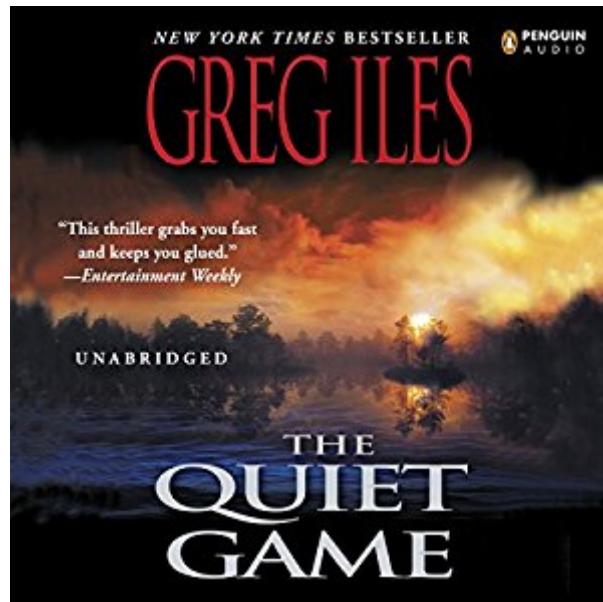


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The Quiet Game



Synopsis

When former prosecutor Penn Cage returns to his hometown of Natchez, Mississippi, he doesn't find the peace he desperately craves. He finds that his own father is being blackmailed by a corrupt ex-cop. And when Penn investigates, he uncovers a murderous secret - and the small town's violent past.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 20 hours

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 14, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00M7FUBSM

Best Sellers Rank: #13 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Legal Thrillers
#133 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Legal #191 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense

Customer Reviews

Greg Iles has possibly the greatest range of any current suspense novelist: WWII, Internet Sex, Secrets of the Deep South... Iles weaves into his books the historical texture of Caleb Carr, double the plot twists of Grisham, and thrice the build-up of Crichton. Speaking of those two, they should be reminded there are writers like Iles who put in the effort to allow a book to stand on its own merits without the carrot of a movie deal. Despite Iles' harsh characterization of my native Boston (perhaps he is as misinformed of New England as he believes I am of his home) I became entranced by his use of setting as character and his portrayal of imperfect heroes and revered heels. He uses enough misleading foreshadowing to annoy me into staying up late to try to come to a conclusion. I believe Black Cross was his best work, this his second, Mortal Fear third and Spandau Phoenix fourth. Funny that most people have read only Spandau Phoenix. I do have one complaint - please hurry up on your next book. Stephen King may be from dreaded New England, but for God's sake, at least he puts out a book every now and then! Maybe then more would learn there are great alternatives to the latest drivel from the big boys.

If you are an avid reader every once in a while you stumble onto a book that is impossible to put down. I am delighted that I found Mr. Iles and this terrific book. An absolutely wonderful read.

Not that I have any problem with John Grisham, but he seems to be compared quite often to Iles and I honestly don't see it. Grisham, although sometimes entertaining, tends to write screenplays rather than novels. The Quiet Game, although as familiar as Grisham in landscape, takes you on an absolute roller coaster of intrigue with a diverse cast of players leaving you with an uncontrollable passion to continue turning pages. Parts of this tale are certainly predictable, who the bad guys are is no secret, and the majority of the plot is far fetched,... but isn't that what fiction is supposed to be all about? Particularly fiction in the thriller genre? Iles has a gift for making even the predictable components of the story exciting to read as well as taking ordinary dialog and making it compelling. His use of the first person narrative, which I am not often a fan of, was an excellent choice for unfolding the story in a Whodunnit fashion that grips you and steadily immerses you into Natchez Mississippi and the heart of this story. This is Iles' 4th book, and very different from the rest, and I loved them all. He's just replaced Crichton as my personal favorite author. I recommend him to anybody.

A quote on the cover of "The Quiet Game" says, "Rivals Grisham's best - Will transfix the reader until the very last page." Sorry! Grisham can't write this well. I read three or four books a week and have for many years. This is one of the best books I have ever read; for plot, for character, for ambience, for entertainment, for instruction; for every conceivable reason I can think of. I very much enjoyed the other books this author has written but he seems to improve with every subsequent book. I loved this book and I will hold onto it and reread it from time to time. Thank you, Greg Iles!

It was one of the best books I have read in quite a long time. I don't see the comparison between Greg Iles and Grisham. He writes in a more intelligent manner, and does a far better job of developing his characters. What I especially liked about it was the fact that his character Penn Cage touched on emotional issues as well, and I felt like I was reading a mystery thriller, that was much more than a mystery thriller. The premise of the novel kept me going and I had a hard time putting it down. I enjoyed the historical references, and the plot development. I'm probably not helping anyone by not describing the plot, or characters, but I don't choose what I read based on plot alone. My main reason for reading the book was that I picked up the book and liked the way the story was

being told and it didn't let me down one bit. My initial impression remained the same. I figure that other reviews will discuss the story content and plot.

Nothing gets in the way of the story in *The Quiet Game*, a suspenseful page-turner that keeps the pace through over 400 pages. Penn Cage, a prosecutor from Houston and an author of legal thrillers, returns to his boyhood home in Natchez, Mississippi to help his daughter Annie recover from his wife's death. In an interview with an ambitious local journalist, he mentions the Del Payton case, a racial murder that has remained unsolved for thirty years. Suddenly Cage finds himself in the midst of a storm of racial tensions, crime and political intrigue in which all the major suspects are playing *The Quiet Game*, a game of waiting to see who breaks first. Greg Iles has done a wonderful job writing a book that is hard to put down. Not only is it well-plotted, but the characters are likable and the setting is well-established. The swamps of Natchez yield not only old grudges, but new insights about race relations as Cage works to bring the murderer to justice. Definitely a 5-star read.

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