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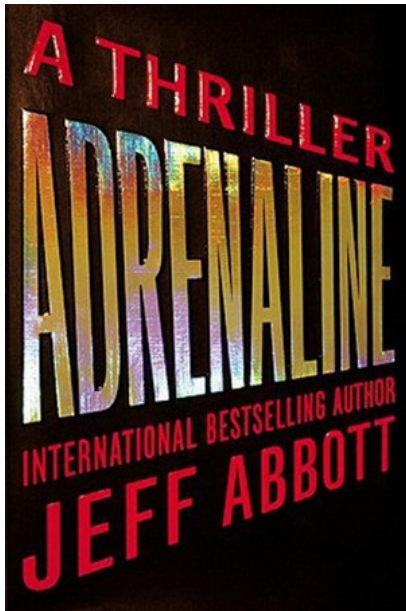


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Thriller grabs reader from start

By Frances Tate Special, to Scripps Newspapers
 Posted July 2, 2011 at 4:58 p.m.

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CONTRIBUTED BY GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING

ADRENALINE by Jeff Abbott (Grand Central, \$24.99)

Up-and-coming CIA agent Sam Capra's life is perfect — the perfect posting to London, the perfect wife, Lucy (also a CIA agent) and the most perfect, though as yet unborn, child known lovingly as The Bundle. What could go wrong? Well lots could, it would seem, starting the morning Lucy phones Sam at work and tells him he must leave the building immediately. Sam rushes outside just in time to glimpse Lucy driving off with a man with a scarred face. As Sam gives chase his office building explodes killing all those he worked with. A white-knuckle opening to "Adrenaline" by Jeff Abbott leads into undoubtedly the best thriller I've read so far this year.

Sam wakes to find himself in a secret CIA prison somewhere in Europe, accused of being at worst, a traitor, or at best, a terrorist in collusion with his also treasonous wife. Convincing agents

mourning the deaths of so many of their friends that they are mistaken proves impossible, but neither harsh interrogation nor torture can change Sam's protestations of innocence. Sam, unshaken in his belief that Lucy has been kidnapped and played no part in the bombing, finally breaks free of the CIA to begin a desperate search for his wife and child.

With very little money or resources available to him and only a thread of a clue, Sam takes on an almost impossible task as he learns there is absolutely nothing he won't do — however distasteful — to save his family.

"Adrenaline" will surely vault Abbott to the top of must-read authors. The relentless action will hook you from the heart-stopping opening to a conclusion that was as shocking as it was heart-rending. "Adrenaline" is the first in a series of thrillers featuring Sam Capra, an irresistible new hero.

Abbott is a Texas native who lives in Austin. While he has no plans to visit Wichita Falls, he will be appearing at 7 p.m. July 12 at the Lincoln Park Barnes & Noble in Dallas and at 7 p.m. July 13 at the Irving Public Library.

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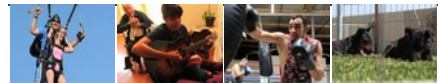
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