

The Columbus Dispatch

FICTION

Book Review | Adrenaline: Thriller of CIA agent on the run provides jolt of action

Sunday, June 26, 2011 03:11 AM

BY MATT MARRISON

For The Columbus Dispatch

Jeff Abbott's new thriller, a departure from his stand-alone novels *Panic* and *Collision*, still keeps the intensity at a peak level.

Adrenaline, to be released Friday and the first installment in what is intended to be a series, stars Sam Capra, a thrill-seeking CIA agent based in London. The tale opens with Capra jumping over railings and diving through broken walls in an abandoned construction site.

It's all part of his morning parkour run, a sport of traversing urban landscapes by running, jumping and climbing.

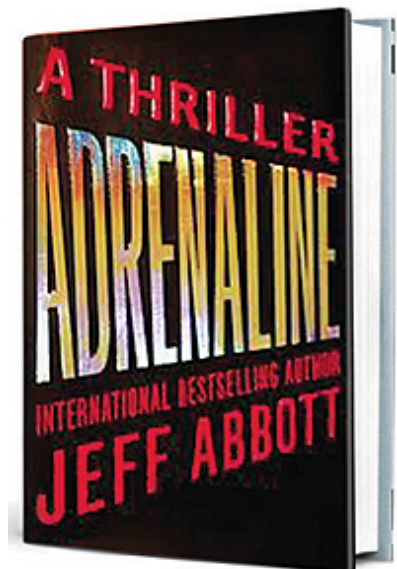
Parkour, Capra says, "gets my adrenaline going, while, at the same time, a slow calm creeps over me."

This is a protagonist who will remain calm in the face of life-threatening crises.

A day in his CIA office (disguised as a consulting firm) seems typical. But then Capra gets a call from his pregnant wife, Lucy, urging him to leave the building.

He goes outside only to spot Lucy held captive in a silver Audi, struggling to get free. As Capra sets off after the car, his office explodes and the car races away. Capra, putting his parkour skills to use, gives chase but is no match for the Audi. He faints, with the last image in his mind a young man with dark hair and scarred face - Lucy's abductor.

When he comes to in a prison cell, he finds he is the lone survivor of the blast and that he and Lucy have been accused by the CIA as murderers and traitors. Capra is determined to clear their names and rescue the woman he loves. He manages to escape and sets out on the trail of his wife and unborn child.



Abbott, who began his career writing detective stories, including the Jordan Poteet and Whit Mosely series, lately has turned to thrillers. Both *Panic* and *Collision* have been optioned for films.

In *Adrenaline*, he employs a quick, calculated style, mimicking the way his hero operates. The occasional humor is dry.

Capra's deliberate actions are credible and the over-the-top action scenes, while sometimes stretching credibility, are exhilarating. *Adrenaline* proves worthy of its title.



The advertisement is a rectangular box with a blue border. On the left side, there is a blue square containing the 'Dispatch' logo in yellow and white, with 'OHIO'S ORIGINAL HOME NEWSPAPER' written below it. Underneath the logo, it says 'Where Columbus goes for news.' in white text, and 'EVERY DAY' in large, bold, yellow letters at the bottom. To the right of the blue square, the text 'Subscribe to *The Dispatch* and SAVE!' is written in blue. Below this, there is a bulleted list of three items: '• Every day - Save 25% off the retail price', '• Thur-Sun - Save 20% off the retail price', and '• Sunday - An average of over \$200 in coupons each week!'. At the bottom right of the box, there is a yellow button with the text 'Click here to start your subscription.' in blue.

Already a subscriber? Enroll in EZPay and get a free gift! [Enroll now](#)

©2011, *The Columbus Dispatch*, *Reproduction prohibited*