



# NEIL TURNER READER'S CLUB



Season's Greetings,

Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas, plus all the other greetings that are appropriate to extend at this time of year. I hope this month's Reader's Club Update finds all of you well. What holiday plans do you have? Traditions you're looking forward to enjoying with friends and/or family? Yummy gastronomic delights? I'd love to hear about them! I'll take everything you share, drop them all into a bucket, give it a stir, and draw one. The lucky winner will receive a holiday basket of a free Tony Valenti eBook, an Amazon digital gift card, and the possibility of having your Christmas tradition or treat included in a future story ... which would result in another freebie when that story comes out! Email those goodies to me today. 😊 As always, we have a little news about the books and me, details about deals, a peek at an exceptional series written by a terrific thriller author, plus our monthly chance to win a free eBook in the Q & A, *and* a couple of Reader's Club Christmas goodies. Read on!

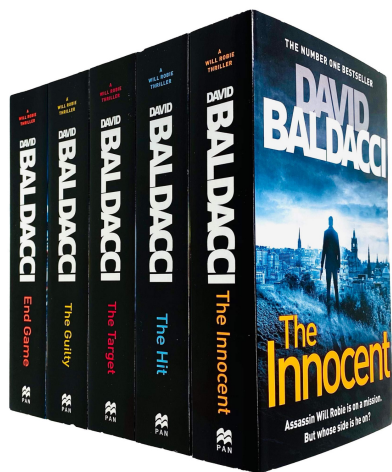
## **The Latest Tony Valenti News**

### **Hot Off the Presses**

In audiobook news, December is the one-year anniversary of Tony's debut in the audiobook world. To celebrate, our



audiobook publisher, Tantor Audio/Recorded Books, is offering listeners a terrific 70% off deal until January 11th. Audiobook listeners who haven't yet discovered Tony will want to jump all over this deal! You can take advantage of it [here](#). Please spread the word! *The Secrets She Buried* was released in audio on November 19th. Check it out [here](#). And now a brief update on how my new novel is progressing. As I've mentioned several times, progress is slow. The reasons are many, but health issues have played a significant role in slowing me down. After suffering a relatively mild heart attack in June 2023, I was simply knackered (as our UK friends might say) and spent many months in somewhat of a fog as a stew of medications interacted to scramble my thoughts. I eventually managed to eke out the balance of *A Law Unto Itself*, which was well underway at the time. Book Number 9 has been more of a struggle as I didn't have a relatively fully plotted story to build on as I recovered. As you might imagine, it's well-nigh impossible to make steady progress on a novel when your recollection of what you wrote last week grows fuzzy. At any rate, things have been mostly sorted out and I'm getting back on track, albeit more slowly than I might have hoped. The good news is that I'm fine physically, so the finished novel is simply a waiting game. I am, however, proving to be readily capable of cooking up new story ideas and have established something of a story backlog. Now, the trick will be to get them all down on paper...



## David Baldacci's Will Robie

### What's Neil Reading?

The upside of having time on my hands has been the wealth of reading time to binge read a few authors and/or series that caught my eye. Aside from the pure joy I get from reading, this also allows me to steer you to outstanding fiction while you wait for me to finally publish

again! David Baldacci is a modern thriller writer I enjoy, so the chance to delve into his Will Robie series was a treat. Here are my thoughts about this five-book series, consisting of the novels *The Innocent*, *The Hit*, *The Target*, *The Guilty*, and *End Game*:

*"I'm not a particularly big fan of stories celebrating government assassins (or any other type of assassin). I am, however, a big fan of David Baldacci, so I decided to give the first book of his Will Robie series a try. I should have seen the result coming: a binge read of the entire five-novel series. CIA assassin Will Robie and fellow CIA killer Jessica Reel are as lethal as killers get, but I appreciate that*

*Baldacci doesn't depict them as heroic jingoistic automatons for whom a twinge of conscience is an afterthought. Robie and Reel are highly skilled and their mission planning is fascinating, but what humanizes the characters and makes them interesting to me is their intelligence and emotional depth. Over the course of five books, the Robie and Reel evolving character arcs reveal them to be damaged people who cling to a very particular sense of honor that keeps them somewhat centered. Each of the books in this series is a tautly written thriller in its own right; the series overall is an admirable accomplishment. If you like intelligent, character-driven action thrillers, David Baldacci has a treat for you in the Will Robie series."*

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## **A Peek Behind the Curtain**






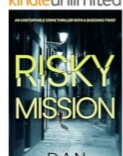

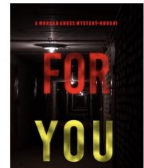
### **Behind the Scenes**

As I've mentioned before and at the request of you writers out there, I drop in little bits and pieces about how I get my stories into the hands of readers, especially with me being an independent writer and publisher. The very best marketing is, of course, word of mouth—both of the tell-your-friends-and neighbors sort, plus online reviews and ratings posted on Amazon, Goodreads and/or BookBub. All *greatly* appreciated, by the way. Thank you! There is also advertising, of course, but it's expensive and less effective. Another brick in the wall is promotional email vendors such as BookBub and Written Word Media. Some of you may have noticed that we offered a BookBub featured deal promotion of the boxset of Books 1 - 3 last week. It was very well received, as you can see here:



## Best Sellers in Thrillers

Top 100 Paid Top 100 Free

<p>#1</p> <p>kindleunlimited</p>  <p>Tony Valenti Thrillers Box Set: Books 1 - 3 (T... &gt; Neil Turner ★★★★☆ 39 Kindle Edition \$0.00</p>	<p>#2</p> <p>kindleunlimited</p>  <p>The Blackwell Files: Volumes I, II, &amp; III &gt; Steven F. Freeman ★★★★☆ 1,587 Kindle Edition \$0.00</p>	<p>#3</p> <p>kindleunlimited</p>  <p>Leine Basso Thrillers, Vol. 1: (Serial Date, Bad... &gt; D.V. Berkom ★★★★☆ 1,682 Kindle Edition \$0.00</p>	<p>#4</p>  <p>Devil's Deal (Devil's Series (Duet) Book 1) &gt; Aleatha Romig ★★★★☆ 2,172 Kindle Edition \$0.00</p>
<p>#5</p> <p>kindleunlimited</p> 	<p>#6</p> <p>kindleunlimited</p> 	<p>#7</p> 	<p>#8</p> 

The boxset wasn't only a hit with thriller readers, it was the number one free book overall in the major English language Kindle stores—so something on the order of 25,000+ new Tony readers in a single day. Kinda cool!



**Win a FREE Book!**

### Reader's Club Q & A

What's on your mind? Ask away! I'll answer one reader question in every Reader's Club Update. If I choose yours, I'll send you a

free eBook copy of one of my novels! Please send your questions via the *Contact* page on my [website](http://www.neilturnerbooks.com) or send an email to [info@neilturnerbooks.com](mailto:info@neilturnerbooks.com). If you send an email, please type *Reader's Club Q & A* in the subject line. Thank you!

Here's this month's question and answer:

Q: What's your favorite Christmas story?

A: Great question! Mind you, it presents a bit of a conundrum to me, as several stories come to mind and only a couple are books, although most of the movies or TV shows I thought of are adapted from written works. Anyone searching for literary depth in my answer shall be sorely disappointed, although my sappy selections may resonate with some of you. ☺ *The Night Before Christmas* holds a special place in my Christmas memories as I recall the story from my earliest days, and it later became something of a tradition for me to read it to my children prior to tucking them in on Christmas Eve. I'm also inordinately fond of Dr. Suess's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (it even has a cute

doggie!), although my fondness for the story is split equally between the literary work itself and the original cartoon version.

And that's it for this month. Thanks for being a member of our Reader's Club! I wish one and all a happy, safe, and fulfilling holiday season filled with plenty of love, fellowship ... and tasty eats and treats!

Take care, be well, and happy reading (or listening!),

Neil

P.S. Oh, and about those seasonal goodies? Nothing new this year, I'm afraid, but we do have retreads ... a free Christmas short story from my childhood to share [here](#), and a truly atrocious Christmas "[poem](#)" that at least features a puppy. I promise to do better next year, so you better be good in 2025!



### **Neil Turner Books**

<https://www.neilturnerbooks.com>

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