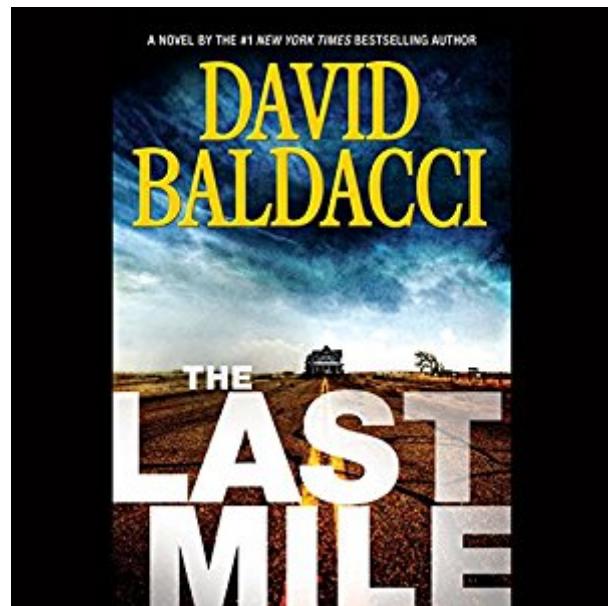


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# The Last Mile



## Synopsis

In his number-one New York Times best-seller *Memory Man*, David Baldacci introduced the extraordinary detective Amos Decker—the man who can forget nothing. Now, Decker returns in a spectacular new thriller... **THE LAST MILE**Convicted murderer Melvin Mars is counting down the last hours before his execution—for the violent killing of his parents twenty years earlier—when he's granted an unexpected reprieve. Another man has confessed to the crime. Amos Decker, newly hired on an FBI special task force, takes an interest in Mars's case after discovering the striking similarities to his own life: Both men were talented football players with promising careers cut short by tragedy. Both men's families were brutally murdered. And in both cases, another suspect came forward, years after the killing, to confess to the crime. A suspect who may or may not have been telling the truth. The confession has the potential to make Melvin Mars—guilty or not—a free man. Who wants Mars out of prison? And why now? But when a member of Decker's team disappears, it becomes clear that something much larger—and more sinister—than just one convicted criminal's life hangs in the balance. Decker will need all of his extraordinary brainpower to stop an innocent man from being executed.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 49 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: April 19, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01ATTRBUI

Best Sellers Rank: #71 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure #74 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > International Mystery & Crime #75 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense

## Customer Reviews

The second book in the Decker series is a better effort than the first. In contrast to the first book, the plot has twists and turns but stays in the realm of the plausible. The characters get better development and the secondary characters are more interesting. In particular, two new characters,

a recently released convict and his father have very interesting and surprising developments, not all good, but all well thought out and written. Decker becomes less of a super-hero type figure and more of a good detective with an interesting ability. His character development comes along as well and by the end of the book, I was glad I didn't pass on this one, because I almost did.

David Baldacci has written some excellent stories and I've read nearly every one! However, in THE LAST MILE, his new character of Amos Decker, as introduced in Baldacci's MEMORY MAN, the first in this series, is even more exciting and suspenseful than the first! The book expands on the main character, Amos Decker and the rest of his "investigative crew" now involved in full time FBI cases, while throwing in a lot of action and a twisting tale filled with danger, suspense, drama and a lot of mystery! This is a must read kind of tale that leaves you fulfilled but wanting even more! Great story!

This story immediately grabbed me and held my interest throughout. This book begins with Mars - a large man - in prison, about to be executed. Because we "hear" what he's thinking, it seems likely that he isn't guilty. He'd been convicted in Texas which had a reputation a couple decades ago of being very tough on crime. (That was true when I lived in Austin in the 60's - 80's. About the same time, a team was being assembled by the FBI to solve a different murder. When the head of the team contacted Amos Decker, a private eye, Decker thought about it for awhile for several reasons. After his family had been slaughtered a year or so ago, Decker had little energy or desire to do much at all; he'd put on a massive amount of weight so that it was a struggle to walk far, had no real friends, nor was he interested in going out. However, the case piqued his curiosity and he assumed he could help. Due to a head concussion and happenstance, Decker's brain became wired such that he has perfect recall of everything he hears and sees (called hyperthymesia - a term meaning "excessive remembering" from the ancient Greeks. He also has great difficulty turning off his thoughts. Almost everything in this book from beginning to end drew me in - the many, many up's and down's as the team tried to solve their assigned case as well as an additional one that Decker wanted to work on with or without some of them, trying to find out who the killer was in the Mars case.

Another Baldacci classic! Baldacci throws enough intrigue and plot variations into the story to keep you turning pages. His villain ends up with heroic tendencies and winds up being one of four villains as the story nears its climax. Story contains elements of civil rights struggles and changing societal

perceptions concerning the events. For sports fans there's a common heritage shared between characters. Great story with something for everyone that will keep you to the end.

I waited for this book with bated breath and was disappointed. Not the usual Baldacci. The football analogies got tiresome.

I liked this book better than the first one in the series, and I thought that one was very good as well. It's nice reading about a hero that doesn't fit the stereotype - and Amos Decker is about as far from the typical "leading man" as you can get. I'd give 4.5 stars, if I could, because I had a hard time putting this book down. I'm not giving it 5 stars because there are a few leaps in the story that I found a little too convenient. Still a great, fast-paced read.

It's the second book that I've read by this author. I pause often, because a really good meal should be tasted one small bite at a time and savored for longer than it took to triangulate it to one's mouth! I have never read a better novel and may never find one that's even equal to this author's writings. There is no embellishment, bells or whistles. That's because David doesn't need it. He is just simply a natural! Thank you for your gift!

If you like Baldacci you'll love this one...the main characters are plentiful and maybe there's a few too many but most contribute to solving this case especially Amos with his super memory where he can not forget anything...the book is complicated in parts and I lost track a few times and had to re-read a few pages but it was worth it...the ending is kind of rushed and could have been developed a bit more but generally I liked the book because I love the way he writes.

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