



Downfall

Jeff Abbott

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She is a good mother. She will do what she must to ensure that her daughter Diana has a perfect life, just as perfect as the one they've led for the past seven years.

No matter who has to die.

DOWNFALL

The simplest beginnings can unravel a life. For Sam Capra, it is the moment a beautiful young woman walks into his San Francisco bar.

Sam doesn't want trouble. An ex-CIA agent, his only desire now is to build a quiet, peaceful home for himself and his infant son. But Diana Keene is no ordinary customer. She's pursued by two gunmen, and when she finds Sam, she whispers an urgent, desperate plea: "Help me."

And without any warning, Sam is thrust into a fight for his life. For Diana is being hunted by a deadly network—a shadowy alliance of select, influential men and women who use their connections, their authority, and their wealth to bend the world to their will. Now, this network aims its relentless fury against the man interfering with their plans to seize a new level of power: Sam Capra.

Threatened on all sides, Sam has only one hope to survive the network's all-consuming attack and return to his life with his son....he must destroy the man who owns the people who run the world.

Downfall Details

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From Reader Review Downfall for online ebook

Patrice Hoffman says

Downfall is the latest in the Sam Capra series by Jeff Abbott. It begins a few months later from the end of The Last Minute with Sam Capra still balancing his life as a spy/bar owner. He's fighting Mila at every turn to be a normal person that comes home to his young son every night and isn't constantly being in life or death situations. He's fallen into a sort-of routine until a young woman whispers "help" across the bar to him. That one instance changes the course of his quiet existence to a person who's in a target for a very powerful man.

Diana begins this novel with finding that her mother may in fact be hiding something from her when she finds three cell phones in her purse. Diana's mother, Janice, claims to be going on a retreat where phones are banished so Diana is automatically suspicious. After some amateur sleuthing, Diana finds info that Janice would rather her not know. This information puts Diana at risk. In an effort to save her self, Diana goes to Sam Capra's bar to find Felix, her mother's friend, but instead causes Capra to unleash the big guns and do his whole...um... spy thing.

I actually enjoy the Capra character. I have read all the previous Abbott novels written in this series Such as Adrenaline and The Last Minute so I knew what to expect from this thriller. What I expected was action. Lots and lots of action. Abbott does a good job at maintaining the pace throughout this novel. There's barely time to for Capra to breath it seems. The characters from The Round Table, the secret organization that Capra is with, maintain their storylines from previous novels. I appreciate that Abbott gives snippets of information about regarding their past so that it is easy to read these as standalones. Also it gives people a refresher course on what they may have forgotten from previous novels.

One other element to this novel I enjoyed was that many of the assassins from the opposing group The Network were just as human and well developed as Sam Capra. They all share a commonality that bordered on getting old because of how often it was mentioned, but still manages to make them worthy of sympathy. All except their leader seem less heartless. Although they have put themselves in their current predicament, I still felt bad for these people.

Overall, Downfall is an interesting thriller that supplies more than enough thrills. Capra is still doing his parkour thing and his son is still his main motivation... from afar. I look forward to book 4 in the Sam Capra series. I will definitely be reading other Abbott novels. It's safe to assume I'm a fan at this point. And if I learned nothing at all from this novel except one this it is to never make deals with the devil. If the deal is too good to be true, it probably isn't true.

Gisela Hausmann says

I borrowed this audio book from the library because I want to study the writing techniques of thriller writers. It's not a great book for this purpose. I gave up after chapter 8. Up to that point the book fails to hint at what the bad guy's (Belias's) ultimate plan is. Belias is manipulating ordinary people and one former CIA-agent to kill for him. So far so good, but - why?

I need something to look for, I don't want to collect puzzle pieces that will or won't come together at the end; especially when so many characters are involved. There is the CEO of a PR-firm, who has been diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and her daughter, the divorced couple who still have feelings for each other, and, former CIA-agent Sam Capra who is now a bar owner. All of them have children, Sam Capra's son is a baby, the CEO's daughter a 23-yr old young woman, Diana. I did not get far enough to find out how old the other kids are. All of these relatively ordinary people are "Belias' puppets" and do what he wants them to do to get out of whatever he has on them. Notice the "whats"? At the end of chapter 8 there is not even a hint where this plot this is going.

All "victims" want to protect their children.

Bad mastermind Belias prides himself to be a master psychologist who manipulates people.

Actually, at the point when I tuned out the listener still does not even know if Sam Capra who gets tricked into working for Mila is also one of Belias' puppets but at least I hope that there isn't a second puppet master in this book.

Until chapter 8 the reader/listener also can't even guess why Belias is able to blackmail all of them or what his ultimate goal is. That might be ok, if the rest of the presented plot weren't so ridiculous.

Why would a "brilliant mastermind" like Belias pick a woman stricken with an aggressive cancer to be his hit woman? She might decide that her life may be too short to play somebody else's game.

Why would he ask the divorced couple to kidnap a person that's important for his organization, if they have never kidnapped anybody before (the woman is a master thief but not a kidnapper)? The two might fail in their efforts (and indeed they do). Indeed, in the book, they had asked themselves the same and hired a Russian mobster to help with the task, only Sam Capra kills the Russian.

Surely, if Belias is such a mighty bad guy he could find better suited kidnappers.

This plot either has too many characters, or it introduces the overarching crime-concept too late. About the only thing that makes sense are the actions of the CEO's daughter Diana Keene.

Listening to the audio book makes it very clear what's wrong with this plot. Narrator Kevin T. Collins does a masterful job reading the book, especially the Russian mobsters' lines. I traveled Russia three times, I can vouch for that narrator Kevin Collins gets the Russian accent right. Still, even though Collins does a marvelous job reading the book I did not like his reading of Diana's thoughts. There are just too many different people in his book.

3 stars till chapter 8. Maybe I didn't like the book because I did not read the two preceding books from Abbott's Sam Capra series.

Gisela Hausmann, author & blogger

Scott says

The third book in Jeff Abbott's high adrenaline series about Sam Capra is definitely one of his best.

This time around - since it's the third book - Abbot can skip spending lots of time explaining Capra's origin story - how he was kicked out of the CIA, ran into one hell of a marriage problem, etc. and focus on what he does best:

tight plotting, fast paced action that makes you feel like you're working hard and running as fast and as far as

Sam and others not to mention all the fighting. I like to pretend i'm losing weight and getting in shape living vicarously through Sam.

This is a book that should come with a warning sticker: Don't read in bed before trying to go to sleep because odds are you'll find the adrenaline contagious and will never fall asleep.

Keep up the great work,Jeff.

Last Tuesday I heard Jeff, of Austin, read from and talk about his new book over at BookPeople.

The Austin Statesman has selected this book as one it's encouraging people to read during july. Details here <http://www.bookpeople.com/statesman-s...>

I interviewed him for the two earlier books in this series here <http://blogcritics.org/interview-jeff...> and here

http://sbutki.newsvine.com/_news/2012...

This time i'm going to just add a review of the book to the two earlier interviews

Oh final link - colleague Scott Montgomery of BookPeople interviews Jeff here

<http://mysterypeople.wordpress.com/20...>

Donna says

Ex-CIA agent Sam Capra owns 30 bars throughout the United States and around the world but his favorite occupation is being father to his 10 month old son. One evening his is bartending and a young woman darts in asking for help as 2 men pursue her. Of course, he is going to help her and that causes him to get in the big middle of a situation where he digs himself even deeper. He and his handler Mira from the Round Table are pitted against a secret organization that seems to have unlimited power. The leader is fascinated by Sam's skills and wants to recruit him to join.

This thriller contains a long and complex story. I was able to follow along well but wish I had read the first two books in the series because I didn't fully understand the Round Table organization, why Sam had to leave the CIA or why his wife is in a coma. However, I picked this book up at a garage sale because it sounded like a story I wanted to read and it was. There's non-stop action and many people are killed. If you like books with great fight scenes, Jeff Abbott knows how to write them.

Dulce says

As noites quentes dão-me insónia. E com este livro era impossível largar a leitura. Não entra no top dos favoritos, mas gostei bastante deste herói e deste escritor. Como é uma série, vou ter de arranjar os outros para saber o que aconteceu antes.

Muito melhor que os livros Pânico e Medo, que tinham sido experiências menos boas com este autor.

Linda says

Love love love Jeff Abbott. The main bugbear I had with the book was that there were whole days that I had too much on and that prevented me from doing any reading. His characters have depth and his novels are action packed. Like a lot of series with recurring characters, you really need to start with book one, but this novel is such that you glean enough from the story to work out what has happened before.

Sam Capra owns bars all around the world, when a young girl in distress stumbles into the bar he is currently working, and says help me, little does Sam know the consequences of his actions. Fighting friends and foe alike, Sam is soon fighting for his life and not sure whom to trust.

Jeff Abbotts standalone books are excellent too, everyone well worth reading.

Dani Paschert-ward says

I found this third book in the Sam Capra series confusing and implausible. The first two were great and I'm hoping the fourth will also be fast paced and intelligently written.

Carmen says

This book is like an action movie in book form. Amazing, and very difficult to do right. It is the third in the Sam Capra series. I recommend reading the first two before this one - they are better read in order instead of alone.

Jennifer Golden says

The 3rd book featuring Sam Capra and it is action packed and reads like movie script. The characters are easy to love and hate depending on which character you are talking about. There are a lot of good authors and books out there but Abbott knows how to get your attention and hold it the entire length of the book. If you are a spy, thriller and/or adrenaline junkie you must read not only this but everything by Jeff Abbott.

Claire says

Sam is an appealing protagonist- this is the first book I have read of Mr. Abbot's Capra series. I will be looking for others.

This installment is a wild ride as Sam takes on the shadowy puppet master of the fates of successful and powerful (because he has made them so) men and women.

Twists, turns alliances and betrayals make this read a roller coaster ride. Definitely a thriller.

Matt says

Great thriller novel that kept me interested from beginning to end. I liked how Jeff Abbott was able to continue on with the story of Sam Capra in this novel. After the ending of the previous book I almost thought the story was over. Glad I was wrong. DOWNFALL is the best Sam Capra novel yet.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this story and can't wait to read more about Sam Capra in the future.

Debbie says

I received this book free from Net Galley in exchange for a review.

This is my first book by Jeff Abbott and it won't be my last. My heart pounded and my pulse raced throughout this thriller. It was very well written story with plenty of twists. The list of suspects for several murders was very long and kept the characters confused leading to the "thrill".

I would highly recommend this book.

Steph says

DOWNFALL is the third book in the Sam Capra series and begins with ex-CIA agent, Sam, living in relative peace, working for The Round Table and enjoying his cover life as owner of a chain of bars across the States. He wants a normal life, and this is as close to it as he's had in a long while. But his peace is shattered when a young woman fleeing two male attackers rushes into the bar and begs for his help. Sam leaps to her aid, and in the process kills one of the men. As well as bringing him unwanted attention from the police and the media, this brings Sam to the attention of Balias - a master criminal who can make a person's dreams come true, for a price.

As readers of the series will have come to expect, the story charges along at a breakneck pace. Using first person narration for main character, Sam Capra, as he sets out to discover who this mysterious network is and why they are after the young woman, and third person narration for the other main point-of-view characters, Abbott weaves the stories of Diana – a young woman who has discovered a terrible secret about her mother, Janice – a mother who will protect her daughter at any cost, Holly – a woman enchained by the choice of her ex-husband, and Belias – a man who thirsts for power and control at the highest level – between Sam's. The stakes are high for all of the principle characters; the question is who will succeed and who will fail.

This constant raising of the tension made the story compulsive reading. DOWNFALL is an action thriller and so as you'd expect there are a lot of action sequences and fight scenes. Abbott is a master at the fight scene – they're dynamic and tense with a real cinematic quality, making the reader feel like they're in the scene ducking the punches along with the characters. What I especially like about his books, and this one doesn't disappoint, is the locations these scenes often take place in - for example a child's bedroom in a

suburban house (the child is at school) - creating a great juxtaposition and additional conflict between Sam's desire for domestic normality and the nature of his job.

Tight plotting, high stakes and high action make this page-turner of story a must for fans of action thrillers.

Jeffrey says

What would you do for wealth or power? Would you steal? Would you kill? Would you join a group of like minded people intent on amassing power, fame and fortune through the manipulation of events or the outright death of your business, political or familial rivals.

Jeff Abbott's new Sam Capra thriller is essentially about the lure of such a Faustian bargain. The people who have made the deal with the devil are, in many ways, just trying to get ahead, but they do not care who they hurt in the process. And they will do anything to get ahead.

Diane Keene stumbles into Sam Capra's life because she has learned of her mother's Faustian bargain, and when Capra gets involved trying to save her, he comes to the attention of the evil Belias, the head of Keene's mother's network.

Belias wants him dead, then wants him to join his network, then feels threatened and wants him dead again. The action is continuous as Belias and Capra hunt for each other and Capra's friends and Belias's people all get involved.

There is back stabbing a plenty, murder, fights, and more killings.

Downfall has it all.

Angela says

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I have never had the pleasure of reading Jeff Abbott before, but I will tell you this, he now has another die hard fan! I will definitely be reading the rest of his Sam Capra series as well as any other books he puts out! This book was non-stop, in-your-face, brutal, die hard action! There is so much story and so much happening that you are completely engrossed in the book. I could easily see this becoming a movie with say, Jensen Ackles playing Sam Capra and Tim Roth

as the antagonist, John Belias. This is one of those books that you can't guess what's going to happen because the characters are ruthless and conniving. I was shocked almost every thing that happened in the story. I was taken aback at how mean some of these characters could be. I mean, I could understand why they would be that way, but some of the extremes that these people go to – it's amazing. I can't really go into any detail in what I mean because it will spoil the book. Let's just say that this book will keep you guessing and if you think you know what it going to happen, you are wrong.
