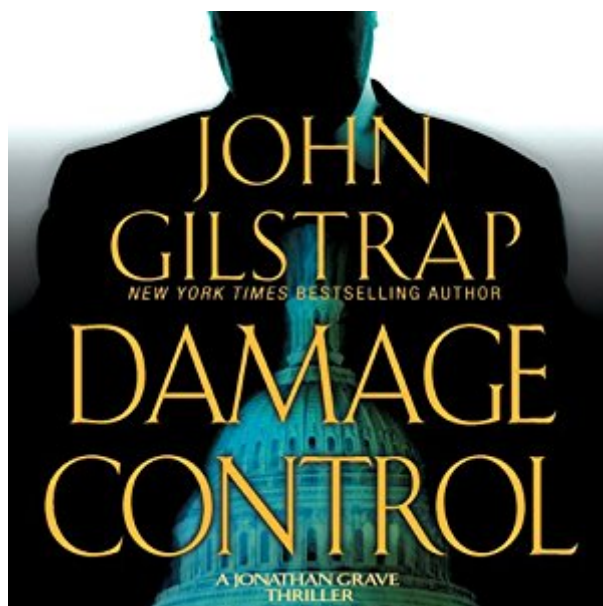


The book was found

Damage Control: A Jonathan Grave Thriller, Book 4



Synopsis

The hostages are young: a bus full of teenagers on a church mission. The ransom demands are explicit: deliver three million dollars - with zero involvement from law enforcement - or all captives will be executed. But rescue specialist Jonathan Grave doesn't believe in ultimatums. For him and his elite team at Security Solutions, it's all about protecting the innocent. Now Grave must face the chilling possibility that someone within the U.S. government has a deadly secret to protect - one that could jeopardize national security like never before.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 21 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: June 5, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0088UT1SQ

Best Sellers Rank: #105 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Espionage

#795 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Political

#824 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Military

Customer Reviews

If you haven't treated yourself to one of John Gilstrap's Jonathan Grave thrillers, you need not deprive yourself any longer. *DAMAGE CONTROL*, the latest installment in the series, has just been published, and I solemnly assure you that you have absolutely nothing better to do than to read this book now, whether you are on the beach while vacationing or at work. While all of the Grave books have been riveting reads, *DAMAGE CONTROL* is by far the best of the lot. Part of the reason for this is the book's opening chapters, whereby Grave and the stalwart Brian Van de Meulebroeke (that's Boxers to you) are in the heart of a Mexican jungle doing what they do best: hostage release. The hostages are a group of American children who have been kidnapped from Ciudad Juarez while participating in one of those church mission expeditions, which always make me nervous when I hear about them. The kidnappers are members of a drug cartel and are holding the kids for ransom. Now right here is where Gilstrap does well: Grave's mission isn't to bust in and murder all of

the drug cartel members and take the kids home, and spend 300 pages doing so. That would be a great book, true; but Gilstrap writes an even better one. All that Grave and Boxers have to do is drop off three million dollars to the kidnappers, get the little ones, and go home. Over by page 12, right? Not really. Everything that can possibly go wrong with the mission does go wrong, and horribly so. I literally jumped out of the chair screaming "NO!" when things went wrong. By the time the dust settles and the smoke clears, the mission is almost a total bust.

"Six American teens and their chaperons were taken hostage in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, a border city known for decapitated bodies dumped on the streets. A three-million-dollar ransom has been demanded." No, this isn't from a Texas newspaper, it's the basis of the most intense thriller in John Gilstrap's masterfully written Jonathan "Digger" Grave series that packs the punch of a rocket-propelled grenade. Grave and platoon-sized Brian Van de Meulebroeke (known to fans as "Boxers") are engaged by the louche televangelist of Arizona's Crystal Palace Cathedral to exchange the \$3M ransom for the hostages who are there for earthquake-relief ministry. Grave delivers the money but things quickly go to pot. Oh, grow up! Not THAT kind of pot, the type of cataclysmic proportions when young flesh meets up with gunfire "cannon chambered in 7.62 millimeter that could send ten rounds per second downrange with needle-threading accuracy." There's a lot of damage to control. "To become inured to that kind of violence would be to surrender your humanity." Even a priest gets nailed to the cross for aiding Grave and Boxers. Grave's FBI pseudonym, Leon Harris, has been made and now friend and FBI Director, Irene Rivers, says, "Of course we're out to arrest him, the Mexican police labeled him a mass murderer." Seemingly, everyone is out to get the dynamic duo--especially drug lords and military police. Everyone except Venice (pronounced Ven-EE-chay) Alexander, Grave's one-person command center in Virginia who has access to satellite thermo imaging and can do anything but pick winning Powerball numbers a week in advance.

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