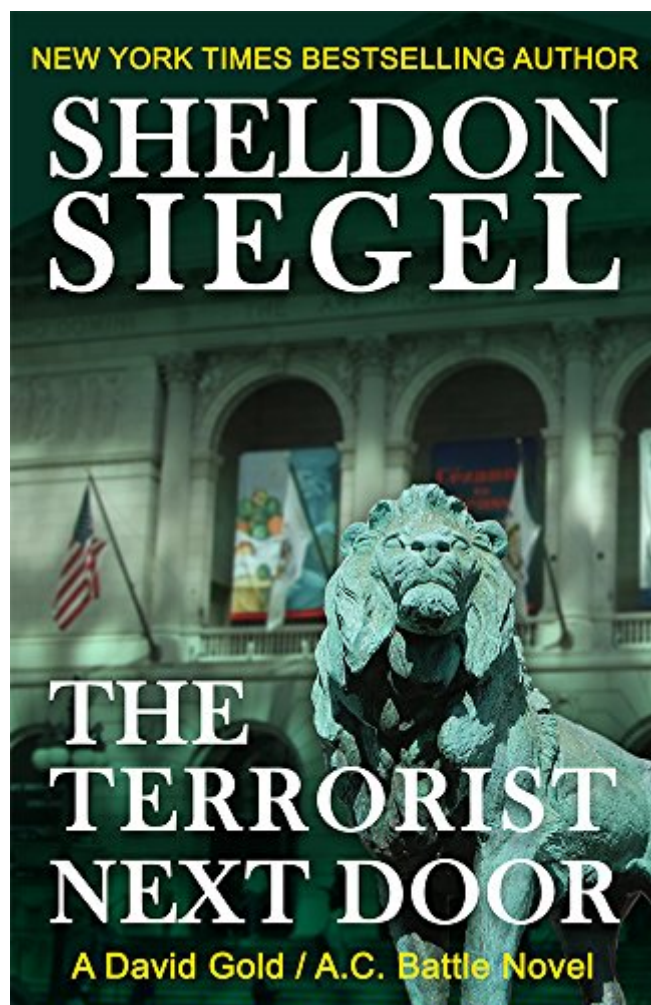


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# The Terrorist Next Door (A David Gold / A.C. Battle Mystery Book 1)



## Synopsis

Sheldon Siegel has jumped onto best seller lists and into readers' and reviewers' affections with seven extraordinary novels featuring San Francisco defense attorneys Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez. He now returns to write about his hometown of Chicago in his electrifying new thriller, *THE TERRORIST NEXT DOOR*. He's Homeland Security's biggest nightmare. Someone is setting off fire bombs in Chicago in stolen cars using untraceable cell phones. The international terror channels are silent. A group calling itself the Islamic Freedom Federation demands the release of Hassan Al-Shahid, a graduate student whose plan to set off a bomb at the Art Institute was thwarted by Detective David Gold and his long-time partner, Detective Paul Liszewski. Their heroic efforts had cost Liszewski his life and put Gold in the hospital. The FBI and Homeland Security believe the bomber is a freelancer operating off the grid. Meet Detective David Gold. He's a third generation native of South Chicago, the hardscrabble neighborhood of steel mills, smokestacks, and steeples near the Indiana border. He's one of Chicago's most decorated detectives. Meet Gold's new partner, Detective A.C. Battle. He's a native of Mississippi whose family moved to Chicago to escape the Jim Crow South. He grew up in the Robert Taylor Homes across the Dan Ryan Expressway from Mayor Daley's house and Comiskey Park. Gold is still suffering from the aftereffects of Liszewski's death when he receives a Medal of Valor on the steps of the Art Institute. During the ceremony, a car bomb is detonated across the street, killing a passerby. Gold soon receives a cryptic text : "It isn't over." It's just the beginning. Untraceable car bombs detonate at the Wrigley Field El station, Millennium Park, the Museum of Science and Industry, O'Hare, Hyde Park, and the upscale Rush Street area. Chicago PD, the FBI and Homeland Security can't trace the bomber. As bombs continue to go off, Gold and Battle are drawn into a desperate cat-and-mouse game against a brilliant mind. From its opening scene to its stunning denouement, Siegel writes a lightning paced thriller capturing the complexity and fears of the post-9/11 world. Along the way, he provides an insider's look at Chicago's neighborhoods-from the Magnificent Mile to century-old churches where mass is still celebrated in Polish to gritty seafood shacks next to the ghostly expanses where the steel mills once stood. "David Gold and A.C. Battle are strong entries in the police-thriller sweepstakes. Sheldon Siegel's *THE TERRORIST NEXT DOOR* is a smart, surprising and bloody take on the world of Islamic terror. As a crazed bomber threatens to shut down American's third-largest city, the Chicago cops, the FBI, Homeland Security and even the military desperately sift through every clue, reaching for a climax that is both shocking and credible. Siegel tells a story that is fast and furious and authentic." John Sandford. NY Times Best Selling Author of *STOLEN PREY*. "Sheldon Siegel has outdone himself in his first true thriller. The rough underbelly of Chicago is evoked and comes to life

as poetically and profoundly as in Carl Sandburg's insider view. The scariest, most thrilling portrayal of what can happen to life in a normal city if one cog goes haywire. A real power play." Katherine Neville. International Best Selling Author of THE FIRE."Sheldon Siegel blows the doors off with his excellent new thriller, THE TERRORIST NEXT DOOR. Bombs, car chases, the shutdown of Chicago, plus Siegel's winning touch with character makes this one not to be missed!" John Lescroart. NY Times Best Selling Author of THE HUNTER."Sheldon Siegel knows how to make us root for the good guys in this heartstopping terrorist thriller, and David Gold and A.C. Battle are a pair of very good guys." Thomas Perry. NY Times Best Selling Author of POISON FLOWER."A terrific thriller. Robert Dugoni. NY Times Best Selling Author of THE CONVICTION.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I regret having to give such a poor review to a work by Sheldon Siegel. I have enjoyed all of his previous books and enjoyed them very much. This one, however, was a very repetitive story line that basically had the same events happening over and over again. The ending was a surprise, and that, along with the ending itself, was the best part

This was an "okay" read but it wasn't tight enough. It could probably have been edited down to a novella. The suspense doesn't actually accelerate until about 60% of the way in; hence the three-star rating. This wasn't bad read but Mr. Siegel needs to sharpen up his writing, add more edge to the story. The characters need stronger, more intense emotions. Their responses to what should be high drama come off as flat. If this were a movie or a play, I'd say it was "under-acted".

After finishing book 8 of this author's Fernandez and Daley series, I read *The Terrorist Next Door* for the second time. I enjoyed it even more than the first time I read it. It is without a doubt a very timely page turner with likeable characters and good character development. The Chicago history and background descriptions were so interesting and quite an education. I have read all of Sheldon Siegel's books, enjoy his writing style and talent and hope he continues the David Gold and A.C. Battle stories. I look forward to hearing about book 2 in the future.

I've read all of the Mike Daley/Rosie Fernandez books by this author, and have reported on two: *Judgement Day* and *Perfect Alibi*. *The Terrorist Next Door* is Mr. Siegel's first venture away from those two protagonists. However, and as a first, this book was as entertaining as the Daley/Fernandez books. The departure from this writer's "history" is from that of a lawyer protagonist, Mike Daley, to that of a homicide detective, David Gold. At the risk of seeming to be a bit contrived, the theme of "Terrorist" is as realistic in its message as any news headline proclaiming "x number of innocents killed by a suicide bomber" in some Middle Eastern country. Unfortunately, this is now the world we live in. I don't re-tell the story in my reviews, but suffice it to say, the story line kept me glued from beginning to end. Plot had good rising action leading to a climax and resolution. The principal characters were well developed so as to allow me to "get inside" their heads and follow along with the action. The book had good thread, which means that I did not have to re-read pages in order to pick up, memory wise, where I had left off in those times when I had to put the book down for whatever reason. The setting is Chicago and it is evident that this author has a keen awareness of his surroundings, whether actual or learned, but nonetheless, very detailed. Not being from that town, I simply took his word for it. No question, Sheldon Siegel is a good story teller/writer. I recommend any/all of his books as being thoroughly a worth while read. I look forward to more adventures by detective Gold.

What a disappointment!! If I wanted to read a travelog of Chicago sites I would buy one. Instead I

thought this book would be up to Siegel's usual caliber. Boy was I ever wrong. I'm also pretty sure a book can have a Chicago setting without mentioning Obama.

WOW! What an outstanding read. The suspense is captivating and moves the story along very quickly. The introduction of two new Chicago detectives, David Gold and AC Battle, is a welcome addition to crime thrillers. The supporting characters are also well done and believable. I highly recommend "The Terrorist Next Door" and, not only am I planning to reread this book in the future, but I am also very much looking forward to reading additional adventures of Gold and Battle also.

Rather interesting story with a real twist at the end. Clever. No moralising, or overtly religious intent, the story seeks to portray the beleaguered Muslim community in America with more understanding and empathy. Theirs is not an easy existence and the story intends to bring about a more compassionate understanding of the Muslim community who are not all raving fundamentalists with a death wish. Interestingly, the story embraces all three Semitic religions and also an immigrant community, with the climax happening on the premises of a Nigerian evangelical. The characters are believable and show a tolerance and acceptance, even though they have differing points of view. The main antagonist does come about slightly distorted, but that is acceptable within the larger context of the narrative. Definitely recommended reading.

I liked the plot line and some of the characters. What was truly disturbing was the authors love of Obama and his family. It seems every 3rd page had some reference to him, his family, his house, his neighbors, and so on. Really? Want to upset your conservative readers? Well. You just did. There was absolutely no point in fawning all over Obama other than to voice your liberalism. You just turned off a whole lot of potential readers. We read fiction for escapism. If we wanted politics we would read a political book, not fiction.

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