

A NOVEL BY THE #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

DAVID
BALDACCI

THE
WHOLE
TRUTH

The Whole Truth, David Baldacci, Hachette Digital, Inc., 2008, 0446536148, 9780446536141, 406 pages. "Dick, I need a war." Nicolas Creel is a man on a mission. He heads up the world's largest defense contractor, The Ares Corporation. Dick Pender is the man Creel retains to "perception manage" his company to even more riches by manipulating international conflicts. But Creel may have an even grander plan in mind. Shaw, a man with no first name and a truly unique past, has a different agenda. Reluctantly doing the bidding of a secret multi-national intelligence agency, he travels the globe to keep it safe and at peace. Willing to do anything to get back to the top of her profession, Katie James is a journalist who has just gotten the break of a lifetime: the chance to interview the sole survivor of a massacre that has left every nation stunned. In this terrifying, global thriller, these characters' lives will collide head-on as a series of events is set in motion that could change the world as we know it. An utterly spellbinding story that feels all too real, THE WHOLE TRUTH delivers all the twists and turns, emotional drama, unforgettable characters, and can't-put-it-down pacing that readers expect from David Baldacci-and still goes beyond anything he's written before..

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Moscow Rules , Daniel Silva, Jul 22, 2008, Fiction, 528 pages. Daniel Silva has hit the top with his new Gabriel Allon novel... A #1 New York Times bestseller! The death of a journalist leads Israeli spy Gabriel Allon to Russia, where he

The Camel Club , David Baldacci, Oct 1, 2005, Fiction, . The Camel Club. Four members, four stories, one philosophy. Men with no past and no future, they spend their time studying wild conspiracy theories that reach to the highest

Stone Cold , David Baldacci, Nov 6, 2007, Fiction, 400 pages. The #1 bestselling author of The Collectors and Simple Genius returns with STONE COLD...an unforgettable novel of revenge, conspiracy, and murder that brings a band of unlikely

The Husband A Novel, Dean Koontz, Jun 15, 2007, Fiction, 432 pages. BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Dean Koontz's Odd Apocalypse. #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER We have your wife. You get her back for two million cash. On an ordinary

Split Second , David Baldacci, Sep 30, 2003, Fiction, . The world can change forever in a single... SPLIT SECOND Michelle Maxwell has just wrecked her promising career at the Secret Service. Against her instincts, she let a

Divine Justice , David Baldacci, Nov 4, 2008, Fiction, . Following the instant # 1 New York Times bestseller Stone Cold, Oliver Stone and the Camel Club return in David Baldacci's most surprising thriller yet . . . Known by his alias

The Collectors , David Baldacci, Oct 17, 2006, Fiction, 438 pages. Oliver Stone and his Camel Club are in a race to stop a man who is determined to auction off America to the highest bidder: Roger Seagraves is selling America to her enemies

The Winner , David Baldacci, Aug 1, 2002, Fiction, . THE DREAM She is twenty, beautiful, dirt-poor, and hoping for a better life for her infant daughter when LuAnn Tyler is offered the gift of a lifetime, a \$100 million lottery

First Family , David Baldacci, 2009, Fiction, 452 pages. Summoned by First Lady Jane Cox to rescue her niece from kidnappers, investigators Sean King and Michelle Maxwell are pushed to the limit in a search that is hampered by the

Ford County: Stories , John Grisham, Mar 16, 2010, Fiction, 320 pages. BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from John Grisham's The Litigators. #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER New York Times bestselling author John Grisham takes us back to Ford

Troika a novel, David Gurr, 1979, True Crime, 271 pages. .

The Hunt for Red October , Tom Clancy, Apr 1, 1992, Fiction, 656 pages. Here is the runaway bestseller that launched Tom Clancy's phenomenal career. A military thriller so gripping in its action and so convincing in its accuracy that the author was

Simple Genius , David Baldacci, Apr 24, 2007, Fiction, . In a world of secrets, human genius is power. And sometimes it is simply deadly . . . Near Washington, D.C., there are two clandestine institutions: the world's most unusual

Dark Summer , Iris Johansen, Oct 21, 2008, Fiction, 384 pages. It begins with a single shot. Devon Brady is a devoted veterinarian working in a makeshift hospital on a remote search and rescue mission. When a man arrives with his wounded

Absolute Power , David Baldacci, Jun 15, 2001, Fiction, 469 pages. In a heavily guarded mansion in a posh Virginia suburb, a man and a woman start to make love, trapping Luther Whitney, a career break-in artist, behind a secret wall. Then the

Paths of Glory , Jeffrey Archer, Mar 3, 2009, Fiction, 384 pages. Some people have dreams that are so magnificent that if they were to achieve them, their place in history would be guaranteed. Francis Drake, Robert Scott, Charles Lindbergh

In this terrifying, global thriller, these characters' lives will collide head-on as a series of events is set in motion that could change the world as we know it. An utterly spellbinding story that feels all too real, THE WHOLE TRUTH delivers all the twists and turns, emotional drama, unforgettable characters, and can't-put-it-down pacing that readers expect from David Baldacci-and still goes beyond anything he's written before.

Usually a sophisticated plotter, bestseller Baldacci (Absolute Power) offers a story line and villain on a par with an average James Bond film in what's billed as his first international thriller. Nicholas Creel, the head of the Ares Corporation, a huge defense contractor, hires a perception management firm to start a second cold war by planting fake news stories on the Internet about Russian atrocities. The propaganda campaign soon turns violent with the massacre of the members of a London think tank, the Phoenix Group, apparently by a Russian hit team. Creel hopes that the Phoenix Group's links with the Chinese government will lead to war between Russia and China as well as feed a worldwide arms race that will profit his company. A shadowy operative, A Shaw, whose fiancée perished in the London attack, allies himself with a disgraced female journalist in an effort to thwart Creel's evil plot. While some readers may find it a stretch that a resurgent Russia should so easily overshadow all other world crises, Baldacci in an author's note makes an eloquent case for the very real threat of perception management. (Apr. 22)

Nicholas Creel, a powerful and wealthy defense contractor, is also a megalomaniac who wants to start a world war, which would help improve the bottom line of his company. Shaw (and that's the only name he is known by), an agent for a secret multinational intelligence agency, teams up with Katie James, a disgraced journalist, to thwart Creel's plan. Bullets fly and bad guys die, as do a few innocent bystanders. McLarty's reading is accomplished, and his precise tone alternates between quiet and measured and furious and fast paced. His strong characterizations make it easy to distinguish the players, and an echo tone effectively signals Shaw's memories. However the intermittent background music, rather than heightening drama, is somewhat distracting but shouldn't deter Baldacci fans. --Jeanette Larson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nicholas Creel owns a defense contracting business called Ares. In an effort to bolster sales, he hires Dick Pender whose specialty is perception management. Perception managers fabricate facts and then pass them off to the public as truth. "Why waste time trying to discover the truth, when you can so easily create it?" Pender hatches a scheme to create an international incident that will result

in a number of superpowers on the verge of war. These countries will then increase their defense spending and order weapons and equipment from Ares.

Part of the scheme is called "The Red Menace." Pender and staff are planting false stories about the Russians in the news and over the internet. Several people suspect that these stories are false, including journalist Kate James, consultant Anna Fischer and operative A. Shaw. In usual thriller fashion, the closer they get to the truth, the more dangerous their lives become. How The Whole Truth unfolds will have you turning pages at breakneck speed.

Dick Pender, a former employee in the White House press office, is an expert in perception management. His motto is: "Why waste time trying to discover the truth, when you can so easily create it?" In David Baldacci's "The Whole Truth," some very influential people pay Pender big bucks to bury inconvenient secrets and manipulate public opinion, using cleverly crafted lies packaged for maximum media impact. Pender's most important client is Machiavellian billionaire Nicholas Creel, the head of a defense conglomerate called the Ares Corporation. Creel, who believes that "a peace based on lurking terror was the best kind of all," hires Pender to manufacture an artificial conflict that would generate a stepped-up arms race among the world's superpowers.

Baldacci's hero is Shaw, a globetrotting troubleshooter for a shadowy international law-enforcement organization, "sort of like Interpol on steroids." He is a strong and physically imposing man whose knowledge of surveillance, hand-to-hand combat, and weaponry makes him a highly valuable asset. His acting ability, uncanny intuition, courage, and coolness under pressure have helped him prevail in a number of dangerous situations. On any given day, Shaw's quarry might include ruthless drug dealers, bloodthirsty terrorists, or vicious neo-Nazis. Although Shaw dreams of retiring and living a sedate life with his beautiful and brilliant girlfriend, German-born Anna Fischer, his boss has him in a stranglehold from which he cannot easily break free.

In the middle of the action is Katie James, a journalist whose dependency on alcohol has landed her at the obit desk of her newspaper. After covering the funeral of a Scottish hero, James lands in the middle of what she thinks is an international drug smuggling ring. A chance encounter with Shaw (no first name) pulls James into the biggest story of her life, if she can live to tell the tale.

Wow, I was really disappointed in this book. I've read many of his other books and have enjoyed them. I could only get through 1/3 of this one. Characters are shallow, relationships cliché and the political ideology of the author is coming through too much for my comfort. His own political leanings have never been an issue before....they never have been apparent to me, but this time he pushes too much and I felt I was being lectured.

Shaw, a man with no first name and a unique past, works for a secret multinational intelligence agency by traveling the globe to keep it safe and at peace. Desperate to get back to the top of her profession, journalist Katie James gets the break of a lifetime: the chance to interview the sole survivor of a massacre that has left every nation horrified. In this international thriller, these characters face a catastrophic threat that could change the world as we know it.

He was speaking Russian on the screen but at the bottom his tragic story was retold in virtually any language one desired with the press of a key. Secret Russian Federation police had beaten “confessions” of treason out of him and his family. He’d managed to escape and make this crude video.

“There are tens of thousands just like me,” he told the world. “Their bones lie heavy on the fro-zen tundra of Siberia and in the deep waters of Lake Balkhash in Kazakhstan. You will see evidence of this soon. There are others who will take up the ﬁght now that I am gone.”

The ﬁrst person to see the video, a computer programmer in Houston, was stunned. He e-mailed the ﬁle to a list of twenty friends on his share list. The next person to view it seconds later lived in France and suffered from insomnia. In tears, she sent it to ﬁty

friends. The third viewer was from South Africa and was so incensed at what he'd seen that he phoned the BBC and then did an e-mail blast to eight hundred of his "closest" mates on the Web. A teenage girl in Norway watched the video in horror and then forwarded it to every person she knew. The next thousand people to view it lived in nine-teen different countries and shared it with thirty friends each, and they with dozens each. What had started as a digital raindrop in the Internet ocean quickly exploded into a pixel-and-byte tsunami the size of a continent.

Like a spreading pandemic, the video ignited a maelstrom worldwide. From blog to blog, chat room to chat room, e-mail to e-mail, the story passed. With each retelling it grew in proportion until the globe was in apparent jeopardy of being overrun at any moment by crazy, bloodthirsty Russians. Within three days after Konstantin's sad proclamation, the world rang with his name. Soon half the earth's population, including many who had no idea who the U.S. president or the pope was, knew all about the dead Russian.

And from the e-mail, blog, and chat room circuits the story was picked up by newspapers on the outskirts of the mainstream. And then the likes of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and leading dailies around the world were sucked into the frenzy, if for no other reason than it was what everyone was talking about. From there, it hit the global TV circuit, with everyone from Channel One in Germany to the BBC to ABC News and CNN to government-run TV in China heralding a possible new doomsday era. And from there it became firmly planted in the world's collective mind, soul, and conscience, becoming the number one story to such an extent that there were no other stories anyone cared about.

The Russian government issued emphatic denials to all of it. Russian president Gorshkov even went on international television to denounce it as a complete and total lie and offered up what he called "slam dunk" evidence that no such person as Konstantin had ever even existed. Yet not many people believed him. Gorshkov was ex-KGB. From top to bottom, the Russian government was filled with fascist demons; journalists across the world had been informing people of that for years. It was just that up to this moment no one had really cared, because, well, it hadn't interfered with their lives. Now they had dead Konstantin and a mushroom cloud on the Internet telling them that it suddenly mattered very much.

There were certainly plenty of skeptical people out there who held serious doubts as to who and exactly what Konstantin and his video were actually supposed to represent. These same people would start to investigate the supposedly dead man and his story. Yet for many others they had heard and seen all they needed to unequivocally make up their minds.

But Russia and the rest of the world would never discover that Konstantin was actually a "edgling" actor from Latvia, his "wounds," and "emaciation" the result of clever makeup and professional lighting. After shooting his piece he'd washed up, removed all elements of his disguise, and had a nice lunch at, of all places, the Russian Tea Room on 57th Street in New York, spending part of the \$50,000 he'd been paid to do the shoot. Since he also spoke Spanish and possessed dark good looks and a chiseled body, his chief ambition now was to win a major role in a Latino soap opera.

So begins David Baldacci's new book--a thriller unlike any he's written before. "Matt" is Mathew Pender, of Pender Associates--a shadowy organization that specializes in managing seemingly impossible situations for its clients. Sometimes, those services extend to managing--and creating--armed conflict. When Matt Pender is asked by his client--the large...more "Matt, I need a war."

This has action flick printed all over it. Scary to think that this could happen - at least the premise that PM "Perception Management" could be used to make the world believe whatever the person paying for it wants them to believe. Not so believable: that any human could be so close to being an actual Super Hero as Shaw is but that's what makes it so action packed and fun. I, too, would like to see Baldacci bring Katie and Shaw back for more.

Baldacci's "Whole Truth" is particularly relevant right now, because it deals with the idea of "managed truth" versus "actual truth." "Managed truth" is what people in power--governments, large corporations, believe to be true, and the book explores what can happen when "manged truth" becomes more influential than real truth.

Longtime readers of Baldacci will appreciate the difference between this book and the previous ones. It has the powerful "agent type" who follows an internal code that is more exacting than any law. In this case, the agent is Shaw (appropriately named with the one syllable tough guy name). And it is the tough woman who is in over her head who needs said agent's help--in this case, Katie James. So the elements that many readers find satisfying in Baldacci's other books are there.

What distinguishes Shaw and James, though, is their flaws. They are who they are, and are more admiarable than not, but then fail, they do not always do the right thing, and are quite believable despite their heroic qualities. When you throw these meaty characters in with a plot that is frightening but all too plausible, you have a heckuva summer read. (less)

Nicolas Creel is a man on a mission. He heads up the world's largest defense contractor, The Ares Corporation. Dick Pender is the man Creel retains to manage his company to even more riches by manipulating international conflicts. But Creel may have an even grander plan in mind. Shaw, a man with no first name and a truly unique past, has a different agenda. Reluctantly doing the bidding of a secret multi-national intelligence agency, he travels the globe to keep it safe and at peace. Willing to...more Nicolas Creel is a man on a mission. He heads up the world's largest defense contractor, The Ares Corporation. Dick Pender is the man Creel retains to manage his company to even more riches by manipulating international conflicts. But Creel may have an even grander plan in mind. Shaw, a man with no first name and a truly unique past, has a different agenda. Reluctantly doing the bidding of a secret multi-national intelligence agency, he travels the globe to keep it safe and at peace. Willing to do anything to get back to the top of her profession, Katie James is a journalist who has just gotten the break of a lifetime: the chance to interview the sole survivor of a massacre that has left every nation stunned. In this terrifying, global thriller, these characters' lives will collide head-on as a series of events is set in motion that could change the world as we know it. An utterly spellbinding story that feels all too real.(less)

Once again Baldacci writes a good mystery with his usual "page turner" pace. However, this time he adds something to think about as he does a good job bringing in "perception management" as a topic. He shows how PMs could manufacture facts and then sell them to the world as truth. This is much easier today with the web (thanks Al Gore!) and little verification of facts. As Baldacci says in his Postscript, "And by using these methods, a major untruth can be established so quickly and overwhelming...more Once again Baldacci writes a good mystery with his usual "page turner" pace. However, this time he adds something to think about as he does a good job bringing in "perception management" as a topic. He shows how PMs could manufacture facts and then sell them to the world as truth. This is much easier today with the web (thanks Al Gore!) and little verification of facts. As Baldacci says in his Postscript, "And by using these methods, a major untruth can be established so quickly and overwhelmingly across the world that no digging by anyone after the fact can make a dent in the public consciousness that it actually isn't true at all. And that is precisely what makes it so dangerous."(less)

Learned a new term with this one, "perception management". The DOD even has manuals on it.It is he process of creating facts as "truth" and publishing them in as many was as possible so that they are actually perceived as true. In this case a billionaire armaments supplier is falling on hard times and is upset with all the little brushfire wars, so he hires a PM company to stir up hostilities between Russia and the world as well as with China. As the misinformation spreads and tempers flare the...more Learned a new term with this one, "perception management". The DOD even has manuals on it.It is he process of creating facts as "truth" and publishing them in as many was as possible so that they are actually perceived as true. In this case a billionaire armaments supplier is falling on hard times and is upset with all the little brushfire wars, so he hires a PM company to stir up hostilities between Russia and the world as well as with China. As the misinformation spreads and tempers flare the supplier is busy inking contacts will all concerned for

trillions of dollars in military equipment. In to this atmosphere enters A Shaw, a hired gun and a good one, working for a shadow organization that takes care of problems that governments can't. He is tired of the job, has met a woman he hopes to marry but finds out that retirement is not an option and his employer has the means to enforce that rule. Worldwide action as the billionaire and his PM Company use deadly means to plug any leaks or sources of information contrary to that which they are spreading. I enjoyed this one and the PM premise is a scary one that is probably in use right now and few the wiser.(less)

I love David Baldacci and this was no exception. The premise of The Whole Truth involved a conspiracy to bring the U.S. back into conflict with Russia rather than focusing on the Middle East. Poses the question, which world is safer--cold war type conflict versus terrorism. It raised some interesting points, and made me feel like I was back in political science classes. Also, a good storyline and interesting characters.

In this story if you have read another one of David Baldacci's books, he goes into a slightly larger realm when he includes most of the world in this amazing book. Shaw, the main character is working to repay his debt to a government official when he gets engaged to Anna Fischer. Shaw is looking to retire when things take a turn for the worse and Shaw has to re think his plans. Katie James is a reporter who has run into problems with alcohol and now is in a new low for a reporter and is desperat...more In this story if you have read another one of David Baldacci's books, he goes into a slightly larger realm when he includes most of the world in this amazing book. Shaw, the main character is working to repay his debt to a government official when he gets engaged to Anna Fischer. Shaw is looking to retire when things take a turn for the worse and Shaw has to re think his plans. Katie James is a reporter who has run into problems with alcohol and now is in a new low for a reporter and is desperately looking for a story that will bring her back to the top. Katie is roaming a town when a man (Shaw) catches her eye and she decided to follow him leading her into the story of her lifetime. Now Katie, Shaw, and Frank (Shaw's boss) must find out who is behind the London Massacre and the imposing World War III. Shaw, Frank, Anna, and Katie create a phenomenal story that you cannot put down. This book has so many twists and turns that when you think you have it figured out how they are going to get the 'bad guy' the next chapter changes your thoughts. This book is a must read especially because of the great writing style and topics of David Baldacci(less)