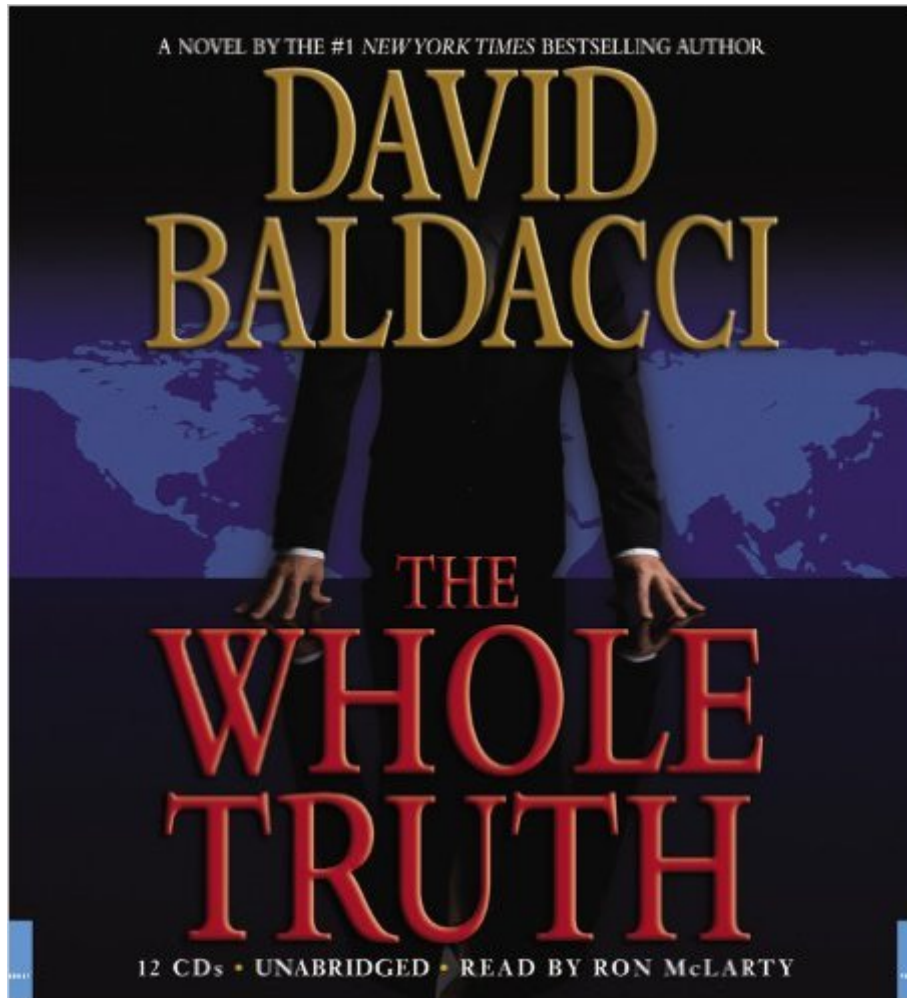


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The Whole Truth



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

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. Complicating matters is Katie James, an award-winning investigative journalist. As a result of a traumatic experience in Afghanistan, she became an alcoholic who has been relegated to writing obituaries.

New Old Direction for David Baldacci! Not quite 5 stars. It appears Mr. Baldacci has returned to his original suspense "thriller" roots; and it came none too soon as I was growing weary with his new "less-than-gratifying" direction in his last 4 novels. Welcome back Mr. Baldacci. *The Whole Truth* is an excellent thriller and appears to lay the groundwork for future novels involving a man simply known only as Shaw, Katie an alcoholic journalist, and Frank a tough quasi-cop. Terrific chemistry between the three strong characters. Like Lee Child's Jack Reacher, Shaw is basically a loner who is more than able to take care of himself regardless of the situation he finds himself in. Katie is a former 2 time Pulitzer winning journalist whose life is a mess. Frank is the supervisor of a covert, Interpol type police force that Shaw is "forced" to work for. The 3 form the nucleus of a crime fighting team that is second to none, and promises future thrilling Baldacci adventures. *The Whole Truth* centers on the manipulation of "The" truth as a form of "perception management". In other words, truth is perception and perception is truth. It is the manipulation of perception that makes things appear to be true when in fact they are not. In *The Whole Truth* the world's largest defense contractor, Nicolas Creel, attempts to re-establish the cold war through perception management manipulation in order to make billions in new defense contracts from the deceived world super powers. He is almost successful except for the actions of Shaw, Katie, and Frank. Excellent mystery thriller, good believable fast-paced action, and wonderfully crafted character interaction. Overall simply an excellent story. Character development was superb. It appears Mr.

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