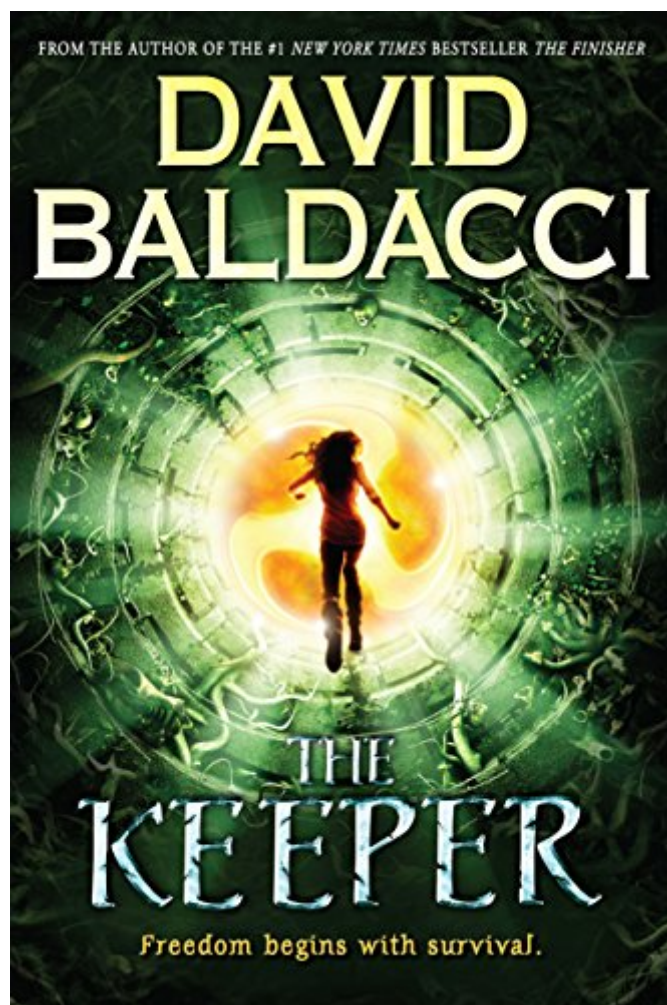


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The Keeper: Extra Content E-book Edition (Vega Jane, Book 2)



Synopsis

Now for e-readers, the #1 New York Times bestseller by David Baldacci includes a survival guide, author Q&A, and sneak peek of *The Width of the World* (Vega Jane, Book 3)! Vega Jane was always told no one could leave the town of Wormwood. She was told there was nothing outside but the Quag, a wilderness filled with danger and death. And she believed it - until the night she stumbled across a secret that proved that everything she knew was a lie. Now just one thing stands between Vega Jane and freedom - the Quag. In order to leave Wormwood and discover the truth about her world, Vega and her best friend Delph must find a way to make it across a terrifying land of bloodthirsty creatures and sinister magic. But the Quag is worse than Vega Jane's darkest imagining. It's a living, breathing prison designed to keep enemies out and the villagers of Wormwood in. The Quag will throw everything at Vega Jane. It will try to break her. It will try to kill her. And survival might come at a price not even Vega Jane is willing to pay. Master storyteller David Baldacci unleashes a hurricane of action and adrenaline that takes readers to the breaking point.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Vega Jane and her companions traverse the dreaded Quag in this second book of Baldacci's famous fantasy series. She'll need all her magical powers to survive the different levels. Each of the five circles comes with its own dangers. Challenged at every corner, Vega must rely on her own wits and instincts plus the allies she meets along the way. Will she and her best friend Delph defeat the creatures that live in the wilderness? Or will they be lost in the Quag forever? This action-packed tale will have readers rapidly turning pages and eager for the sequel. If you like quest stories and monsters, this one is for you.

I enjoyed book 1 and really looked forward to book 2. I have to admit some disappointment as it just seemed a stream of perils that I knew the main protagonists would survive. Maybe that was the purpose, at some point we just need to focus on survival and beating the odds with thought and action. I, as others noted, was disappointed in the ending; the first book set my taste for more, hence my anxiousness for book 2. This wasn't the case at the end of *The Keeper*.

I previously wrote an unflattering review for this book, but that was before I read the first and third book. I recommend you read them in order; reading this as a standalone doesn't provide the context needed for the entire story. My apologies to David B - he remains one of my favorite authors and these books were very good considering they were meant for younger readers (teen).

As a long time Baldacci fan, I was curious how he would do in the fantasy genre. His first effort, *The Finisher*, had an uneven writing style, but an interesting story. *The Keeper* had a more developed writing style, but the storyline was not as enjoyable to me. I suppose that I can hardly be considered to be the target audience since I'm on the other end of the age scale, but I am an avid fantasy reader. Perhaps younger readers may enjoy the simpler, more direct storyline more.

But when we meet a goal, we simply walk into another fog bank surrounded by the unknown, far from our comfort zone to grow, to fight, to love, to have setbacks, to have victories. The end game is the quest for knowledge, experience and truth. Where will our path lead? There are many forks in life's road, our life is a sum of our decisions. You can't fool that image in the mirror.

David Baldacci has given me great entertainment with his adult fiction. However, it may well be that he has found a true calling in writing YA books. I become immersed when I read and sometimes I

feel too anxious horrified and sad. Vega Jane and her troop provide excitement and entertainment without the anxiety that can come along with reading fiction that can, or has become , reality.

Baldacci is an excellent writer and the power of his imagination never ceases to surprise. I was surprised when I discovered the Vega Jane stories were meant for young adults (which I am not), and I was hesitant to read the second book in the series as I am a retired college professor and worried about enjoying works for young readers, but then I thought about Harry Potter and figured I was being a bit snobbish. I found the characters intriguing and memorable and the plot line fast moving and unpredictable...in other words, a good read. I will be sharing these books with my granddaughter who is a prolific reader knowing she will enjoy the fantasy aspect and strong female character portrayed.

Unfortunately I abandoned the book! After reading most of Baldacci's novels this one was quite strange and unbelievable. The sort line bordered on fantasy and not what I was expecting! Waiting for another typical Baldacci thriller!

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