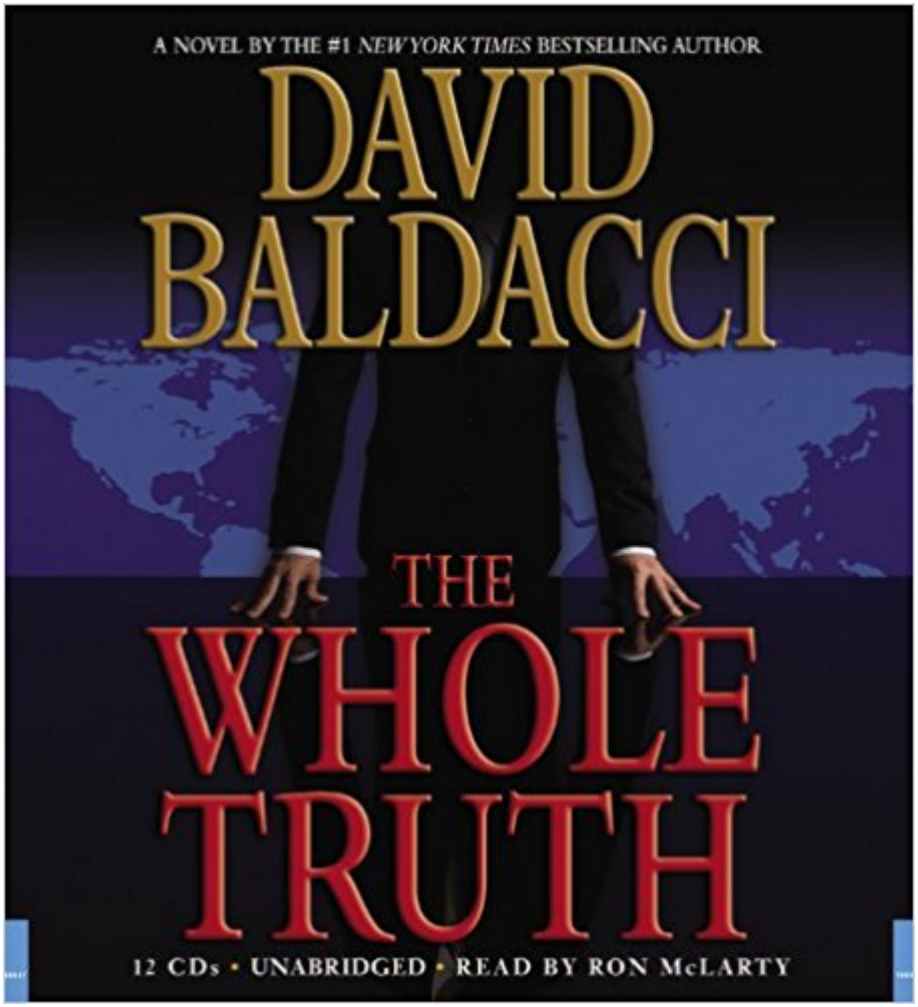
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The Whole Truth



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Synopsis

"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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 fiancÃƒÂ©e 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) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Nicolas Creel, aÃ Â powerful and wealthy defense contractor, is also aÃ Â megalomaniac who wants to start a world war, which would help improve theÃ Â bottom line of his company. Shaw (and thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 CreelÃ¢â ¬â„¢s plan.Ã Â Bullets fly and bad guys die, as do a fewÃ Â innocent bystanders.Ã Â McLartyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s reading is accomplished, and his precise tone alternates betweenÃ Â quiet and measured and furious and fast paced.Ã Â His strong characterizations make it easy to distinguish the players, and an echo tone effectively signals ShawÃ¢â ¬â„¢s memories.Ã Â However the intermittent background music, rather than heightening drama,Ã Â is somewhatÃ Â distracting but shouldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t deterÃ Â Baldacci fans. --Jeanette Larson

The Whole Truth (A. Shaw Book 1)Ã Â is a thriller based on a real issue: that of society’s vulnerability to bad information on the Internet. There have been some glaring, real examples of mis- or dis-information over the past decade, many of them in political power struggles. Of course, in the realm of thrillers, such a truism is taken to extremes to make a gripping story, and Baldacci has succeeded in doing this very well. Although this book was published several years ago, the story and writing have been crafted in a way that holds up well in today’s world.On the level of entertainment, this book is top notch. The characters are diverse and interesting. The leading protagonists are appealing, though a bit stereotypical: the "good guys" to be supermen and extremely lucky while the "bad guys" are greedy, power-hungry, and terribly warped genius-types who have a fatal flaw. Baldacci blurs these stereotypes with serious calamities and character flaws for the heroes and significant victories plus a degree of sincerity for the villains. The plot is developed with plausible logic and plenty of surprises. The balance among setting, characterization, and events is excellent.An additional plus is that Baldacci has used good judgement in relegating

gore, profanity, and sex to background factors that do not interfere with the telling of the story.I'd rate it 4 and 1/2 stars. Highly recommended to those who enjoy large-scale conspiracy thrillers.

I enjoy Baldacci's stories and characters. I don't get terribly critical but rather how I feel while reading the story. I appreciate that it is fiction and should be enjoyed. It's exciting, unpredictable and if the reader looks forward to picking up the story where he left off - then it was worth the effort to read it.

David Baldacci spins a great yarn as most of us have come to understand, but in The Whole Truth, he reaches heights unknown before. This is a thoroughly exciting tale, and he comes at you with twists and turns and redirection that leaves you panting to keep up. I've read a lot of suspense, including many of Mr. Baldacci's works, and never did I expect to find such brilliance in this story when I began reading it. It's a thriller, it's a most touching love story involving people who should be immune from that malady. Baldacci takes all of these elements and weaves a story that I will remember for a long time to come. The man's mind must work at warp speed.....it's an amazing read.A Baldacci Fan

This really was a pretty creative story. and frankly it all could or does happen. (very scary, now that I think about it)I'm sorry, I know David Baldacci is a very talented author. But his characters are all broken in their own perfect way. Each one is the most handsome, smartest, most degrees, top of the class,sexy, most oh (you get the idea) and generally you'd hate to be stuck in a car for more then an hour with any of these people. Shaw, "a man with no first name" Thank God put a real name on him and you would hate him more.Damn, Baldacci's creative twist and turns do draw you back. I am currently reading The Last Mile, an Amos Decker book and really enjoying it.

I've read many David Baldacci's book, I particularly like the Will Robbie series, keeps you interested from the beginning. This book I'm almost on page 200 and is quite boring, I'm having trouble picking it up and reading, I hope it gets better.

Started reading Baldacci about a year ago and this one by far is the best! He gives a great insight on PM a subject i never heard of but not surprised it exists. Baldacci did a great job in building realist characters and did a get job in putting all the pieces together to a realistic end. A must read.

Creel, a multi-billionaire weapons manufacturer, is accustomed to making things happen, one way or another. When he decides to start an international conflict which will make him richer. More important to Creel, however, is his belief that he can bring back the old ways of life, including developing a new "Cold War" which will result in continued world-wide rearmament. What he never reckoned on was A. Shaw and Katie James, a super agent for a secret American agency and a reporter, respectively. David Baldacci provides a story full of love, murder and mayhem as we follow these characters to their final confrontation. A very entertaining read.

A most interesting plot. I would never have thought of such a thing. The characters are interesting and absorbing. Recommended for Baldacci fans!

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