



## True Evil

*Greg Iles*

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Dr Chris Shepard has been married for just one year, when FBI agent Alex Morse brings him the news no newly-wed should hear. His beautiful wife recently visited a local divorce attorney. This attorney has a group of clients whose wives and husbands have all mysteriously died. Will Dr Shepard act as bait to catch the killer.

## True Evil Details

Date : Published June 26th 2007 by Hodder (first published 2006)

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Author : Greg Iles

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Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Fiction, Suspense

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## From Reader Review True Evil for online ebook

### Lyn says

True Evil by Greg Iles is a modern, psychological thriller blending elements of smooth yet relentless FBI detective work with what at least passes for a well researched biological terrorism plot.

Iles is also fairly adept at characterization as this Natchez, MS based novel teams with three dimensional, very real protagonists and antagonists. One of the selling points of this book is the great detail to which Iles addresses almost every subplot and character interaction.

Also refreshing is not only the very original storyline but also that Iles strays frequently from the beaten path and the novel takes several unexpected, but very amusing twists. Coming to the end, I really was unsure of how it would come out.

If this is ever made into a film, I hope that the Coen Brothers direct as they would be uniquely qualified to document the combination of very real terror filled and brutal scenes with what could also be some dark humor. Very entertaining.

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### Ginger says

This author is new to me, but now I can't wait to get my hands on his other books! What a ride! From the 1st page to the last, this book had me firmly in its grip and never let me go. From the inside cover, " If you wanted to kill your spouse and get away with it, you had to do something truly ingenious: something that *wouldn't even be perceived as murder* . So it begins...

I can honestly say this book had me staying up late at night and well into the morning. I just had to find out what was going to happen next. It's a must read for suspense lovers!!

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### Karen says

This is one of the most intelligent and entertaining reads I have had in a long time--difficult to find both in one book. It was full of excitement, fast-moving, and I kept thinking, this would make a great movie! This was my first Greg Iles book and I'll be reading his others, this book was obviously well-researched. The momentum never seemed to let up. Usually, I do much research on various websites and read review after review on books before I select just the right one. With True Evil, I just picked it up at an airport so I had something to read on the flight home. What luck! This turned out to be an extremely interesting book that I would likely have otherwise missed out on. I loved it. (It escaped 5 stars, as it did get more unbelievable and testosterone-ridden as it neared the end.) But I could really see this book made into a feature film. Exciting and enjoyable!

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## **Kasia says**

Hands down this was one of the best books I have read in a long time. Greg Iles does a brilliant job of writing a book that reads like a movie, the plot and scenery so realistic that I had a hard time tearing myself away from the story, reading it in three sittings despite the 500 plus page span. I would suggest not reading too much of the dust jacket as it tells the reader a lot about the story and I found to be a bit of a spoiler so I waited until the book was over to read it and realized that not knowing some of those facts made the book even better.

The main meat of the story is about the wicked way in which people decide to get away from their spouses while keeping all the money without dealing with messy and long divorce procedures. Husbands and wives no longer keen on keeping their marital vows turn to Andrew Rush, a divorce lawyer who for a price gives them eternal piece of mind; he has the answer to a perfect murder that would be their solution if they proved to be capable of paying for and keeping it confidential. Working with a brilliant doctor who induces cancer or deadly diseases in people while they have no idea about it, Andrew seeks out rich and morally corrupt people to make money off the crimes they consent to. All was going well for the evil duo until they decided to kill off a wife whose sister is an FBI agent. Alexandra Morse is the heroine whose sister dies in agony telling her something that is terrifying, the dark truth about her husband and his plot that ultimately ends in her demise.

Outraged and lusting for revenge, Alex is on a mission while working on her own to prove that her sister was murdered. Using her FBI contacts and friends who can help her solve her sister's untimely death she seeks out all other victims who have died in a similar way with any connections to Andrew Rush. Along the way she finds the next victim of the lawyer and the scientist through an unfaithful wife who was seen meeting with Rusk. She decides to confront him and hopes that he can help her frame the murderers and saves his life at the same time.

There was so much more to this story that kept me at the edge of the seat that I wish I could tell about, but it would simply give away too much. The character development is flawless and so is the dialogue in this non stop ride of a thriller. The science behind cancers and diseases is well presented and very interesting while the main heroine is as real to me as my best friend. True Evil dealt with some really bad people and the quest to catch them while engaging in an iron battle of wits.

I can't wait to read more of this author as this was a delectable and engrossing book, something that will haunt my memory for a long time. I promise that the ending will be even better than one can predict and the book will leave a deep hunger for more good reading. This story will leave any bookworm full to the brim and deeply satisfied!

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## **fyc says**

This book was so real, so scientific that I caught myself hoping that this could not happen in real life. I just couldn't put it down. I HAD to know what was going to happen next. Lots of twists, great character development, good scene descriptions all abound.

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### **Audrey says**

So now I really like this author...this is the second book of his that I've read and this one is good too. He can write a great action packed thriller! Outrageous, unbelievable, crazy even - but on the other hand it really could happen. Superhuman good guys, truly evil bad guys, lots of action and a little love interest. Good stuff. I'm gonna need to read more Greg Iles.

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### **Ellen Keim says**

I normally love Greg Iles, but this was not his best work. I think he made a tactical error when he revealed up front how the lawyer and the "evil scientist/doctor" were able to cause people's deaths without being caught. It would have been better if it had taken the main character a while to figure it out so that the reader could have the fun of trying to figure it out, too.

Another reason why I didn't like it that well is because I just couldn't identify with the main character, Alex. She was way too intense and didn't help her cause any by barging ahead with her investigation without considering the smartest way to do it.

I like a smart, well-thought-out mystery and this wasn't one of them. I do recommend Iles' other work, though. Just don't waste your time on this one.

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### **Randee says**

This is the first book I've read by Greg Iles and it will not be the last. It's exciting, a real page turner and thought provoking. Viruses scare me a lot more than nuclear bombs, snakes, terrorism and just about anything else you can name. I think it far more likely that the world will be brought to its knees by viruses either accidentally or with malice aforethought than any other candidate. Twelve years ago, in the prime of my life, healthy and with good genes, I caught a flu. I had had the flu before and I've had the flu once after this, but nothing comparable to this one. I had gone to see David Bowie with a friend and we had dinner afterwards. I could not stop drinking glasses of water. I can't recall ever being so thirsty. For some reason, this sticks with me in retrospect as the first indication that something was amiss. I got home, went to bed and when I awoke the next day, I was sick, sick, sick with the flu. I was off work for two weeks, did not feel normal for the next three months. There were times during those two weeks that I honestly thought I was going to die. Even though I knew people die from influenza, for the first time I understood why. I am afraid of the flu. I do everything I can to prevent being infected. I get a flu shot, I wear a mask over my mouth and nose in public from November through February, I wash my hands frequently and am cognizant of not touching my face. So, I was totally on board with this terrifying scenario that it would be possible to give people terminal illnesses through the methods described. I don't care if it is fiction and not possible...yet. It could be down the road.

One last comment...someone compared Greg Iles to James Patterson. Not true. Greg Iles is Hemmingway compared to Patterson.

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## **Kerry Derouen says**

Great Read! Captured my attention from the 1st chapter and I could not put it down until the end.

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## **Neil says**

WOW. What a great psychological thriller, and I have to admit to being totally engrossed in the book. So much so that what I was meant to do didn't get done until after the final page. Greg Iles paints a masterful landscape, which he peoples with care and attention. There are even cameo appearances from some familiar characters from the Penn Cage series of books.

The principal character is an FBI Agent, Alex Morse, supposedly destined for great things until her career takes a turn for the worse. Her father, a retired homicide detective, was shot in an unconnected burglary, her mother is dying of ovarian cancer, and her sister has just suffered what appears to be a stroke. Her dying words were that her husband had killed her, and charged Alex to protect her son Jamie. Through her investigations she meets Dr Chris Shepard, as he appears to be the serial killer's next target.

The serial killer leaves no traces behind him, even though we are privy to his identity, and even an autopsy reveals no signs of foul play. So how does he manage it? You'll have to read the book yourself, as i don't want to spoil things for you. You will not be disappointed to pick up this book if you enjoy a good thriller.

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## **Roger says**

I bought this on impulse one day at Powell's. It had been over ten years since I last reads a Greg Iles book, Black Cross I think, and I really enjoyed that, as well as Spandau Phoenix. I figured I couldn't go wrong and I was right.

This book is a taut page turner with a complex plot. The characters are well fleshed out. The good guys are likable and the bad guys are assholes.

I couldn't put this one down.

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## **August Bones says**

Reading through other reviews I can't help but notice many said this book was slow going in the beginning - but I have to firmly disagree! This book sucked me in immediately with the creepy psychological aspect of what was going on.

The pure evil and greed that are at the heart of what this is about really got to me! I am a bit of an Empath and I tend to get wrapped up in what characters are feeling and experiencing and this book had me on edge from the get go! Greg Isles had to do a mountain of research for this tale and I think he did a fantastic job with it.

I'm not going to pick the book apart or anything, just state that it held my attention, it gave me the heebie-jeebies, and left me with so many thoughts about how this could be a very true story indeed with all the technological advances these days! A great read for anyone who loves thrillers that leave you thinking for days to come.

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### **Karen says**

I really like this author. He basically writes suspense / beach reads, but he's so smart that you don't feel like you're doing guilty pleasure reading. This book is about an FBI agent whose sister suddenly dies under mysterious circumstances. After doing some digging she comes to believe that her sister's husband had her murdered, but not by any conventional means. Her investigation uncovers a system where spouses of the rich are being murdered by being given cancer and other deadly diseases. After the agent pinpoints the next target she contacts him and it's all a big rollercoaster from there. Iles is great at writing page turners, but also creates vivid, fleshed-out characters. I have to mention in particular that he writes very believable women, which can be a challenge for most male writers, but not for Iles. This just might be my favorite book of his so far.

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### **Lynda says**

I lost SO much sleep reading this book! I kept telling myself "one more page, then I'm done." Didn't happen. This book was great, and a real page-turner and I hated to see it end because I enjoyed it so much.

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### **Annabelle says**

This is a truly preposterous tale of a psychopath, genius virologist who had worked for the government to create a virus that caused cancer. Alex Morse, FBI agent, is told by her sister that her husband killed her as she dies as a seemingly naturally caused stroke. Researching, she finds an attorney who meets with clients who would be hurt financially by divorce, but who spouses die of cancer and other natural diseases. The lawyer is working with the genius psychopath, and Alex finds his next victim Dr. Chris Shepard. Most of the plot is Alex rushing around suffering while no one believes her, and the inner workings and beliefs of the evil genius were ridiculous. The clues were things like Alex recognizing a building in a picture, big whoopee do. I didn't care about the characters, but I did want to see how it ended.

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### **Lindsay says**

a ridiculous amount of research had to have gone into this book because its a topic that not many people would think of right off the top of their head...i guess that's why he's the writer and i'm just in love with his books (because i'm not as creative as he is). a crazy genius and a crazy topic. i read this at work, and because of the title people thought i was crazy and, well..evil. if only they would have opened it to the first page. they never would have given it a second thought...they would have been sucked in just like i was. i would definitely recommend this to anyone who loves suspense!!!

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### **Wendy Ballard says**

Greg Iles is a gifted writer. My only complaint is that his books are usually at least 200 pages too long. Great story, great character development, but geez, how many pages need to be devoted to showing the bad guy is the bad guy - after the third occurrence, we get it and how many pages need to be devoted to a woman sitting at a bedside?

Anyway - the plot is solid - and wickedly creepy. A divorce attorney is finding a new way to help his clients. An out of favor FBI agent finds out from something that happens close to home and is on the hunt to stop the attorney and potentially save a bunch of folks from death.

I read this out of published order which irritates me, because, well, it just does. This novel has cameo appearances by Tom and Penn Cage - two of my favorite characters from later Iles books. Read the books in order. Even if they're long, they are definitely worth the effort.

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### **Michael says**

People kept telling me to read Greg Iles because I like good crime mystery books. It didn't take long to see that his books are in the same class as James Patterson who I stopped reading long ago after he became a book factory.

This book has too many improbable plot tangents going on along with totally unbelievable characters (a rogue FBI agent, a divorce lawyer offering murder as a way to simplify divorce, and a maniacal virologist conspiring with the government to develop a selective cancer causing agent while aiding said divorce lawyer, etc - OY!). Iles character development is so shaky that he uses continuous background flashback asides to justify each new improbable character action.

There are plenty of other good crime/mystery writers around that offer intelligent plots, colorful characters, and snappy dialog so that I think I can forget reading any more Iles books.

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### **janjones says**

Greg Iles is a wonderful creative writer and this book is a fine example of his work . The story is unique in that it creates a different approach to divorce to say the least. I think it's good enough for the main character to end up in a series . Lots of suspense and mystery and enough to keep you wondering . I thoroughly enjoyed the book and I recommend it .

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### **Adam Light says**

Ok. It took me three attempts over the course of two years to finally finish this potboiler.

It was the first Greg Iles paperback I ever bought. In the interim, I have read at least a half-dozen of his other books, including the downright amazing Penn Cage series. I ended up loving the end of this book, and thus gave the four star rating.

However,

This book was extremely dense, and I (obviously) found it hard to get into.

My wife read it about a month ago, and ripped through it in less than a week, and she absolutely adored it. I had to give it another chance.

I have to admit, the build up was worth it. This book featured one of the most exciting endings I have encountered in quite some time. The story took a long time to develop and there were a few plot twists that simply did not make a whole lot of sense to me, but again, it was a great book in the end. I recommend reading the Penn Cage books and then giving this one a try, as there are a couple of characters from that series that show up in this one, so at least you will have those "oh cool" moments to look forward to while you trudge your way toward the intense climax.

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