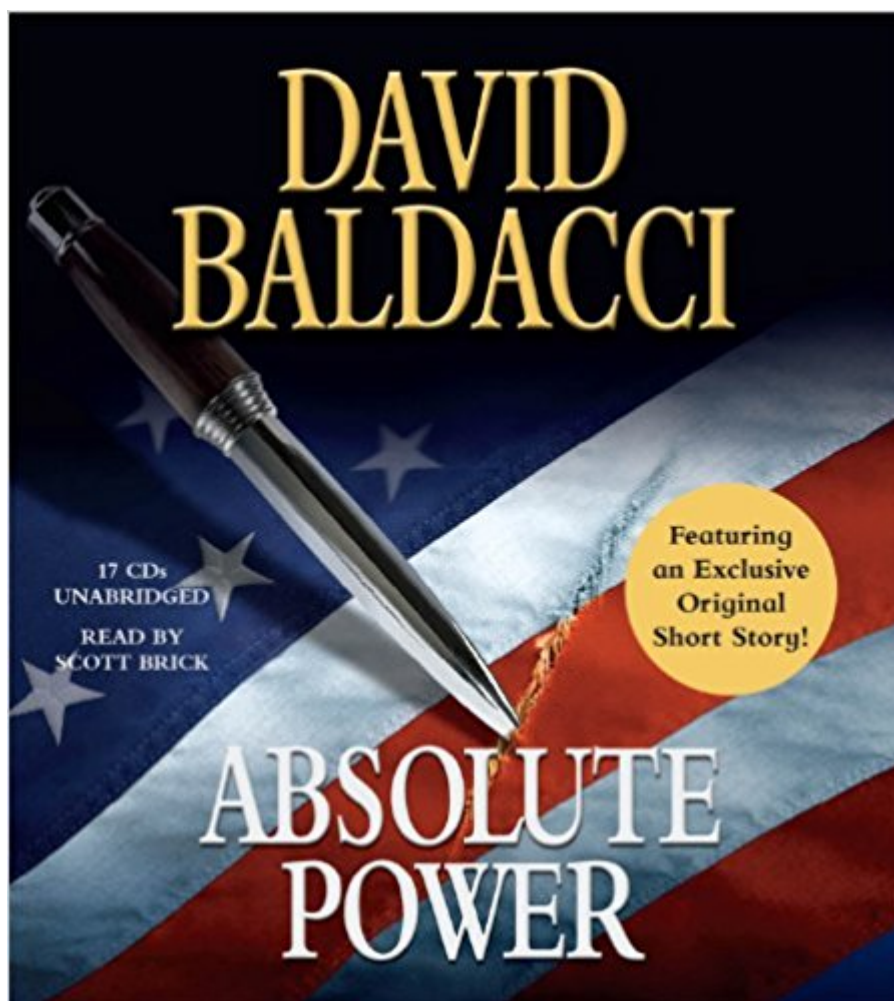


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Absolute Power



Synopsis

Available for the first time Unabridged on CD in an all-new recording by Scott Brick, the first of the blockbuster thrillers by New York Times bestselling author David Baldacci. The book that will change the way you think about Washington - and power - forever. In a heavily guarded mansion in a posh Virginia suburb, a man and a woman start to make love, trapping a burglar behind a secret wall. Then the passion turns deadly, and the witness is running into the night. Because what he has just seen is a brutal slaying involving the president of the United States. Luther Whitney is the career break-in artist who's in the wrong place at the wrong time. Alan Richmond is the charming U.S. president with the power to commit any crime. And Jack Graham is the young attorney caught in a vortex between absolute truth and... ABSOLUTE POWER

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Can the President get away with murder? The fictional answer to this question results in a fast-paced page turner that combines political intrigue with gritty, hard-boiled suspense --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Casting the president of the United States as a crazed villain isn't a new idea? Fletcher Knebel worked it 30 years ago, in *Night of Camp David*?but in this sizzler of a first novel, Baldacci, a D.C. attorney, proves that the premise still has long legs. The action begins when a grizzled professional cat burglar gets trapped inside the bedroom closet of one of the world's richest men, only to witness, through a one-way mirror, two Secret Service agents kill the billionaire's trampy young wife as she

tries to fight off the drunken sexual advances of the nation's chief executive. Running for his life, but not before he picks up a bloodstained letter opener that puts the president at the scene of the crime, the burglar becomes the target of a clandestine manhunt orchestrated by leading members of the executive branch. Meanwhile, Jack Graham, once a public defender and now a high-powered corporate attorney, gets drawn into the case because the on-the-lam burglar just happens to be the father of his former fiancée, a crusading Virginia prosecutor. Embroidering the narrative through assorted plot whorls are the hero's broken romance; his conflict over selling out for financial success; the prosecutor's confused love-hate for her burglar father; the relentless investigation by a northern Virginia career cop; the dilemma of government agents trapped in a moral catch-22; the amoral ambitions of a sexy White House Chief of Staff; and the old burglar's determination to bring down the ruthless president. Meanwhile, lurking at the novel's center like a venomous spider is the sociopathic president. Baldacci doesn't peer too deeply into his characters' souls, and his prose is merely functional?in both respects, he's much closer to Grisham than to, say, Forsyth; but he's also a first-rate storyteller who grabs readers by their lapels right away and won't let go until they've finished his enthralling yarn. Major ad/promo; BOMC alternate; film rights sold to Castle Rock; simultaneous Time Warner AudioBook. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Having watched the movie *Absolute Power* several times, and having been a fan of Baldacci's novels for many years, I was interested to see how the book compared to the Clint Eastwood / Gene Hackman adaptation, which I've enjoyed (several times). I'm not surprised to conclude that the book is considerably better, and even coming to it after having seen the movie and knowing the basic story, I found it to hold my attention fully. As you would expect, there are several subplots in the book that did not make the transition to the movie, and the result is a more complicated and satisfying story. David Baldacci wrote this in 1996, it was his first published novel, and became a terrific success and bestseller. Enjoyable from the beginning. I'm glad I decided to give it a try.

During the drought season of new releases at the beginning of the calendar year I am revisiting a number of best-selling books that I had read many years ago. *ABSOLUTE POWER* is the first book that David Baldacci released in 1996 which immediately became a best-seller. It is still a pretty good and somewhat different thriller. Luther Whitney has had a long-term career as a successful jewel thief and only burgles houses of the rich who can afford the loss. For some time, he has carefully

planned a break-in to the house of a mega-rich man who has given his much younger beautiful trophy wife a lot of very expensive jewellery. Luther knows that the owners plan to be away. The break-in goes well and he quickly overcomes the hi-tech security system. In the main bedroom, he stumbles on a walk-in safe with a mirror door which stores the wife's jewellery. Suddenly he hears several cars arriving and quickly hides in the cupboard which is big enough to have an easy chair. Imagine his surprise when he finds that the mirror is transparent and he can see everything happening in the bedroom but they can't see him. Luther then sees the beautiful wife about to make love to an older, and familiar looking man. Their lovemaking gets violent and the man gets angry and tries to strangle the woman. In self-preservation, she stabs the man with a letter opener. His security detail rush into the room and shoot and kill her. The man passes out with too much alcohol. A woman comes into the room and takes charge as the security men clean up the room of any clues to the killer - fingerprints, vacuuming carpets and even digging out one of the bullets from the wall. No one is aware that Luther has seen all of the action. He is scared stiff because he recognised that the man is the US President, the second woman his Chief of Staff and the security men are Secret Service. The story kicks along when Luther decides that he needs to tell someone about what actually happened, but at the same time protect himself from danger. Baldacci has written a very different fictional thriller about the US President and the corruption of power. The plot has many twists and turns, some of the in the unbelievable category, but overall it was a compelling and entertaining piece of fiction.

This is the best Baldacci I have read so far. A burglary, rough sex, a killing and the President of the United States set the stage and away we go. The burglar witnesses an unbelievable event, setting in motion an increasingly complex web of intrigue and murder. The story picks up speed and intensity as you read on until finally you just can't put it down. I highly recommend "Absolute Power" to any fan of mystery novels and, certainly, to any Baldacci follower.

Like many folks I read this after seeing the movie ... knowing the book would be better, because they always are ... Right? Not so in this case. The story line is much different in the book versus the movie. I must admit, in my opinion, the character development in book is much weaker than in the screenplay. The author takes us on a journey that spirals off in all sorts of directions, not making it hard to follow, but rather making it hard to care about what happens. The story seemed forced by the end and I found myself wishing it would just end. I do enjoy political thrillers, I just wish I would have read one. I gave it two stars because I just didn't like it. The authors writing style is fine, but he

story telling is less than captivating.

I like to read an author's books in the order that they wrote them. My local library did not have Absolute Power as the first of the David Baldacci series. I decided to buy the book and give it to the library. It was certainly not a disappointment! I can see why Baldacci has gone on to be a NYT best seller!

So I'd heard a lot about Absolute Power. I expected it to be one of the best books I ever read, and I was not disappointed. When a professional burglar witnesses a murder involving the President of the United States it starts a chain of events no one could have imagined. In the beginning I wasn't completely sold on the book. There were a lot of threads and characters, and it didn't seem that the book had a connection or a direction. But as the book progressed, as the story progressed, it developed into something I could have never guessed. The threads wove together into something amazing. It was a book that made me cry and kept me guessing the whole time. I read a lot of suspense and it takes a lot to catch me off guard. Absolute Power did just that. I didn't expect how the story unfolded, I didn't expect how characters reacted, and I absolutely did not see how it was going to end. I highly recommend this book to fans of political thrillers.

Mesmerizing, excellent, although I really liked the movie version: shorter tale and Luther and Walter lived. Both book and movie enjoyable.

A great, fun read that has sent us searching for more books by the same author. We later saw the movie. Book Wins!!

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