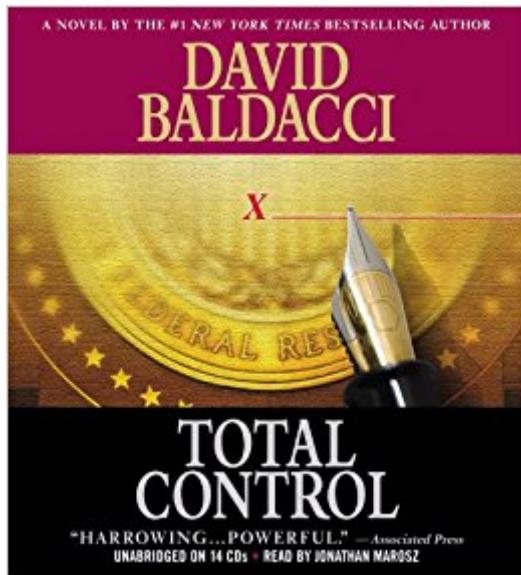


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# Total Control



## **Synopsis**

This classic Baldacci thriller from 1997 is finally back - in unabridged audio and available on CD and Download! TOTAL HEAT Sidney Archer has the world. A husband she loves. A job at which she excels and a cherished young daughter. Then, as a plane plummets into the Virginia countryside, everything changes. And suddenly there is no one whom Sidney Archer can trust. TOTAL DANGER Jason Archer is a rising young executive at Triton Global, the world's leading technology conglomerate. Determined to give his family the best of everything, Archer has secretly entered into a deadly game. He is about to disappear-leaving behind a wife who must sort out his lies from his truths, an accident team that wants to know why the plane he was ticketed on crashed, and a veteran FBI agent who wants to know it all...

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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Sidney Archer is devastated when she hears that the plane carrying her husband to Los Angeles has crashed. But her nightmare begins when she learns he'd traded identities and flown to Seattle instead. Evidence suggests that Jason Archer was selling corporate secrets to a high-tech rival. Soon Sidney herself is caught in a web of intrigue as wealthy men vie for more power and money. Fired from her law firm, pursued by hired killers eager to recover an encrypted computer disk Jason had mailed to himself, Sydney finally trusts only the FBI agent who believes her innocent. No one is

immune here from high-tech snooping and violent death. Baldacci writes strictly for action, not wasting time developing characters or setting. Few books have higher heaps of dead millionaires at their conclusion. The scant literary value won't deter those who snatched up his first book, the best-selling *Absolute Power* (LJ 11/15/95), or keep them from standing in line to see the film version, due in February. Public libraries will need a copy or two to meet demand, especially with a major publicity blitz planned.-?Kathy Piehl, Mankato State Univ. Minn.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I have read many of Baldacci's books and liked all of them, so far. This, however, is crap. The characters feel flat and two dimensional and the dialog is stilted and cringeworthy. I half-expected the villain to be twirling a waxed mustache. Of course, Amy has inherited her mother's thick blond hair, her father's piercing blue eyes and his athletic grace. Athletic grace at two?! Just mom's hair? Baldacci hastens to inform us that the stunning Sidney was a whip thin star college basketball star with...large breasts. Sadly, staying super fit (could we hear more about his abs?), incredibly smart, career-driven and a dad didn't leave Jason time to learn about the real world and that crooks don't play fair. The transitions between the predictable plot sequences are awkward. The book reads like it was written by a first time novelist. I now see whay it has been reduced in price.

An enjoyable read. The compelling characters are reasonably well developed, and remain relatively consistent. (Except for Sydney who morphs into Wonder Woman). The story develops consistently (without the ridiculous plot twists of many authors) and the exciting well-paced action keep the reader going until the end. The author earns the readers' "suspension of disbelief" to overlook many inconsistencies, implausibilities, and plot threads which are left hanging.**TOTAL CONTROL**The title tells the story---computer geniuses who can do ANYTHING, literally. That's lazy and poorly chosen device, because it creates a universe without rules, in which the reader does not have sufficient information to participate; to evaluate possibilities; or to anticipate plot developments.**A CAST OF THOUSANDS**Not quite thousands, but there are about 2 dozen major characters---way too many for me to keep track of, even taking notes.**TOO MANY PLOT THREADS--TOO MANY RED HERRINGS**The reader patiently waits for story to crystalize, but it never does. For example, characters wear elaborate disguises, and characters' voices are faked, so the reader can't be sure that a described event actually happened.**UNSATISFYING RESOLUTION**This is one of those novels where the resolution consists of the confessions of 2 "villains" on the last pages of the novel---almost always a poor storytelling technique. The resolution is simultaneously predictable,

incomplete, and unsatisfying. Even having re-read those final pages several times it is unclear to me why Jason Archer was abducted in the first place, nor why many of the other key events happened.> Click on [ÃƒÃ¢Ã ¬Ã](#) "Stoney" [ÃƒÃ¢Ã ¬Ã](#) just below the product title to see my other reviews, or leave a comment to ask a question.

Most of Baldacci's crime stuff always keeps me glued to the pages, but this one for some reason wasn't quite as interesting. Not sure if it was the overall plot that didn't quite grab me, interesting as it was. But I honestly think I prefer his crime stuff.

I have always been a fan of David Baldacci but this is one of the best books that he has ever written. Be prepared for a roller coaster ride of emotions. I normally like books where I pretty much know the ending. Okay, truth be told, I always read the last couple chapters so I can understand the book more. I tried that with this book, but there are soooo many subplots that I actually became more confused about what was going on. Be prepared for that to happen to you. But the ending is worth it. Enjoy the ride.

I enjoyed the book. I didn't enjoy some of the repetitions such as every scene seems to require a pot and a cup or two of coffee and/or a cigar etc... Also some of the descriptive adjectives are used to excess. The overall plot is excellent. The wind up at the end is too fast and I think some loose ends were left hanging, but I'm not going to search them out. Furthermore, there are simply too many players in this book to be able to follow every angle. Moreover, the unnecessary usage of bad language almost caused me to drop this review to three stars. Despite these weaknesses, the book was mostly enjoyable to read.

I have read probably 10 of Baldacci's books so far and have enjoyed the more recent books. Will Robey in particular. Hope I spelled that right. I found Total Control to be so over plotted that it became cartoon like towards the end. Super Woman vs. the world. The plot and the characters were simply so unbelievable that the story became uninteresting. I had the same experience reading the Camel Club. Read his more recent works. They are simply better written.

I bought this Kindle ebook based on my enjoyment of the Clint Eastwood movie. It was a big disappointment. Poorly written, a plot which was unnecessarily complex, and "lego" characters. In a thriller you expect to suspend belief to an extent, but the plot in this book was so wildly unbelievable

that I was frequently shaking my head. One might expect this sort of writing from a recent graduate of a creative writing course, trying to tick all the boxes, but it escapes me how he has become a best-selling author. Compare his pedestrian english with the tight dialogue, humour, and suspense of a Jesse Stone novel - no contest.

This book takes place at the horizon of computers taking a hold on the every day business world. A time I lived and contributed to the progress in my own small way managing a medium sized law firm in Dallas. Knowing what I know and how things were then with the ignorance of how computers worked, (the lawyers were practicing with solitaire when Windows came out) this book was particularly interesting to me. Plus it had a GREAT story and the main characters were near and dear to your heart. The strength and determination driven by the love of a husband and wife, their parents and from both to the love of the child and grandchild delivered the true catalyst for the "good guys" and pure greed for the "bad guys" shall we say. It was believable, exciting and an instrument to confirm the strength and importance of those closest to us...our family, and what we will do to protect them.

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