



## **The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes**

*Marcus Sakey*

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**The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes** Marcus Sakey

**Marcus Sakey returns with his most ambitious novel, a captivating story of love and memory, where the only thing more frightening than the questions are the answers.**

A man wakes up naked and cold, half-drowned on an abandoned beach. The only sign of life for miles is an empty BMW. Inside the expensive car he finds clothes that fit perfectly, shoes for his tattered feet, a Rolex, and a bank envelope stuffed with cash and an auto registration in the name of Daniel Hayes, resident of Malibu, California.

None of it is familiar.

What is he doing here? How did he get into the ocean? Is he Daniel Hayes, and if so, why doesn't he remember? While he searches for answers, the world searches for him—beginning with the police that kick in the door of his dingy motel, with guns drawn. Lost, alone, and on the run, the man who might be Daniel Hayes flees into the night.

All he remembers is a woman's face, so he sets off for the only place he might find her. The fantasy of her becomes his home, his world, his hope. And maybe, just maybe, the way back to himself.

But that raises the most chilling question of all: What will he find when he gets there?

## The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes Details

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Author : Marcus Sakey

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# **From Reader Review The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes for online ebook**

## **Patricia says**

The story begins with Daniel Hayes washed up on the beach, half dead and thousands of miles away from home. Daniel is alone except for a car parked on the beach and abandoned. Of course, Daniel has no idea that he is Daniel Hayes. He has amnesia and no idea of how he arrived in the water off the coast of Maine. The car is a BMW. The registration says Daniel Hayes. The clothes in the trunk happen to fit. The gun in the glove compartment is a big surprise. With no other options, he starts driving the BMW headed across the country. The registration says California so that is his destination. Is he Daniel Hayes or someone that just washed up on the beach and lucked into a good car with clothes, cash, maps and even a nice Rolex watch. He wonders how he knew the watch was a Rolex and was surprised he liked the taste of the whiskey left in the car. With no other options available at the moment, he decides he will be Daniel Hayes – at least until he finds out something different.

As he tries to retrace his life, he finds many surprises. He has a wife but she is dead. Or is she dead? That is just another story he needs to unravel. As Daniel struggles to make sense of his life, he finds himself right in the middle of a situation that is extremely dangerous but not one that he fully understands.

The struggles Daniel goes through to regain his memory and understand his life that went before he wound up half dead on a beach in Maine is a thriller that keeps the reader on edge up to the very last page.

Marcus Sakey's previous novels have been very successful and this one is sure to be a winner.

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## **Luanne Ollivier says**

I've been recommending Marcus Sakey books for a while now to library patrons who are looking for a new thriller/suspense author. Many have never heard of Sakey, but they always come back after that first read, looking for another of his titles. The Two Death of Daniel Hayes is going to propel Sakey right up to the top of the thriller/suspense genre.

A man wakes up half dead and naked on a deserted beach. He has no idea who he is, where he is, or how he got there. But... there's a BMW with the keys in it parked up the road. The clothes on the seat fit him, as do the shoes. There's a wad of cash in the glove box and the registration is made out to Daniel Hayes of Malibu California. Oh, there's also a gun...

'Daniel' sets off in the car, stopping at a motel to try and figure things out. An actress on a prime time soap

triggers a memory. He can't know her, can he? Who is he? When the motel door is kicked in by the cops, he hightails it out the bathroom window. What has he done? Why are they after him? Who the hell is he!?

And I'm not going to give you any more plot, because it's just too good to spoil. Sakey drew me in with the unknown and kept me frantically turning pages as Hayes discovers more and more about who he is and what he has done. Or not done. Are his memories real or "just stories we tell ourselves to explain how we got where we are." Because nothing is as it seems. The plot twists and turns and doubles back on itself numerous times. I was happily kept totally off kilter. I loved that I wasn't able to figure the 'who and why' out until the very end. What a breakneck read - highly recommended!

Marcus Sakey: "I'm a novelist, which means I make a living telling lies. Hopefully they keep you up at night or make you miss your train stop." Oh yeah, they do!

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## **Erin says**

THE TWO DEATHS OF DANIEL HAYES has already met with a great deal of critical acclaim, and rightly so. Marcus Sakey is simply a gifted author, and this layered, complicated, intricately detailed story is not one bit self-indulgent (unlike a certain tale of a tattooed young woman that I could mention, but won't).

But here's the rub: If you're looking for an easy read, this isn't it. THE TWO DEATHS OF DANIEL HAYES will raise your heart rate and blood pressure. It will keep you up past your bedtime. It will frustrate you because just when you think you have it all figured out...you don't. Trust me, you really don't.

So what's it about? No easy answer to this. It's about a guy who has amnesia. It's about good and evil. But it also includes subplots that shine a light on love and marriage, the criminal justice system, celebrity culture, American geography, and more. THE TWO DEATHS OF DANIEL HAYES starts with a bang on a cold and deserted beach in Maine, and takes a wild and gloriously twisted road from there.

If you're looking for a book in which you can lose yourself, THE TWO DEATHS OF DANIEL HAYES fits the bill. It's a standalone novel, and you need not have read Sakey's previous novels to appreciate it.

One of my most common complaints about books is that some novels have too many characters. Authors can occasionally throw in characters that don't serve a real purpose, or there are just so many that keeping track of who's done what to whom is cumbersome. While THE TWO DEATHS OF DANIEL HAYES has a large cast for sure, Sakey gives the right amount of attention to each. He gets the balance just right. I never had to flip back to a character's last appearance to remember his or her role.

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## **Diane S ? says**

A man wakes up naked on a beach and doesn't remember where he is or how he got there. From there it is all thrills and chills as he attempts to find out what happened to him and where he belongs. Plenty of twists and turns, with some very good characters and some not so nice people. Sakey's writing is as always suspenseful and he's from Chicago.

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## **Kelly Hager says**

I'm going to give you the publisher's summary because that's the safest way to keep from ruining something.

"A man wakes up naked and cold, half-drowned on an abandoned beach. The only sign of life for miles is an empty BMW. Inside the expensive car he finds clothes that fit perfectly, shoes for his tattered feet, a Rolex, and a bank envelope stuffed with cash and an auto registration in the name of Daniel Hayes, resident of Malibu, California.

None of it is familiar.

What is he doing here? How did he get into the ocean? Is he Daniel Hayes, and if so, why doesn't he remember? While he searches for answers, the world searches for him—beginning with the police that kick in the door of his dingy motel, with guns drawn. Lost, alone, and on the run, the man who might be Daniel Hayes flees into the night.

All he remembers is a woman's face, so he sets off for the only place he might find her. The fantasy of her becomes his home, his world, his hope. And maybe, just maybe, the way back to himself.

But that raises the most chilling question of all: What will he find when he gets there?"

Me again. I've read Marcus Sakey's books since his first book came out, and I've loved all of them. I think my favorite is the third, *Good People*, but they do seem to keep getting better. I say that, because this one is easily the best of the lot. The pacing is relentless and because Daniel has amnesia, we learn things as he does.

Also, the villain in this? Easily the scariest person I've encountered in books.

If you haven't read any Marcus Sakey novels yet, start with this one and then go back and read the other four. (Five, if you have a Kindle and can get the collection of stories.)

Recommended—but only if you have time to read it straight through. This is one you won't be able to put down.

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## **Daniel Audet says**

I had never heard of this author until yesterday (I need to get out more...) when I noticed the slick, cool cover on the book and was intrigued by the title and the story-line blip on the inside flap. I decided to take a chance on Marcus Sakey's book and I couldn't be more thrilled that I did. Like I said, just because I had never read

anything by this author doesn't mean he isn't well known.

The opening of the book is a stellar translation through the character's senses, in third POV, (which reads like 1st POV and almost caused my writer brain to melt) wherein we feel his confusion and literal pain, into vivid images of a desolate, near freezing beach.....somewhere.

With no idea who he is or why he finds himself laying naked, near death, as icy waves wash over him, the discovery of an expensive sports car nearby is where his fight for life and remembrance will begin. As far fetched, on the surface, as this type scenario might sound Sakey pulls it off using both barrels. Skilled narration and description. Daniel Hayes, if that's who he really is, according to the paperwork in the BMW - is a little off the reservation. No wallet, only car type paperwork and a gun in the glove box, he slowly brings himself back to life, having crawled into the vehicle and turning on the heat. In short, a really good intro. From there the pace goes into hyper drive.

\*I warn you though, there is graphic language and description of violence and sexuality in this book.\*

Bits and pieces float to the surface of "Daniel's" mind and soon he finds himself running from the police in a little Maine beach town. He decides to head back to LA not having any idea if he really is Daniel Hayes and why, if he is, he ended up on a beach in Maine dying of hypothermia.

Sakey's literal, sometimes gritty and always direct "voice" is a refreshing blend of realism and good old fashioned thriller intrigue. His sentence construction using clever word choices will impress you even if you're not a writer. If you ARE a writer, then keep a notepad handy you're in for a lesson.

If nothing else(and there's plenty...) Sakey's energy, with a polished grit all his own, is infused deeply in this story, and, no doubt all his work.

All the basics are well represented and executed and it's hard to understand why this author isn't a household word but I'm guessing that break point is not far off on the horizon.

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## Ehu Ehe says

- Dilekler birer at olsa, onlar? dizginleyecek biri gerekirdi.

- T?pk? Frans?z filozoflar?n a?k ve hayat hakk?nda söyledikleri ?eyler gibi, sizin seçtikleriniz d???nda kalan her ?ey gerçek d??? oluyordu. Ço?u insan?n a?k? al??kanl?kla kar??t?rmas? gibi, ba?l?l?k da a?k? anlatmak için do?ru kelime olmayabilirdi. Bu tamamen seçim yapmakla ilgili bir duyguydu, kiminle olaca??n? seçmek ve bu seçim her an tekrarlansa, her an ayn? ki?iyi seçecek olmak.

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## Martinxo says

The opening chapter earned this book a four star rating but it quickly dropped to three stars and then down to a mediocre two stars. It only avoid a one star ranking because in my rankings that equals 'abandoned' but I didn't abandon it because I was on a train and needed a book to read and this is the fucking turgid piece of crap I had picked up in a hurry as I left the house.

So there you go.

Oh, and some writer called 'Lee Child' says it is 'Truly Excellent' so he must be a shit writer as well.

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## Vicky says

A man wakes up on the beach in Maine with no memory of who he is or why he is drowning. His journey takes him back across the country to California, dodging bad guys and the police as he goes. Everyone in the book could be a threat to the man who calls himself Daniel Hayes. It's a thrill ride to read. One thing I did not like was the cut-outs of Hollywood screen plays, although an effective plot device, I found it tiresome (it could just be me). The ambiguity of the ending is also annoying, but that is again my taste and desire to always have the good guys win and the bad guys lose. Ambiguity is an important part of the plot in this book. Any book by Marcus Sakey is a good read and worth seeking out for those who like fast-paced action thrillers.

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## Lois Duncan says

An excellent suspense novel. A real page-turner, with an ending I didn't expect. That ending caused me to go back and re-scan the book to see if the author planted the necessary foreshadowing. He did, but subtly. I was reading so fast that I missed it.

Maybe I've found a new favorite author!

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## Michael Foley says

Marcus Sakey is one of the best in the business, and *The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes* proves it. George Pelecanos created a pair of the most exciting villains in all of literature with *Shame the Devil*. Sakey's latest villain tops it. He's scarily unpredictable. As soon as you think you've figured out his angle, this villain will throw a curveball at you.

Sakey has developed a very modern writing style reminiscent of Don Winslow's, and it comes across as a breath of fresh air after a lifetime in a steam room. He is poetic in his narration, but what really makes him special is the crisp dialogue that he delivers. Very few writers can pull it off, so when I find one who can, I read everything they put out. Which is why I've been with Sakey since *The Blade Itself*.

The book's plot is constantly progressing, making sure you'll be late for your next appointment as you follow the characters along, desperate to find out what happens next.

*The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes* finally asserts Sakey into the most elite class of writers, with Dennis Lehane, Michael Connelly, and Elmore Leonard.

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## Savvy says

**Life is a Raindrop... (in a thunderstorm of a novel!)**

*"You are who you choose to be. Be sure you can live with the decisions you make." Daniel Hayes*

The dilemma is that Hayes begins his journey in a haze (a play on words, Mr. Sakey?)... dripping wet, naked, confused and with no memory of how he got where he is...and worse...not even knowing WHO he is...his identity an enigma!

What decisions has he made? What has happened to him? Where exactly is he...what ocean did he just drag his body out of?

*“Calm, don’t panic...Retrace your steps...Focus...Don’t force it. Tease it. Coax it out.”*

Sakey continues to hone his fine skills in writing thrillers that keep you guessing until the very end.

His novels should come with seat-belts...the plot twists toss the reader with plenty of turbulence in this newest offering, THE TWO DEATHS OF DANIEL HAYES.

Just when you think you’ve had an ‘AHA’ moment, the plot loops around and you find yourself clutching at the proverbial straws all over again. You regain your footing as Daniel slowly retraces his and clues are revealed. However, all is not as it appears and trust ebbs and flows like the tide from which Daniel first sprung.

It’s difficult to say much more without adding a spoiler alert.

Just know that once you pick this fast-paced novel up...you’ll speed along with Daniel from Maine to California with petals of memories slowly unveiling a past that begs to atone and surprises itself in both dreams and reality.

I was very impressed with the author’s sharp images of Los Angeles and how well he portrayed the city as if he had lived there himself!...but, I’m pretty sure he hails from Chicago.

I am a native “Angelina” and so Sakey brought back vivid pictures of places like Griffith Park, Hollywood, the unique culture of Southern California and a whole lot more!...even the Avocado tree that I, too, had in my back yard! ...but without the pulsating adrenaline rush!

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## **Cherie says**

Brilliant!

What a story. From the start, I was pulled into every scene and all that happened.

The bad guy was truly awful.

The narration by Christopher Lane was 5 stars.

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## **Kari Anderson says**

Imagine waking up, naked, on a beach. Not knowing who you are, how you got there or even where you are. But you do know some things... like that you are on the verge of hypothermia and find a car to warm up in.

Daniel Hayes soon starts learning a little more about his life, that appears to be left in California, a long way



from the east coast where he washed to shore. But getting back there, and figuring out more about himself may not be as easy as a cross-country drive.

Hayes' wife, a big name actress, died in a car crash and police believe he was involved, but he doesn't remember. He now has to find answers, without getting himself in more trouble than he is already in.

Wow! What a page turner. From the very first page, Marcus Sakey had me hooked. Every time I thought I knew what was going to happen, another curveball came my way. I didn't want to put the book down because I knew that just around the corner, there was something new and once again, I would have to pull my jaw up off the floor.

It's no surprise to anyone on my blog that I am an aspiring writer. The kind of writing in this book is the kind that I hope to mimic even a 10th of in my books. It was gripping and I didn't want to let go of it.

I give *The Two Deaths of Daniel Hayes* 5 bookmarks and want to thank Dana Kaye of Kaye Publicity to always knowing what books to send my way! She never disappoints. And Mr. Sakey, I've already stalked your website to find which of your books I want to read next!

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## Jeff De says

Mostly yucky. I never write reviews on here but this one deserves one. Sakey writes about Los Angeles like a tourist. His slang is outdated, his knowledge of the city and getting around in L.A. improbable--just like his fantastical plot.

Examples:

-there are 100 yards of sandy beach along the whole coast. False.

-the use of "Meh"...very 2006...MAYBE 2008, but NOT 2011.

-"rolling" used to describe driving a car-early 2000s for white guys. Much older for true urbanites.

-BMW M5 as the drooler car. Nope. Audis are the thing in L.A. if you have the money. But you'd only know that if you lived here and were observant. Or if you were a writer who really did his research.

-Dodge Caravan is a Minivan, not a huge van used by industrial types.

-You can drive from the Farmer's Market to Palisades in 20 minutes. Hah!

-You would take a detour to Manhattan Beach when you need to be downtown at 8PM to kill a killer.

Etc., etc,etc.

Weak.

Likewise, his treatment of T.V. production is as one of a fanboy and not one who knows the business at all. Example: "grips" do not light sets. Electricians light sets.

Obviously, Sakey craves to be a Hollywood insider. You only need to read the over-hyped jacket --"my books are gonna be movies!" (bad ones) with its poser-type author photo to see this. Really, "Dude"-- he uses "dude" only when speaking of minorities (another problem all together)--lose the ALL BLACK outfit. It's so

80's New York City and 90's L.A.

No doubt, Sakey will be wildly successful, but it won't be because he's a good novelist. It will be because our standards are so low.

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