibly with the approval of the Russian government. Stone's mission is to go to the drugs' point of entry, Latin America, and find a way to shut the cartels down. But before he can even begin his mission training, Stone finds himself in the middle of what appears to be a terrorist attack on the life of the British prime minister. Teaming up with a British intelligence agent, Stone attempts to determine if the attack is connected to the Russian drug-smuggling operation. The latest Camel Club novel is, as usual, skillfully constructed and very difficult to put down. Baldacci keeps peeling back layers of Stone's psyche, revealing him to be a man full of unresolved conflicts and a potentially self-destructive amount of guilt over his past actions. Another winner. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Since Baldacci's first novel, *Absolute Power*, appeared in 1996, he has owned a place on most best-seller lists. His latest Camel Club novel won't break the string. Author tours and all the attendant hoopla will get the ball rolling. --David Pitt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a good, page-turner read. I enjoyed this book even though I have not read the other Camel Club books in the series. I read this book for a Book Club discussion, and I was worried I would not understand the characters since I did not have the Camel Club background. But, that was not the case. Baldacci does a good job of getting the characters' traits and dimensions across even for the

first-time reader. Plot, setting, and action are all well developed. The reason I chose 4 stars instead of 5 is that the novel seems to have one too many "twists" toward the end. Most of the reverses and surprises were thoroughly fun and heightened the reading experience. Overall, this book offers reading time well spent.

I've been a Baldacci fan since time began and just recently discovered this fourth novel in the Camel Club series, which I have thoroughly enjoyed. This novel returns protagonist Oliver Stone (John Carr) to government service to halt a nefarious plot to spread drugs through the US and kill a bunch of people initiated by the Russians.... or was it the Mexicans ..... or the Russians ....Determining who the bad guys are working for and exactly why they want to blow things up and kill the president is Stone's job, He solves it of course, despite government interference, and catches the bad guys with help from the Camel Club, but it's a wild ride. Oh, and the Camel Club gets a new member. Go for it!

This series is the first I have read of David Baldacci's writing, and the characters, plot, pacing, etc. are very good. This book does keep your interest right to the end, and there are a few unexpected occurrences. What is not unexpected, and begins to be a little monotonous, is the graphic violence surrounding our deadly-assassin-with-a-heart-of-gold main character. Likewise the recurring theme of evil people rising to the top, having basically run amuck with the power they have been given. While there is a measure of revenge that may satisfy some sense of justice, it does little to relieve the depression brought on by the situation as a whole. That the characters in the book are drawn to each other and are unfailingly loyal to each other in spite of the knowledge that they easily engage in behavior that is reviled by most civilized people (the end always justifies the means, each person is their own judge of right and wrong, life and death) is vaguely heartwarming but mostly disturbing. So the quick summary is that the writing is technically good, the story gripping - but you don't want to think too deeply about the world view embraced by these characters that we are supposed to like.

This is the first novel I have read by David Baldacci and I am definitely going to read more. "Stone Cold" has a little for everybody and a lot for anyone who is a fan of this genre. Mobsters, spooks, secret societies within secret societies, black-clad assassins, a serial killer on a mission and, of course, The Hero and his moll (in this case). I had a lot of fun with this book. My only reason for not giving this a five-star rating was that the main characters are so well-developed that it is at the expense of the secondary characters. One of these characters (I won't mention who) is killed in the

process of doing good. However, there was not much given to him, in terms of character development, that I didn't feel like much was taken away. I had the feeling that he was only killed off to (a) show how bad the bad guys were and (b) to show that Oliver Stone isn't so stone cold. Does that mean you should not buy the book? Of course not! There's so much else going for this book that any reader will enjoy it.

Lots of blind turns, but each looked like a possible solution. Enjoyed the character development and the surprising twists. I've read 2 of the 5, I think there are 5, and I missed the one where a member of the Camel Club is killed...going to go back and read the ones that I missed. I'm familiar with Washington D. C. and the surrounding area, so it was fun to recall many of the places I once visited. I'm looking forward to the players in the Camel Club to be more active in the next book ... enjoy each of the personalities and what they contribute to the whole. Wonderfully written "who done it" with many dead-ends and characters. I found it difficult to put the book down and I looked forward to picking up where I left off.

I am 3/4s of the way done with this book and to tell you the truth, I want to finish it because at this point it is the last book in the Camel Club series. But I don't want to finish it because it is almost as bad as book 2. This one is long and drawn out 200 pages could have been cut out. The real person behind everything is so apparent as the book goes on that you just want it to end already. It is a run on of similar situations throughout the book, and gets repetitive like I am right now LOL. The New Head of CIS is an insecure version of Carter Gray. It just infuriates me that I have to read this just to get to the end. I hope it gets better. I will write a final review when I am finished. Books 1 3 and 4 are great. 1 and 4 very quick reads and keeps you interested. 3 almost as good. 2 I would use as TP. 5 somewhere in between 3 and 2. I am hoping that the next five books that I read are going to be better overall then these five books of Baldacci. I had finished the book and all that I can say I that it is not worth the read. It is one Hell of a bad book to read. Stay away. The only critics (reading through kindle) that made any comments about the book were minor reviewers. Never heard of reviewers. SAD. The twists and turns of this book were so bad. He had to make up for the 500+ pages the book is. Soooooo he put in those twists and turns which were boring totally boredom of this book. I could use it for TP

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