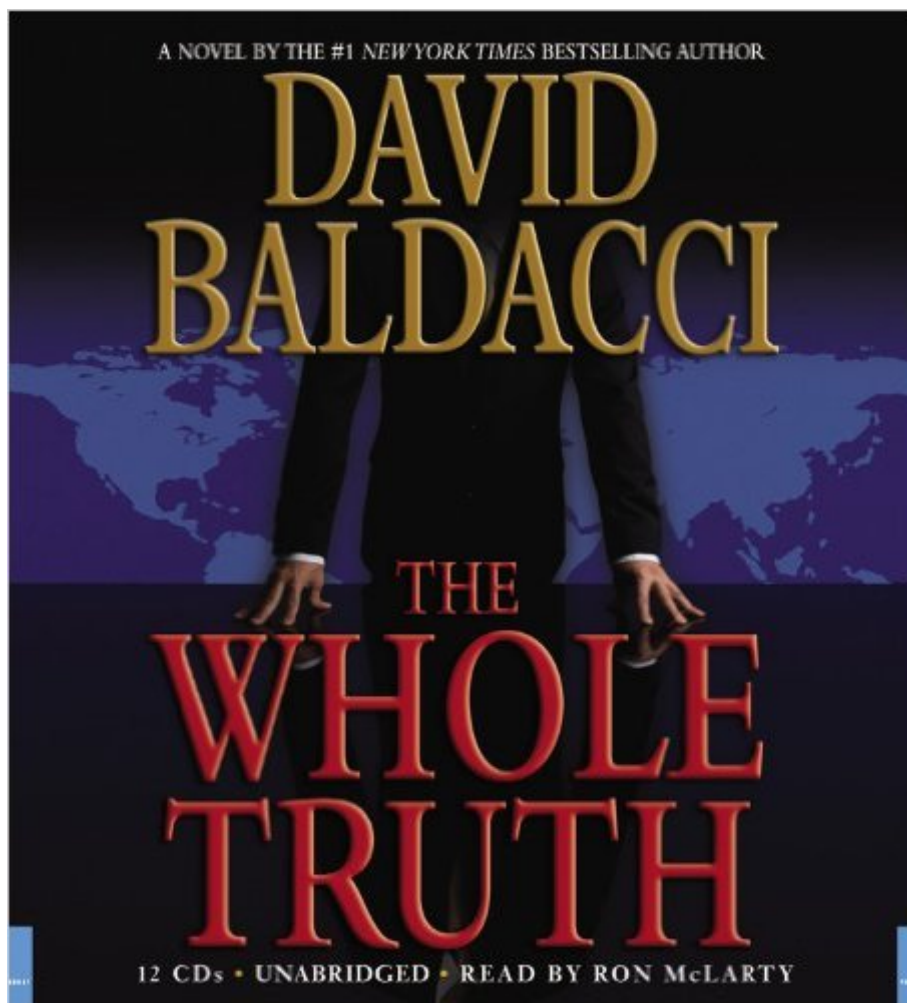


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The Whole Truth (Shaw And Katie James, Book 1)



Synopsis

"Matt, I need a war." 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 largest defense contractor in the world--to manipulate two nations against each other, a shocking and surprising series of events are set in motion that will possibly bring the world to the brink of World War III.*In this epic thriller with a global backdrop, David Baldacci delivers all the twists and turns, compelling characters, and can't-put-it-down pacing that readers have come to expect from this master storyteller.

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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