

NEW AUSTRALIAN FICTION

GENRE: Political Thriller

RELEASE: November 2016

# TODAY'S CONSPIRACY THEORY... TOMORROW'S REALITY

Fact or fiction: the ultimate terror we  
won't see coming. Swyft action required!

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The latest eco-political thriller by ex-Macquarie banker turned acclaimed author John M. Green, *The Tao Deception*, stars fiery heroine Tori Swyft with a shocking take on global terror: the satellite-delivered electro-magnetic pulse (EMP).

"Nuclear EMPs are no fantasy," says Green. "What ignited my interest was seeing EMPs listed as a Top 10 Global Emerging Risk while I was chairing the risk committee of QBE, a global insurer." (Green is Deputy Chair of QBE Insurance Group's board.)

Ferretting out reports from sources such as the US Congress, the UK's House of Commons' Defence Committee, Lloyds of London and Swiss Re, Green was shocked by the terrifying possibility that a strategically placed EMP could utterly disable any modern nation reliant on electricity and electronics.

In *The Tao Deception*, The Ten Brothers, an elite circle of Chinese leaders, plot to save the planet by launching an EMP to immobilise the West and effect a coup in China.

## Death by Drone – Terror as an Artform

As well, a Chinese Islamist terror group, Rome Under Allah, use state-of-the-art toxin-spraying drones to assassinate the pope and other world leaders. For this, Green investigated the latest in drone technology, examining pharmacological, electronic and nuclear delivery methods and determining how small a remote-controlled, weaponised device could shrink to.

## Strong Women

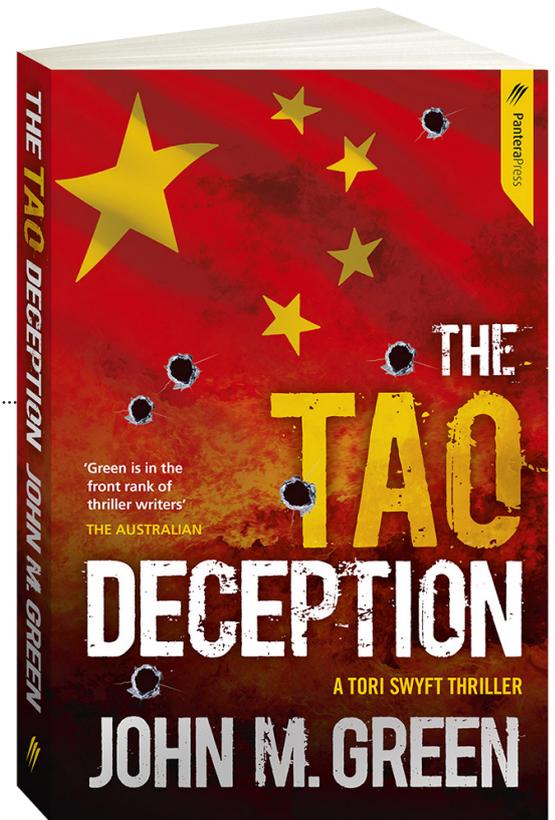
In *The Tao Deception*, Tori Swyft, the feisty Australian surfer, nuclear PhD, ex-CIA spy and now corporate dealmaker, is wrapping up a global mega-merger between China's and the West's two largest tech companies.

Working on the deal, Swyft flies to China's North Korean border. There, she unearths The Ten Brothers' plot with only hours before it's too late. Tori risks her life, love and loyalty to block them.

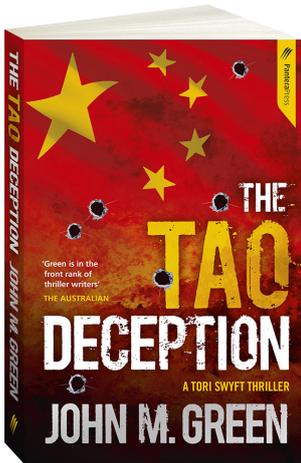
And as the crisis unfolds, US President Isabel Diaz (of Green's earlier work *Born to Run*) faces the toughest decision of her presidency.

## Father Figures

The concept of 'the father' is also a strong theme—the absent, the benevolent, the destructive. For the Ten Brothers, it's the father of modern China, Chairman Mao, who offers inspiration in their aim to immobilise the West and reinstate China's true culture and soul...



“A nuclear EMP attack would kill two-thirds of America’s population, 200 million dead in one year from starvation, disease and societal collapse.” – *Task Force on National and Homeland Security, 2016*



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## SYNOPSIS

World leaders are being systematically assassinated by toxic gas delivered by drone, and more are threatened with the same fate.

An obscure group of Chinese terrorists claims responsibility. But are the Ten Brothers - a secret circle of China’s political, military and business elite - using these terrorists as a cover to justify the assassination of China’s President and the overthrow of Beijing as part of a plot to forge a ‘new China’? Could their attempt at a rebirth of their nation spell annihilation for the rest of the world?

Once again, ex-CIA operative, Dr Tori Swyft finds herself embroiled in the middle of this explosive conspiracy. Can she survive long enough to thwart the Ten Brothers in spite of their repeated efforts

## “The Da Vinci Code meets James Bond”

“... will please fans of Matthew Reilly and TV shows like NCIS and the Mission Impossible movies.” “John M Green throws Tori Swyft in the way of harm in such a way that the tension is ratcheted up so finely, so tautly, right until the very last pages.”  
- **Abbey’s Bookshop**

“John M. Green is the new Michael Crichton... but better!” - **P.J. O’Rourke**

“... as good as John Grisham, Robert Ludlum, Lee Child or Jonathan Kellerman... knife-edge plot, sophisticated themes and empathetic characters put Green in the front rank of Australian thriller writers”  
- **The Australian**

## JOHN M. GREEN: AUTHOR BIO

Author of *The Trusted*, *Born to Run* and *Nowhere Man*, John’s latest thriller, *The Tao Deception* is his second novel featuring fiery, smart surfer and ex-spy Dr Tori Swyft and his third with the inspiring US President Isabel Diaz, the first woman to ‘actually’ win the White House.

In his professional careers, first as a lawyer and then as an investment banker, he acted for Buckingham Palace, Rupert Murdoch, Kerry Packer, Alan Bond, and prisoners in Long Bay jail (none of those mentioned above) as well as companies in a range of industries. Two years before the global financial crisis, he left his day job as a banker so no one could suspect him of creating the whole mess.

John now sits on the boards of the National Library of Australia, Centre for Independent Studies, and two listed companies.



“The sophistication of John le Carré and the pace of Jeffrey Archer”

- **ABC Radio**

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