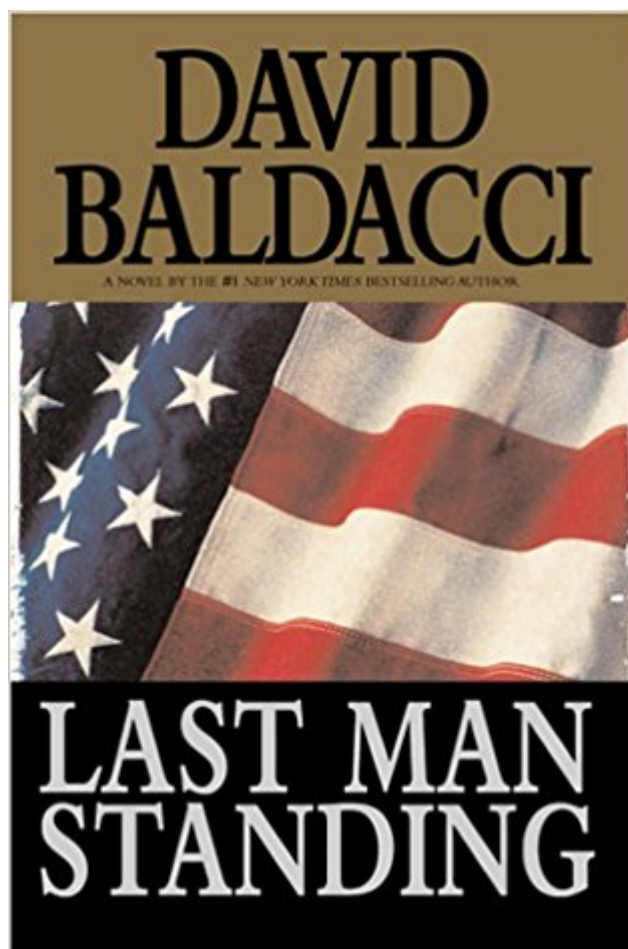


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Last Man Standing



Synopsis

Last Man Standing has the essential elements of a terrific David Baldacci novel: a tough but tender-hearted hero, dirty dealings in the nation's bureaucracy, and a roller-coaster plot. Web London, a member of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, froze up on a drug raid and thus became the sole survivor of a remote-controlled ambush that killed six of his compatriots. Now the only witness has disappeared and the inside man on the botched raid has gone underground. As a pretty psychiatrist puzzles over the corners of Web's brain that kept him alive, Web himself stays on the move. He's certain that the ambush is connected to the prison escape of a neofascist leader, Ernest B. Free, whom he helped arrest five years earlier, and a series of new murders leads him to a Virginia horse farm and the driving force behind all the carnage. It may seem as though Baldacci gives away the mastermind too soon, but both the bad guys and the good guys are complex enough that there's plenty of punch all the way to the last page. --Barrie Trinkle

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Customer Reviews

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Ernest B. Free, whom he helped arrest five years earlier, and a series of new murders leads him to a Virginia horse farm and the driving force behind all the carnage. It may seem as though Baldacci gives away the mastermind too soon, but both the bad guys and the good guys are complex enough that there's plenty of punch all the way to the last page. --Barrie Trinkle --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Last year's *Wish You Well*, a historical family drama set in rural Virginia, proved that Baldacci, previously known for his thrillers (particularly his debut, *Absolute Power*), can do much more than supply maximum suspense. His latest is another exciting thriller, but one that hasn't forsaken the ambitions of *Wish You Well*, plumbing the emotions and exploring the shadings of human nature in an impressive way. And for the first time, Baldacci has created characters that readers will demand to see back in a sequel. He has chosen an immensely interesting subject: the (real-life) FBI Hostage Rescue Team, a force so elite that many of the Seals, Delta Force grads and other special ops who apply to it don't make the cut. Baldacci's hero is hostage rescue team superstar Web London, who inexplicably (to himself and others) freezes during an operation that leaves the rest of his team dead; hence, the book's title. Web's investigation into the massacre involves him with several bands of criminals, most notably a white supremacist terrorist cell, a gang of D.C. drug peddlers headed by a charismatic giant, and a secret group involved in both terror and drug activities. At the same time, Web's exploration into why he froze leads him to psychoanalysis and hypnosis, to budding romance and, ultimately, to revelations that tie together all the strands and questions of the immensely complicated plot. This is Baldacci's most accomplished thriller. The action, conspiratorial and overt, shifting from urban to rural and back, is nearly nonstop and expertly drawn; heroes and villains alike are believable and equally flawed; and there's a newfound maturity of tone here, a somber acceptance of the suffering that necessarily attends human life. (On-sale Nov. 6) Forecast: The American flag waving on the book's cover will draw readers' eyes; the strong title and the Baldacci name will carry them to the cash register. Expect hefty sales. Simultaneous audio cassette (abridged and unabridged), audio CD (abridged) and large-print editions. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book itself was pretty good -- not as good as many of Baldacci's books. However, when I got to the "end" I was ready to read the next chapter -- or a sequel -- or something. This is probably Baldacci's biggest fault as a writer; if he doesn't write a sequel, his books often don't come to a satisfactory resolution. I would like a sequel to this book. Good characters and lots of action, but

poor Mr. London is left at the end with too many unresolved issues and his poor "shrink" is left hanging with him.

David Baldacci has done it again. He has jumped into a new genre of topics and has produced a book that was a wonderful read. It has action, suspense, and a little gratuitous sex thrown in at the end for good measure. I read this in less than a week. It wasn't until the very end that everything became clear, and the pieces fit like a glove. I hate when I read a story and I find the pieces don't fit together, but in true Baldacci style even though the story line was convoluted at first but this was by design. Our hero had to go through hell but being in the pre-verbal s\$%^t is nothing new. But our hero does weather the storm but when he exits the other side what we have is a new Baldacci hero that I see numerous stories in. If you like to read a story based around one of the heroes of our society, with a plethora demons that dog him but he also has a large contingent of friends who also will stand behind him and help him to prevail. Great book.

It took me a while to get into this book. I had read about a fourth before I could really get interested but I knew if I kept at it, there was a reward and I wasn't disappointed. You will enjoy reading this book but have patience. Maxmontgomery

Can not describe the plot of this book, because I stopped reading it. It is only 1 of 2 books that I have not finished this year. Weak character lines.. so much gun porn that you think you are in the middle of a Lee Archer thriller. Useless and endless conversations between weakly developed characters. I am a big Baldacci fan, but this one was a let down.

This book shows up in a list "People who liked Digital Fortress also liked..." That is why I bought it. I found out it has a completely different style. To describe the atmosphere in this book, picture a Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson-like figure, member of a swat team. He has just performed a heroic action. He walks out of a building that is littered with body's of bad guys, with a smoking shotgun on his shoulder, and says a cool oneliner with a cigar in his mouth. This sometimes irritated me a bit, but all together it's not a bad book. The characters have depth and the story is well put together. It was not what I expected but I kept reading.

I just plain enjoyed this book. It was a good story and I liked the main character. I immediately started liking for another Baldacci book.

Detailed workings of FBI training ground interesting; however, choreography of one too many gunfights and I skipped ahead to keep awake. Definitely written for the gun-obsessed, shoot 'me up Charlie's.

This story was evidence of the too often rush to judgment of persons or events. I have enjoyed every one of Baldacci's books. I am loosing my eyesight and find that I want to read as much as possible before that can no longer happen. This book is so well done that I would read it again and feel the same. I recommend it to anyone that loves intrigue and suspense. The way this author describes all details and repeats some in order for us to remember important items, is to me no less than amazing. Thank you Mr. Baldacci for your many books and no wonder you are acclaimed all over the world. I feel fortunate that I discovered your books. I have read many of them and continue to do so.

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