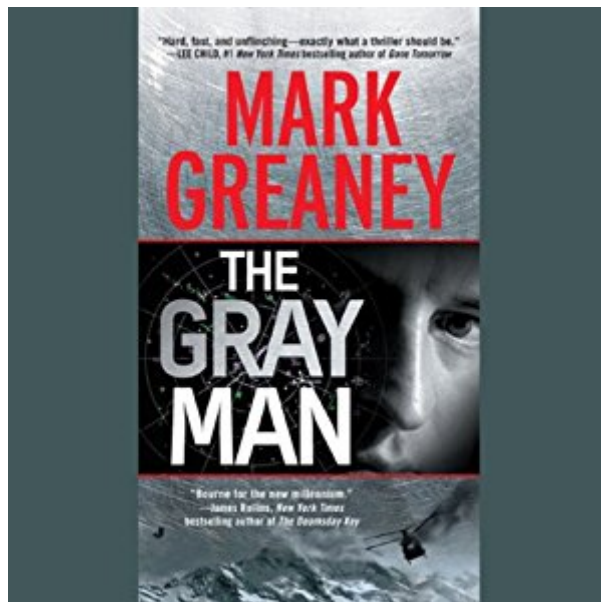


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# The Gray Man



## Synopsis

Get ready for white-knuckled listening. Greaney's debut novel - and future feature film - introduces the enigmatic and elusive Court Gentry, a former CIA operative and a legendary hired gun. With a terrifying ability to vaporize targets and a strict moral code, he stalks the gray margins of the world, moving silently from job to job, accomplishing the impossible, then fading away. When his government and former employers turn on him, there is no safehouse to run to, no way to lie low. In a constant state of escape and pursuit, Gentry tears through the Middle East and Europe in a riveting life-or-death race against time. Fast-paced, well-researched, and fun, *The Gray Man* is already being adapted for a movie by the company behind Tom Cruise's *Knight & Day*.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours 32 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: August 30, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0041CUATE

Best Sellers Rank: #17 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Espionage

#112 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure #160

in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Political

## Customer Reviews

He should have known better. Court Gentry - aka *The Gray Man* - is a former CIA deep cover solo operative who left the agency in disgrace (with a shoot-to-kill order issued) and now works for a private security firm, based in the UK, solving (getting rid of) people's problems. He can kill with (mostly, better than) the best of them and has done so often. But he does limit his exterminations to people who really deserve to die, possessing a moral compass of sorts. After the conclusion of a successful mission, he is on his departure route and he knew better than to deviate from his extraction plan...but...he did it anyway. He had to as he couldn't let what he had just witnessed go unchallenged. Little did he know that one of the people he shot down was the brother of an extremely corrupt African dictator and, somehow, they were able to discover who it was that had

done the deed - the Gray Man. Not only that, they knew his real identity, which, until now, had been completely unknown. The Gray Man's saga, built over the past four years of stealth and the ability to get the job done with no trail to follow, was something almost legendary. Now he is on the run and fighting for his life. There is only his handler, Sir Donald Fitzroy, to trust but he finds out that Fitzroy has also been compromised and is, as well, in trouble, along with his family. As the Gray Man makes his way from Iraq heading to Normandy, France, to assist his handler and family, several teams of international assassins are set loose on his trail, aided by someone Gentry would never have imagined. The pace of this tale is strong, it keeps you turning page after page in order to see what happens next. The main drawback to this story is that the suspension of disbelief pushes the envelope concerning the Gray Man's ability to continue traveling (especially when on foot) and fighting (world-class killers) at a break-neck pace while being seriously injured. That said, too much fiction requires more-than-normal suspension nowadays, but the Gray Man does endure far more than any of my other favorite operatives in such a short period of time. If you can put that aside, the Gray Man is an action-packed tale.

Mark Greaney's The Gray Man is the 1st offering in the long running Gray Man series. A former bad boy and special ops train operator, the Gray Man was discharged from the CIA with extreme prejudice. Existing in the shadows, he works special jobs for a former British intelligence officer with his own private security operation. When a large multinational corporation is looking to salvage an investment gone sour, they must deliver the head of the Gray Man and pull out all the stops to succeed. Operating with his own brand of a moral code, the Gray Man never lets up and sees every mission to the end, usually a bitter end for everyone on his receiving end. Tradecraft is a bit muted or at least takes a backseat to the action and physicality on display. There are some truly despicable individuals to despise and some honor among this sordid occupational class. Some degree of suspension of belief is required especially around the use of pavement artists; it would hard to believe any reasonable number could pick out individuals in large European cities so reliably (not to mention the effort involved in amassing such a devoted and qualified army). For traditional summer beach escape reading, this hits the sweet spot.

I am absolutely in love with the Tom Clancy books especially the ones which star John Clark and Jack Ryan JR and his friends Ding and Dom. These led me to the Mark Greaney books about Gray Man. I have read the first four in Greaney's series of 5 books about Gray Man and am on the 5th book now. They obviously have me hooked. I wish Gray man would have some friends---other

characters in the book that support him. Also I have to say some of the things Gray Man does are almost unbelievable meaning a little far fetched---like taking down six highly trained men by himself or taking down another assassin when he (Gray Man) has a broken arm and a knife wound to his leg. Having said that, I will keep on reading about him. The stories are fast paced and the books are hard to put down. I think they are very well written.

I'd long ago read, and enjoyed, Mr. Greaney's work first in collaboration with, then in succession of, Tom Clancy but had chosen to forego his own work. For the life of me I can't figure out why at this minute. The first book in his Gray Man series wasn't all that intricate in terms of plot but, what it may lack in intrigue, it MORE than makes up for in action! I found this book to be very enjoyable and compelling with very villainous villains and a few characters, loosely constructed who demonstrated no small degree of moral ambiguity. As to the title character, at times he appears near indestructible and was created in the Mitch Rapp/Scot Harvath mold. Highly enjoyable. I look forward to seeing if the next tale has equal appeal for me.

A super-human character - racing from one impossible deed to the next and always surviving against odds so incredibly unbelievable that I found myself skipping over great gobs of uninteresting drivel. Although I finished the book, I realized by the conclusion that this was a character, The Gray Man, who failed totally to connect or to entertain his unfortunate followers as the story progressed. In his attempt to create a larger-than-life hero Greaney instead succeeded only in creating a character with whom very few will wish to identify or to revisit. Having read many books featuring dazzling heroes such as Mitch Rapp, I was seeking a series based on a similar character. Not to be with The Gray Man. Unfortunately, as so often happens, all of the books in the Gray Man series have received at least 4 stars...something that baffles me and I am beginning to suspect that ratings may no longer be trusted.

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