

Book Review: Nash Falls (Walter Nash #1)
By David Baldacci

Walter Nash is living the good life. A mild-mannered and intelligent individual, he's a highly respected senior vice president at Sybaritic Investments. He has a wife (Judith), a 19-year-old daughter (Maggie), and an income that allows him to live a very upscale life.

Then his father, Tiberius (Ty) Nash, from whom Walter has been estranged for many years, dies. Followed almost immediately by a middle-of-the-night visit from the FBI. They ask Walter to become their inside man to expose an enterprise headed by Victoria Steers, an international criminal mastermind, that has been laundering huge sums of money through Sybaritic.

In other words, a whistleblower.

But it's not that simple.

In addition to turning his and his family's lives upside-down, the mission could have deadly consequences. Walter soon learns he's not the first person the FBI turned to for inside information. There were three others before him, and they're all dead.

Despite huge reservations, Walter agrees to help the FBI. Little does he know, however, that Steers – as well as Walter's bosses at Sybaritic – quickly learn of his involvement and decide that rather than being reactive – killing inside people *after* they've begun their investigating – it's time to be proactive. As a result, Walter's life completely unravels, and he finds himself running for his life.

Somehow, he must learn how not only to survive, but to fight back.

The narrative is Baldacci at his best. And while it does slow just a bit in a spot or two, there's more than enough action, suspense and intrigue to compensate. There are plenty of supporting characters who are easy to support or despise. But Walter is easy to root for.

There are also plot twists galore, and chapters written from multiple points-of-view that will propel you forward, eager to start each subsequent chapter.

And, of course, there's a cliffhanger ending (and in the hardcover book, two enticing chapters to whet the appetite) that will leave you both frustrated and chomping at the bit for the next installment. Which, fortunately, isn't that far off: April 2026.

"Nash Falls" is a high-octane thriller that will be hard to put down. Five stars for the latest from Baldacci, as we eagerly await "Hope Rises" scheduled for release next week, April 14.