



Mortal Fear (Mississippi #1)

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By day, Harper Cole works as a commodities trader...and at night he leads quite a different life, serving as a systems operator for an exclusive erotic on-line service that caters to the rich and famous. But a stranger has now penetrated the network's state-of-the-art security, brutally murdering six celebrated female clients. Falsely accused of these horrible crimes, Harper realizes he must lure an elusive madman into the open-and place everything he holds dear directly in the killer's path!

Mortal Fear (Mississippi #1) Details

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Author : Greg Iles

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From Reader Review Mortal Fear (Mississippi #1) for online ebook

Debra says

I really like Greg Iles, but this was not a good book and if his name wasn't on it, no one would be able to convince me he wrote it. I wish I had never bought it or wasted my time on it. yuck.

Jeff French says

This is a great thriller. Sure some of the tech. talk (AOL, Compuserve) dates it, but no more than a book mentioning Facebook or Instagram written today, might be dated 10 years or so in the future. I certainly doesn't take away from the story, which works on a number of levels. This novel is better than your average, run-of-the-mill serial killer novel. The reasons the killer murders his victims are twofold and the way he hunts his victims is clever. This is an intelligent killer. I love the way he toys with the authorities, running circles around the police and FBI. Lots of surprises in this novel as well, especially what happens when the psychiatrist, Arthur Lenz, tries to trick the killer. I like the interplay between Harper Cole and the killer, as Cole tries to convince him he's a beautiful woman named Erin. It's a neat cat-and-mouse game, that doesn't end the way in which Cole expects. It's a very readable book and can be quite suspenseful at times. While not the most believable, it's a lot of fun and very entertaining. Worthy of four stars.

Cindi says

Let me preface my review with this: I LOVE this guy's work. His books are engrossing and full of suspense. That said, this book literally drove me nuts. I couldn't put it down. The suspense was unreal. I'm not the best with words, so I'm sure this review sounds lame. All I can say is you will not be disappointed if you read this book.

Wendy Ballard says

Greg Iles will always be one of my favorite authors; however, his books could be about 100-150 pages shorter and still deliver the huge punches that keep readers coming back. Mortal Fear was no exception - both to the greatness of the writing/story/characters, but also to the need to be shorter.

Harper Cole has a good life. He is wealthy, has two jobs he enjoys and a great wife. Well, but then we find out that all is not Paradise and there are a few glitches. First, he realizes that with his job at an online service, EROS, he may have information about EROS clients who are turning up dead. Second, he has a secret that has the potential of ruining his marriage (with the great wife). Third, there's more to his wife and, while it's not bad, necessarily, it's going to change Harper when he finds out. Fourth...well, you get the idea. Paradise usually has some crabgrass.

Iles writes the EROS murders story and weaves in all the issues from Harper's life and includes FBI agents, local police (who have known Harper and his wife their whole lives) and a psychiatrist who helps Harper

come to grips with everything from exposing the killer to handling his marriage (with the great wife).

I would have given this book 5 stars except for the "gallop to the end" ending and the extra 100 pages I could have done without (my opinion). Still a book worth adding to your TBR list. It'll make you think twice about computers.

Richard White says

WOW! Can this guy write or what. Some of the dialogs Iles creates are nothing short of brilliant. If you're a fan of Psychological Thrillers do not pass on this one. A must read.

J Jahir says

fue tal como yo me lo esperaba, e incluso mejor.

Es increíble el manejo psicológico y desarrollo que Greg Iles le da a sus personajes, en especial a su protagonista, harper, que ayuda trabajando en la empresa de EROS, y se ve involucrado en la desaparición y asesinatos de 7 mujeres que pertenecen a esa red. la historia está narrada en primera persona, de forma que podemos ver y meternos en la piel de harper, viendo cómo es su proceso de descubrimiento e infiltración. a su vez, el libro cuenta con unos pequeños capítulos introductorios donde parece ser que se envía correspondencia alguien con su padre, pero también formará parte de la identidad cuando se vaya descubriendo quién es el asesino.

Lo que me asombró fue su extensión: poco más de 600 páginas, pero sin que el libro se pierda, aunque las partes tediosas seguramente las llevaba las conversaciones que se daban dentro de EROS, (view spoiler). todo parecía apuntar a Miles, pero Iles nos da un giro de tuerca bastante bueno, y aunque a veces me ponía a pensar: joder, no dejan de citar al sexo... pero pues qué hacer? es parte de su trama jajaja. y vaya que lo supo desarrollar muy bien. Completamente recomendable si quieren pasar un estupendo rato que los entretenga, pero eso sí, a llevarla calmada con el libro porque es algo largo.

Kate says

I am almost finished with this book and it is my least favorite of Iles' books. It is technologically outdated, and in 1997 it may have seemed pretty interesting, but not so much in 2009.

That aside, it is too long, and needs more vigorous editing. I skipped over pages of extraneous information. I think it would have been a much better read if it had been cleaned up.

The plot is not believable and the some of the characters do stupid things which irritated me. Of course, some of that is due to the use of technology as a device in the book.

Sue Smith says

It's a big read at 700 pages. A little slow to start I had to be 150 pages in and then I was hooked. I enjoyed

the very up to date technology but had to suspend belief on some of the relationships in the book. Big Boss battle at the end has something for everyone.

Michael says

Give Greg Iles credit--he never writes the same book twice.

By day, Harper Cole is a self-employed commodities trader. By night, he's a system administrator and participant in the erotic on-line community EROS. Populated by highly successful and affluent people, the EROS offers discreet on-line connections for those seeking something or someone different.

Married to his high school sweetheart, Harper has his own sets of secrets--not just related to his communications on EROS but also to his personal and relationship history.

When Harper notices a pattern of women disappearing from the EROS boards and ending up murdered, he deduces a serial killer is targeting the group. Informing the authorities of this, Harper and his long-time friend and co-system admin Miles become the prime suspects in the murder. Harper is forced to help the authorities try to draw out the killer, leading him to take greater and greater personal and professional risks to try and smoke out the person or persons committing the crimes.

While some of the technological aspects of *Mortal Fear* are a bit dated (transmission of pictures across the Web is a new thing in the novel), the suspense and psychological depth of *Mortal Fear* are not. Harper has his secrets and things in his past he'd rather keep buried--things that will all come to light during the course of the story. Harper isn't necessarily the cleanest of heroes, but Iles does a nice job of getting us to root for Harper even as we recognize that the seeds he's sewn are beginning to bear fruit.

It helps that Iles keeps the story moving forward at a near relentless speed. In many ways, this is the book equivalent of a good Hollywood thriller movie--it rockets along, not slowing down to allow you to question too much of the logic or motivation of the situation. Characters in the novel make some spectacularly bad decisions during the story (Harper's attempt to flush out the killer by adopting personality traits from his sister-in-law to create an on-line profile, for example), but a lot of them come from characters not thinking through the consequences of their actions, as could and would happen in real life.

As with other works by Iles, this isn't one to start reading late at night because you'll find yourself saying, "Just one more chapter" until it's three in the morning and you realize the alarm will buzz a lot earlier than you expected.

Another winner from Iles.

Kellie says

First, I really like Greg Iles as an author. I have read several of his books and they are great. They definitely go into dark places. Murder, sex, gore...all a big part of his plot. However, the thing I like about his writing is the suspense and the action which keep me riveted and reading for long periods of time. So, now let's talk about this book.

It was good. The problem is, it was total thriller overload. It was too much. It took me forever to finish because I would read a couple chapters and I couldn't stick with it. There was a lot of build up and detail. Some of it we could have definitely done without. It is almost like eating a cake. You love this cake but it's so sweet that the more you eat, the less you want because it's totally taking over your senses. It's too much! This book hit a lot of topics like technology, serial killer, incest, medical breakthrough, chat rooms, etc. You definitely get an idea of what the underground life is like.

Until the end, I was only going to give this book a 3, but the ending was really good. I couldn't penalize the author for that. It just may be a while before I pick up another Iles book.

Jan says

I've enjoyed many of Iles' other books but *Mortal Fear* isn't a favorite of mine but you have to enjoy the psychological drama and, tho out-dated in 2017, in '97 it would have been better appreciated. The story has a very slow start before it picks up any speed.

Jennifer says

With a little medical mystery, a little computer espionage and a lot of cybersex and murder, *Mortal Fear* is the ultimate thriller. A serial killer infiltrates Eros. Known by many usernames, he toys with women while trying to achieve a higher purpose. The main character, Harper, is a hero, a villain and a victim, being placed into every possible category during this constant race against time trying to save victim after victim. Harper's personal life, his job and his dalliances on Eros (the sex site he worked for) all come into play during the investigation.

This book is very long, but surprisingly faced paced. I was completely sucked in. The computer aspect of the book is interesting. Although clearly advanced for the time period, I felt a spark of nostalgia reading about how computers and the internet operated over a decade ago.

This is real crazy, mind-blowing stuff. There were lots of disturbing parts, mostly more psychological than gory, although gore certainly had its place too. *Mortal Fear* is definitely not for those squeamish about sexual crimes and taboos. Sex and high tech are melded to create an exhilarating and terrifying thriller.

Linda says

My least favorite read of a favorite author. Just didn't like the characters that much.

Susan says

Bill MacDonald, a regular reader of this book list, sent me e-mail a couple of weeks ago and told me to read this book right away. Do I ever owe him a big thanks! This may well be the best book I've read in several years. Really, seriously. I don't really have the vocabulary to adequately describe why. It's a gripping, compelling plot, expertly told without a flaw anywhere and so full of memorable characters and scenes that I

feel like I've seen the best movie ever. Harper Cole is a commodities trader married to an OB/GYN living in rural Mississippi. He's so sure that he knows the identity of a recent murder in New Orleans that he calls the homicide division to tell them. And the story takes off. If you have any interest in reading thrillers, and you find a better one than this one, please send me the title immediately!

Bill says

Wow. This is the best suspense novel I have read in ages. I've got to thank Dave, who visited my site and recommended Greg Iles to me! If you like psychological suspense and you're familiar with the Internet (of course you are; you're here, aren't you??) you will devour this novel!

Harper Cole runs EROS, an online sex chatroom service, and begins to suspect foul play when women customers begin to disappear from the service but haven't canceled their expensive subscriptions. He discovers one of the women has been brutally murdered and suspects the killer is also an EROS client. The dialogue is excellent, the storyline makes it almost impossible to put down, and the characters are well defined. And some of his descriptions of emotions and human nature were enough to make me stop and marvel at how good this guy is. This happened about every 10 pages.
