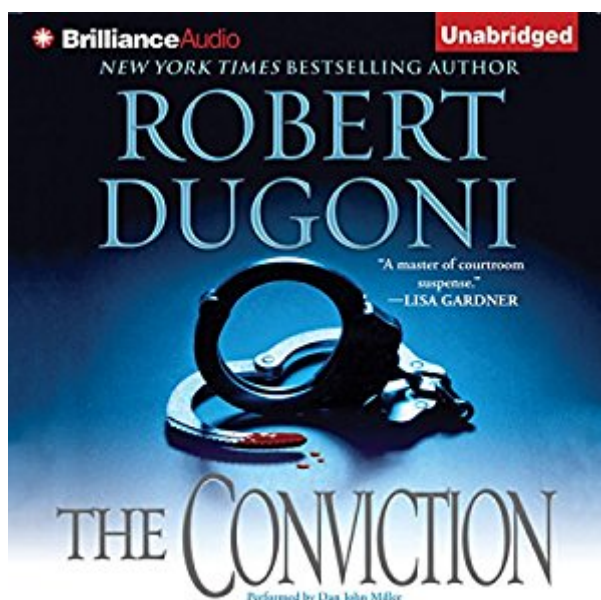


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The Conviction: David Sloane, Book 5



Synopsis

Lawyer David Sloane is a desperate parent. His son Jake, still reeling from the loss of his mother in a brutal murder (Bodily Harm), has spiraled out of control. Sloane needs to reconnect with him - needs to keep him out of jail. So when an old friend suggests a guys-only camping trip, Sloane accepts. Maybe if he and Jake get away they will find needed quality time. Bond. Catch a few fish. But the trip into the remote reaches of California's Gold Country takes a turn for the worse when Jake and his buddy are caught vandalizing a general store. Brought to trial in a kangaroo court, the presiding judge tries, convicts and sentences the boys to six months in the county-owned wilderness detention center. For the teen-aged boys, a grueling psychological and physical ordeal begins. As Sloane fights the conviction, he stumbles into ever-more menacing territory. A clannish town, a judge whose authority seems to extend far beyond the confines of his courtroom, and the emerging story of a juvenile detention center from hell, where the glories of nature cover dark secrets. All standards of lawyerly conduct fail Sloane in Judge Earl Boykin's court. With his legal options exhausted, knowing the boys' lives are on the line, Sloane hatches a daring rescue operation that just might get them all killed. For the lawyer who never loses, this time the only way to win is outside the law.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Dugoni's *The Conviction* has been compared to the writing of Grisham, Baldacci and Turow but for some reason the story line reminded me of Louis

Sachar's HOLES. Perhaps it was the "youth in peril at the hands of a corrupt system" that tied the two stories together in my mind or the fact that both disciplinary facilities are located in the middle of a sterile desert. I really don't know. CONVICTION takes place in a fictional California town and examines the corruption that ensues when the lack of cash flow in the state puts the judicial system in jeopardy and it brings in "for profit" facilities to house the "convicted". The facilities, it turns out, are little more than military styled slave labor camps. David Sloan is a lawyer with a reputation for always winning and has a step-son Jake that challenges his talents. Jake is in trouble with the law for underage drinking and after winning a conditional release for the boy, Sloan and a detective friend decide to take their respective sons on a males only camping trip in an attempt to repair David's relationship with his troubled step-son. The group stops for the night and later that evening the boys are apprehended robbing a local convenience store. In the blink of an eye are tried, coerced into pleading guilty, convicted, sentenced and shipped off to begin their sentences before their fathers are even aware of what's happened. As the fathers race to save their sons, what ensues is a real thrill ride through the ins and outs of the legal system and a sobering look at the glaring pitfalls of privatization, which it appears, is nothing less than an opportunity for a judicial systems with questionable motives to enforce legalized extortion where parents are forced to pay for their child's incarceration and "rehabilitation". (At the rate things are going this could be the wave of the future). I've never been exposed to any of Dugoni's previous writing but THE CONVICTION has made me a fan.

WOW....WHAT A GREAT BOOK AND GREAT STORY.....I AM HOOKED AND HAVE ALREADY ORDERED MORE OF HIS BOOKS....HE KEEPS THE STORY GOING AT A GOOD PACE WITH NO WASTED STORY TELLING ABOUT THE WEATHER AND OTHER DUMB STUFF, HE KEEPS YOU WONDERING WHATS NEXT...VERY HARD TO TAKE A BREAK FROM THIS BOOK....LOVE IT AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT ONE I HAVE ALREADY ORDERED.....

This is a really good book! Great plot, good characters, lots of intrigue, and some totally unexpected twists. I loved it. The only thing it needed was some editing. Some things were obviously just typos, and those things jump off the page at me, but aren't of real importance. But there were wrong words used quite often (I checked the dictionary to be sure), and a couple of just plain weird choices. But

the one major thing that made me feel like it wasn't a 5 was at nearly the end where it became clear that a scene had been rewritten and inserted without deleting the earlier version. It's where B D kicks & someone grabs the guard's gun & hits that guard. This happens twice with a scene in between, but the second has more detail. They are the same characters, but as written here it appears that B D kicks the same guy twice in the same place (possible, but doesn't make sense here), and the other guy grabs the same guard's same gun twice - which ISN'T possible.

I have completed the David Sloane series and loved every one of them. Unusual since I worked in the "legal field" and LE for over 40 years...I'm difficult to please. I thought the relationship between David and his step-son Jake was very realistic and true to form for teenagers. My only criticism is that it was a bit predictable and a little bit overdone with Big Baby....other than that, I highly recommend the whole series. I can't wait for the next installment. In the mean time, I'll read Mr. Dugoni's stand alone novels.

I found this to be an excellent novel with a higher level of tension than many of this genre. The story concerns the stepson of attorney David Sloane, Jake, and how he finds himself sentenced to a 'boot camp' for juveniles, located in a small community in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. Sloane and Jake, along with his friend Detective Tom Molia and Molia's son T.J., travel together to a small town in the mountains intending to have a vacation of hiking and outdoors activities. Their first night in the small town, Jake tries to purchase beer and cigarettes using false ID, and when the store refuses to sell to him and confiscates the ID, he decides to go back late at night and break into the store to recover it. T.J. is with him, and both end up arrested and almost immediately sentenced and hauled away to boot camp, before their parents were even aware that anything was wrong. From that point on, Sloane and Molia work to free their sons, who are being held in a detention camp that turns out to be the tip of the iceberg and leads to a far reaching investigation into corruption of the police and courts of the small town. During this entire time, as the fathers are struggling to get a fair trial for their sons, the Jake and T.J. are both at serious risk in the camp from both the camp leaders as well as other juveniles also being held. The tension is strong throughout the story, and there is very little taking place in the courtroom, so the balance between outdoor action scenes and indoor legal discussions is very good. The story also shows how Jake grows from an angry young man into one who understands how to both take responsibility for his own actions, and value his relationships with others. This is the first novel I've read by Robert Dugoni and I enjoyed it very much.

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