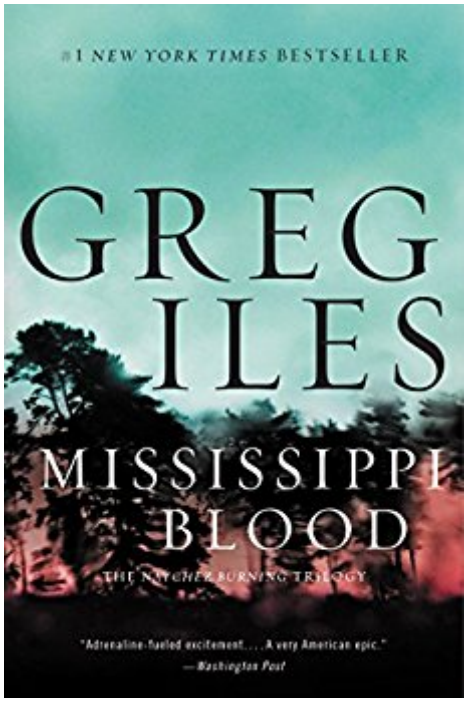
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# Mississippi Blood: A Novel (Penn Cage Novels)




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## Synopsis

The #1 New York Times BestsellerThe final installment in the epic Natchez Burning trilogy by Greg IlesÃ¢â ¬Å“Natchez BurningÃ Â is extraordinarily entertaining and fiendishly suspenseful. I defy you to start it and find a way to put it down; as long as it is, I wished it were longer. . . . This is an amazing work of popular fiction.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Ã Â Stephen KingÃ¢â ¬Å“One of the longest, most successful sustained works of popular fiction in recent memoryÃ¢â ¬Â¦ Prepare to be surprised. Iles has always been an exceptional storyteller, and he has invested these volumes with an energy and sense of personal urgency that rarely, if ever, falter.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Washington PostThe endgame is at hand for Penn Cage, his family, and the enemies bent on destroying them in this revelatory volume in the epic trilogy set in modern-day Natchez, MississippiÃ¢â ¬â •Greg IlesÃ¢â ¬â„¢s epic tale of love and honor, hatred and revenge that explores how the sins of the past continue to haunt the present.Shattered by grief and dreaming of vengeance, Penn Cage sees his family and his world collapsing around him. The woman he loves is gone, his principles have been irrevocably compromised, and his father, once a paragon of the community that Penn leads as mayor, is about to be tried for the murder of a former lover. Most terrifying of all, Dr. Cage seems bent on self-destruction. Despite Penn's experience as a prosecutor in major murder trials, his father has frozen him out of the trial preparations--preferring to risk dying in prison to revealing the truth of the crime to his son. During forty years practicing medicine, Tom Cage made himself the most respected and beloved physician in Natchez, Mississippi. But this revered Southern figure has secrets known only to himself and a handful of others.Ã Â Among them, Tom has a second son, the product of an 1960s affair with his devoted African American nurse, Viola Turner.Ã Â It is Viola who has been murdered, and her bitter son--Penn's half-brother--who sets in motion the murder case against his father.Ã Â The resulting investigation exhumes dangerous ghosts from Mississippi's violent past. In some way that Penn cannot fathom, Viola Turner was a nexus point between his father and the Double Eagles, a savage splinter cell of the KKK. More troubling still, the long-buried secrets shared by Dr. Cage and the former Klansmen may hold the key to the most devastating assassinations of the 1960s. The surviving Double Eagles will stop at nothing to keep their past crimes buried, and with the help of some of the most influential men in the state, they seek to ensure that Dr. Cage either takes the fall for them, or takes his secrets to an early grave.Ã Â Unable to trust anyone around him--not even his own mother--Penn joins forces with Serenity Butler, a famous young black author who has come to Natchez to write about his father's case. Together, Penn and Serenity battle to crack the Double Eagles and discover the secret history of the Cage family and the South itself, a desperate move

that risks the only thing they have left to gamble: their lives. Mississippi Blood is the enthralling conclusion to a breathtaking trilogy seven years in the making--one that has kept readers on the edge of their seats. With piercing insight, narrative prowess, and a masterful ability to blend history and imagination, Greg Iles illuminates the brutal history of the American South in a highly atmospheric and suspenseful novel that delivers the shocking resolution his fans have eagerly awaited.Ã Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I’ve been an avid reader for over 60 years now, collecting thousands of (primarily) hard cover books written by authors who have impressed me with their story-telling skills, their intelligent plots and sub-plots, their cast of (usually unique) supporting characters, their ability to paint vivid pictures to help immerse me in their stories, their artful presentation of surprising (and sometimes shocking) twists and turns that cause me to reassess and reorganize my thoughts, and the clever use of words and phrases that can cause me to laugh out loud or shed an occasional tear. And it should

be easy to see from my first long sentence that my use of "run on" sentences will always prevent me from being a writer.There are actually very few authors whom I have read (and collected) each and every one of their books. Greg Iles is one of them, along with Dennis Lehane, Stephen King, and James Lee Burke. I have enjoyed the works of several other authors over the years and then stopped reading/collecting them because they kept repeating the same formula (which became stale), their characters remained stagnant and failed to grow, or the impact they were once able to shock and surprise you with had disappeared from their writing. It was obvious in a few cases that "ghost writers" had stepped in and continued with their story lines when they were no longer able to write, which simply affirmed the use of formula writing.Greg Iles doesn't stand still. He continues to provide intelligent and well-researched stories that are grounded in the history of the Deep South. He doesn't paint a pretty picture with southern ladies and gentlemen, antebellum mansions, garden parties, and good-old-boy politicians. Instead Mr.Iles talks about the problems of the Deep South; the history of slavery, the Ku Klux Klan, the inequality of races, miscegenation, and various hold-outs of people who keep a grip on the old ways even today. His writing is gritty and realistic, impressive and depressing at the same time, and allows his readers to really understand what has happened over the past 150 years. He presents these historic events with passion and insight, excusing few for their actions and holding many accountable for perpetuating barbaric practices.After having passed through many generations, it is surprising that so many people continue to discriminate against those who were granted freedom from their owners so long ago. Mr. Iles writing periodically points out the places where water fountains had signs on them stating "Whites Only", back doors to stores had empty spaces on them where signs once read "Colored Entrance", and inhumane prisons often held minor offenders for the rest of their lives. It is not a pretty picture but instead points out the realities of racism that others would just as soon forget. It is ugly, it is brutal, and it is amazing that so few managed to take advantage of so many for such a long time. This particular book is not for the faint of heart. No punches are pulled, no words are minced, no stone goes unturned. Be prepared, be warned, and expect to learn some historical truths without any sugar-coating.,This is easily a stand-alone novel not requiring the reading of the previous two books in the trilogy. HOWEVER, you will miss two powerful novels that set the stage for the end of this book -- and I wouldn't want you to miss any of its impact.

The conclusion to his Penn Cage series was a great read. I highly recommend it. I'm so sad to see this series end. It is long but necessary to tell the proper story - and it's told without much repetition from the previous books in this series. The historical events around the area just adds more realism

to the story. He takes you on a journey to the areas in and around Natchez. Greg Iles is not afraid to leave important characters on the ground. Not only is the story filled with a lot of action and drama there are some really surprising twists that come out of nowhere! This final book is primarily about Tom Cage's trial but Wow... What A Trial it is. Talk about gut-wrenching suspense and edge of your seat action. I'm hoping that Greg Iles can be persuaded to write another book regarding the mayor and the half-brother.

I've never read a Greg Iles book that I didn't like, and this one was particularly outstanding because it tied up so many loose ends from the previous two novels which it seems were read years ago. Now I want to reread them! The characters felt like family and it was good to revisit them. My only regret was that the X-ray feature was missing. With so many characters, it would have been a great help at times.

Did Greg Iles write an unresolved "red herring" in the book on purpose? I'll bet he did. As usual this is a page-turner, and ends as one might expect, after many twists and turns. But what did "Snake" Knox do with the second ("I'll only need two") of those radio-controlled poison injection devices? One was used to kill a witness in court. I kept waiting for the other to be used to try to kill hero Penn Cage, or one of the other good folks in the book, but it never happened. The second poison device wasn't used for anyone, but I kept expecting it to be. Was this Iles' little joke on all of us readers? Or is there more to come?

Penn Cage is one of my favorite characters. I was up and down throughout the novel. And although, I was a little disappointed in Dr. Cage, ( I thought his martyrdom was a bit overdone) I could not put the book down. The end was the only flaw. It felt rushed and superficial. Perhaps it left questions to be answered down the road. I missed Caitlin. Serenity was good, it she lacked Caitlin's flair. I also missed Daniel Kelly. Again, perhaps he will resurface down the road. I hope this is not the last of Penn. There are too many unanswered questions left untold.

Greg Iles has given us a trilogy within the Penn Cage series that is part Southern Gothic, part Mockingbird, and all Greg Iles. We get resolution to the story of the Double Eagles, family dirty linen is aired, a whodunnit is resolved, plenty of action, sex, angst, and a new beginning for some. It doesn't get any better than this. My one quibble is that Penn's lack of faith in the lawyer defending his father for murder of his black nurse/ mistress seems out of character. There are surprises from

his mother, Annie is pretty grown up for her age, some women characters kick ass, and the half-brothers unite, if only for a little while.

This is the third book in Greg Iles's Natchez Burning trilogy - really one long book. I love Greg's work, definitely a fan, and his Penn Cage novels are fascinating. They evoke the spirit of the Mississippi/Louisiana area and dig deep in the history of race relations in this part of the country. I definitely recommend reading the first two books first (Natchez Burning and The Bone Tree), but he does recap the major events of those books as a part of the narrative (nicely done - it's not heavy handed if you've read the books). His characters are well-drawn and their actions remain true to their character.Well done, Greg!

Long overpriced rehash of the previous saga of Penn Cage and his war against all the white trash of Natchez and viciniity. I'm kicking myself for wasting my money on Iles and his far-fetched plots! He's an Oliver Stone wannabe without near the talent.

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