

Biography



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David Baldacci

Best-Selling Author and Literacy Advocate

David Baldacci currently resides in Virginia, where he was born in 1960. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He later practiced law for nine years in Washington, DC, as both a trial and corporate attorney.

He has published thirteen novels: *The Camel Club*, *Absolute Power*; *Total Control*; *The Winner*; *The Simple Truth*; *Saving Faith*; *Wish You Well*; *Last Man Standing*; *The Christmas Train*; *Split Second*; *Hour Game*; his debut novel in his young adult series, *Freddy and the French Fries: Fries Alive!*, and *The Collectors*. He has also published a novella for the Dutch entitled *Office Hours*, written for Holland's Year 2000 "Month of the Thriller." Baldacci authored a short story, "The Mighty Johns," as part of a mystery anthology published in 2002. His works have been in numerous magazines, newspapers, journals, and publications worldwide.

Baldacci has authored seven original screenplays as well. His books have been translated into 37 languages, and sold in more than 80 countries. All of his books have been national and international bestsellers, and over 40 million copies are in print worldwide.

In 1997, Castle Rock Entertainment made *Absolute Power* (Warner Books, 1996) into a major motion picture starring Clint Eastwood and Gene Hackman. The novel won Britain's W. H. Smith's Thumping Good Read Award for fiction in 1997, and was nominated for a literary award in Italy. The book was also selected as a *People* magazine "Page Turner of the Week," and won the 1996 Gold Medal Award for Best Mystery/Thriller from the Southern Writers Guild.

The paperback version of *Total Control* (Warner Books, 1996) was a best-selling favorite of the traveling public for over a year. It won the 1997 Gold Medal Award for Best Mystery/Thriller from the Southern Writers Guild.

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Sales of *The Winner* (Warner Books, 1997) topped those of Baldacci's first two novels, and were no doubt aided by the novel's revelation of how to fix the lottery and win a hundred million dollars! *The Winner* received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*, its highest rating.

The Simple Truth (Warner Books, 1998) was the first of Baldacci's novels in which part of the plot was based upon an actual event. President Clinton selected *The Simple Truth* as his favorite novel of 1999.

Saving Faith (Warner Books, 1999) is a novel about how Washington really works, and it reached number one on both the *New York Times* Bestseller List and the *Publisher's Weekly* national bestseller list. *Saving Faith* was selected as a *People* magazine "Page Turner of the Week."

Wish You Well (Warner Books, 2000) is strongly linked to Baldacci's maternal family history. In doing the research for this book, he spent countless hours talking with his mother, who spent her first seventeen years on the "high rock" and learned its lifelong lessons. *Wish You Well* received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly* and was selected as the inaugural book for All America Reads, a national reading program.

Last Man Standing (Warner Books, 2001) is an explosive psychological thriller about Web London, a member of the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue Team, who is desperate to find answers for his secret terrors and relief from his unbearable guilt. *Last Man Standing* reached number one on the *New York Times* Bestseller List.

The Christmas Train (Warner Books, 2002) is filled with memorable characters who have packed their bags for a holiday adventure, and it shows how we do get second chances to fulfill our deepest hopes and dreams during the season of miracles. *The Christmas Train* has quickly become a holiday classic.

Split Second (Warner Books, 2003) is a compelling, fast-paced political thriller that gives readers an inside look at the work of the Secret Service as it strives to protect America's leaders. As their worlds close in upon them, former agents Sean King and Michelle Maxwell team up to seek answers to events that, at first glance, seem to be unrelated disasters. *Split Second* became a *New York Times* bestseller on its first day of publication.

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Hour Game (Warner Books, 2004) teams Sean King and Michelle Maxwell from *Split Second* in a race to prove a man's innocence in a domestic burglary. They quickly find themselves caught in a chain of murders that once again rocks the quiet hills of Wrightsburg, Virginia. At every turn, King and Maxwell find themselves trying to put the pieces together as the killer plays the murderous "hour game."

Freddy and the French Fries: Fries Alive! (Little, Brown & Company, 2005) is Baldacci's debut novel for young readers. Freddy Funkhouser, an adventurous nine-year-old, designs a plan to help the family business, The Burger Castle. However, when his top- secret invention goes wildly out of control, Freddy finds himself trying to keep his new zany companions out of trouble.

In *The Camel Club* (Warner Books, 2005), Baldacci goes beyond the traditional boundaries of fiction, painting a frighteningly vivid portrait of a world that could be our own very soon, and of the few people who have a chance to stop the last war the world may ever fight.

Baldacci's newest novel, *The Collectors* (Warner Books, 2006), is a sequel to *The Camel Club*.

David Baldacci's books have been publicly discussed and/or read by everyone from Howard Stern and Don Imus to Newt Gingrich and Rush Limbaugh, from George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to Charlie Rose and Larry King.

He has made many television and radio appearances and has been featured in numerous national and international publications.

David Baldacci serves as a national ambassador for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and participates in numerous charities, including the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, the American Cancer Society, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He sits on the boards of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Virginia Commonwealth University. He also holds various honorary chairs.