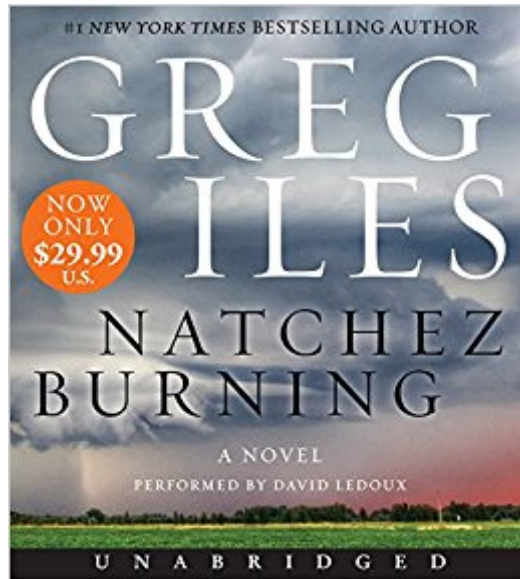




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Natchez Burning Low Price CD: A Novel (Penn Cage)



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Greg Iles comes the first novel in his Natchez Burning trilogy—which also includes *The Bone Tree* and the upcoming *Mississippi Blood*—an epic trilogy that interweaves crimes, lies, and secrets past and present in a mesmerizing thriller featuring Southern lawyer and former prosecutor Penn Cage. Raised in the southern splendor of Natchez, Mississippi, Penn Cage learned all he knows of duty from his father, Dr. Tom Cage. But now the beloved family doctor has been accused of murdering the African American nurse with whom he worked in the dark days of the 1960s. Once a crusading prosecutor, Penn is determined to save his father, but Tom, stubbornly invoking doctor-patient privilege, refuses even to speak in his own defense. Penn's quest for the truth sends him deep into his father's past, where a sexually charged secret lies. More chilling, this long-buried sin is only one thread in a conspiracy of greed and murder involving the vicious Double Eagles, an offshoot of the KKK controlled by some of the most powerful men in the state. Aided by a dedicated reporter privy to Natchez's oldest secrets and by his fiancée, Caitlin Masters, Penn uncovers a trail of corruption and brutality that places his family squarely in the Double Eagles' crosshairs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, May 2014: Greg Iles has written a sprawling, gothic, suspenseful, emotional, page-turner of a book. In doing so, he's confronted the darkest secrets of his home state of Mississippi. Shifting between the 1960s (not a pretty period in Mississippi history) and

the present, it's the story of a respected doctor accused of murdering his former nurse, an African-American woman who has returned to Natchez after many years up north. The doctor's son, Penn Cage (featured in previous Iles novels), is a former prosecutor, now the mayor of Natchez, whose attempts to clear his father bring him face to face with a fringe KKK sect, men who personify the South's historic evils. Packed to the point of overflow with racial politics, family secrets, illicit love, corruption, racism, brutality, and fear, this 800-page book is really a father-son story. Yet, as Iles suggests in the opening pages: "Perhaps we expect too much of our fathers. Though it's sometimes easier not to acknowledge life's most uncomfortable truths, as one character puts it, 'Sooner or later, everything comes to the surface, doesn't it?' Smart, funny, and sexy, you'll keep thinking about it long after the violent final pages. --Neal Thompson

Joseph Finder Guest Review by Joseph Finder, New York Times bestselling author of *Paranoia*, *Buried Secrets*, and the forthcoming *Suspicion* (On Sale 5/27/14). Greg Iles's long-awaited new novel is a big deal, and I do mean big. In this age of 140-character tweets and text messages, there's something wonderfully old-fashioned about the pleasure of losing yourself in the fully realized, immersive fictional world of a 788-page story. I'm reminded of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* (945 pages), or the great sagas of Herman Wouk, James Michener, and James Clavell. The best big novels, like Iles's instant classic, *Natchez Burning*, pull you in so deep that you're utterly transported; they don't seem long at all. I've always been a big fan of Greg Iles's work. From *Spandau Phoenix* to *Turning Angel*, and his most recent, *The Devil's Punchbowl* (just to name a few favorites), he never repeats himself. He's a graceful writer who knows how to tell a gripping, fast-moving story without sacrificing texture or fully fleshed-out characters. The central plot of *Natchez Burning* starts with Mayor Penn Cage, an attorney Iles introduced in 1999's *The Quiet Game*, learning that his father, the town's most beloved physician, is about to be charged with murder. The victim? Dr. Cage's former nurse, Viola Turner, who came home to Natchez to die after a nearly 40-year absence. Did his father assist in Viola's suicide? Penn would believe it: his father did the same for Penn's own wife when she was dying of cancer, years before. But as the town's corrupt district attorney pursues the case, it becomes clear that Viola's death was no gentle passage into that good night. In fact, a crusading local reporter has video evidence that Viola died in pain and fear. Penn refuses to believe his father had anything to do with that. Iles weaves this multi-generational web like a master, keeping Penn Cage at the center even as we see his father, Dr. Tom Cage, in both past and

present, along with the many citizens of Natchez and its sister community in Louisiana, just across the Mississippi River. Natchez Burning is an epic, a saga, but it's also a thriller. We feel the panic and terror of young Jimmy Revels as he walks into the Double Eagles trap in 1968. And the rage and despair of Lincoln Turner, Viola's son, who doesn't know the truth of his own origins. We feel Caitlin Masters' desperate need to tell the story through the newspaper she publishes. Sustaining all of this tension for almost 800 pages is no small feat. It's a testament to Greg Iles' power as a storyteller. Iles doesn't tie up all the loose ends. Natchez Burning is just the first installment in what promises to be an extraordinary trilogy built upon the premise that, in some pockets of the South, the Civil War hasn't ended. "Appomattox hadn't ended anything," a character thinks early in the story, in a scene set in 1968. "[It] had merely heralded an intermission. As William Faulkner said (and this book's narrator quotes), 'The past is never dead. It's not even past.' In Natchez Burning, the sins and unpunished crimes of the generations who fought integration and civil rights are visited upon their children and grandchildren, claiming victims almost half a century later. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review It's been half a decade since Iles' last Penn Cage novel, but, oh boy, was it worth the wait! Penn, still getting his feet under him after being elected mayor of Natchez, Mississippi, is shocked to learn that his father, Dr. Tom Cage, is about to be charged with murder in the death of a local woman, a nurse who worked with Dr. Cage back in the 1960s. Stymied by his father's refusal to discuss the case, Penn digs into the past to uncover the truth and discovers long-buried secrets about his community and his own family. Natchez Burning (the title is surely a nod to the infamous "Mississippi Burning" murder case of the 1960s, and others like it) is the first of a planned trilogy. The story ends in mid-stride, leaving us on the edge of our seats, but that's not a criticism. This beautifully written novel represents some of the author's finest work, with sharper characterizations and a story of especially deep emotional resonance, and we eagerly await volume two. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Several of Iles' thrillers have found their way to best-seller lists, but his new publisher is touting this one (his first novel in five years) as a breakout book and seems ready to put marketing dollars behind that claim. --David Pitt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I LOVE this series. Captivating-Fast paced- Great Characters- HARD TO PUT DOWN. Let me say to start that the first book *The Quiet Game* was all of the above but I held my judgement because the first book moved so fast, reminded me of the *Indiana Jones* movie with some scenarios. I did enjoy the first book immensely but withheld total judgement until NOW. The following books settled into the high rating I now give. It has enough historical background to recapture some of the earlier times that are brought up, each book different but non-the less a hard core Interest hold. I am HOOKED! DON'T START WITH NATCHEZ BURNING... it is Book 4. I have attached a picture showing the order in which to read. I have just now completed the 4th book *Natchez Burning* and cannot wait to download *The Bone Tree*. I just hope he finishes the last book in this series *Unwritten Law* which at the time I researched in which order to read had not yet been released. I think I have found a new name to add to my favorite author list. Greg Iles I am a fan.

A must read if you are an Iles or Cage fan!!!! I was concerned after I read the reviews for this novel...many people said it was too long or too boring. I only recently started the Penn Cage series and have been reading them in order starting with the *Quiet Game*, so I knew I could not miss out on *Natchez Burning*. Although the novel is almost 800 pages, I was not bored at all!!! Sure it still would have been good if a few chapters were left out, but I feel like you need the whole story to fully understand the characters. It took me some time to read, but I never lost interest. I would definitely recommend this if you have enjoyed past Penn Cage stories. Literally can't wait to get the *Bone Tree* and start reading!

These books are pure fun, riveting. I wish Greg Iles wouldn't make everyone so drop-dead gorgeous (except the repressed first wife, give me a break). I bet Greg Iles would enjoy the British mystery series where people are compelling while not being Miss America/Mr. Atlas archetypes. He's such a good writer and reading him is great for a Yankee! The insights into the complexities of the South in the recent past are fascinating.

This novel is my first go at Greg Iles and i'm hooked. The book was fabulous with all the colour that I imagine of the American south, especially being from Australia. Just a quick note, the only reason i gave four instead of five stars was I found his fiancée to be frankly, be very unlikeable, selfish, and I

actually somehow liked Sonny more than her. Perhaps because I now saw Sonny as a frightened old man who knew his sins were running faster after him than he could crawl through the mud of death and depravity he has lived in, but there was no moment where i felt that ping of empathy for her (cause in point i can't for the life of me even think of her name) while i did for him. I shouldn't have. But it's not my fault. Greg made me do it lol. Overall an excellent novel. I've read the reviews for the next two and am thinking of skipping straight to the trial. I can always go backwards and read the middle book if i have to.

after almost nineteen hours, I'm drained. the intensity builds from the beginning, and is almost unbearable by the end. Iles has moved into the top echelon of writers in my estimation with this powerful opus, carrying us back in time and into the crucible of the present moment with equal skill and intensity. this is unquestionably the best novel I've read this past year, and I've read over a hundred. few keep me up all night; this one did it twice.

I normally read a book in two day -- maybe three, because I skim the unnecessary parts. Natchez Burning took me over a week to read because I had to actually read all the words in the book. The book gives the reader glimpses of how things were in the not-so-distant past as well as how society is dealing with those events today. It was written in a manner that was entertaining as well as though provoking. There are pieces of the story that were left unfinished, and I don't know if that was intentional or if Iles wanted the book to be finished. All-in-all, it was a really well written book and kept my interest the entire way through.

Have read all this author's books. Along with James Lee Burke's books set in Cajun country, Greg Iles's books set in Natchez bring me back to the South so strongly, I can taste and smell the hot, humid air. I grew up in a Mississippi town similar to Natchez in the 40s and 50s, and the events depicted during the Civil Rights era in this book are truly representative of the terrible suffering caused by the prejudiced, ignorant redneck segment of society - men who grew up hating black people, members of the Ku Klux Klan. Sad, but true. The book is long, but I love that when I'm really into a good book...never want it to end. I had re-read the previous novel set in Natchez, The Devil's Punchbowl, and also read the filler novella, The Death Factory, while waiting for Natchez Burning, to tide me over and to keep Penn Cage and his family fresh in my mind, and I'm glad I did. Greg Iles had a horrible auto accident and almost died a few years ago. I am so glad he lived to write more wonderful books. Thank you, Greg, for persevering during some terrible recovery days and months

and years, and continuing to write. God bless you!

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