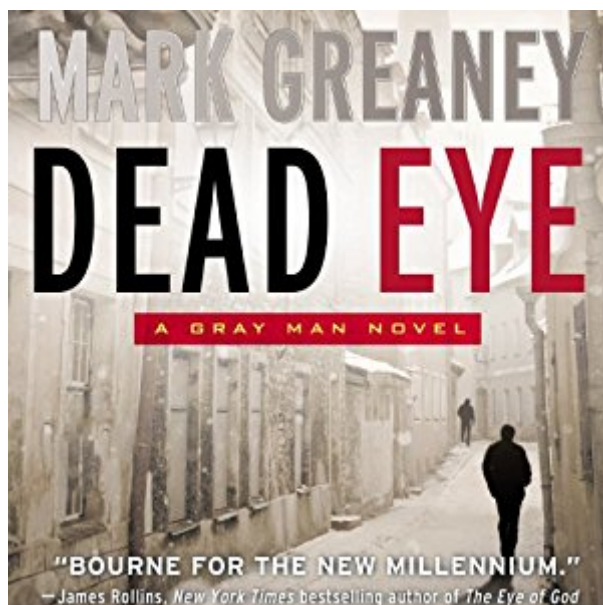


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Dead Eye: A Gray Man Novel



Synopsis

Ex-CIA master assassin Court Gentry has always prided himself on his ability to disappear at will, to fly below the radar and exist in the shadows - to survive as the near-mythical Gray Man. But when he takes revenge upon a former employer who betrayed him, he exposes himself to something he's never had to face before. A killer who is just like him. Code-named Dead Eye, Russell Whitlock is a graduate of the same ultra-secret Autonomous Asset Program that trained and once controlled Gentry. But now, Whitlock is a free agent who has been directed to terminate his fellow student of death. He knows how his target thinks, how he moves, and how he kills. And he knows the best way to do the job is to make Gentry run for his life - right up until the moment Dead Eye finally ends it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked up "The Gray Man" 3 years ago on a whim. I read the whole thing in one day without being able to put it down. I consider Court Gentry the perfect character of this genre, a more realistic and much faster-paced version of Jason Bourne, and a younger, somewhat more menacing, and in some ways, more cerebral version of Gabriel Allon. Gentry is everything you would expect from the world's foremost assassin - highly trained, with a heart of a lion and the ability to survive in just about any environment and under any conditions. Court Gentry is no James Bond, but the reader is left with the unmistakable impression that Gentry could waste Bond and ten others like him before they'd even have the chance to unbutton their fancy suits and order a cocktail. In Dead Eye (the 4th installment of "The Gray Man" series), Court Gentry is on the run, and the CIA, the Russian mob, and just about every law enforcement agency on the planet wants him dead. The CIA engages a

private corporation, Townsend Government Services, to send hunter-killer teams to take out the Gray Man once and for all. Russell Whitlock, code-name Dead Eye is part of one of the teams sent out to terminate Gentry. But suddenly, Dead Eye saves gentry from almost certain death, in a show of trust. Is he a friend or foe? Is there a bigger game at play, with higher stakes and geopolitical implications? This is only the beginning of a great story, with head-snapping twists and surprises right up to the very end. After reading the first 3 books, and coming off the adrenaline high provided by "Ballistic", I knew the next book would have to be spectacular. It absolutely is. Mark Greaney delivers in a big way with "Dead Eye". The intensity of the action and the pace hits hard and fast from the beginning, and continues throughout the book. The first seven chapters by themselves are enough to replace a pot of coffee and several Red Bulls :). Do not plan to read this book at night. I know a lot of reviews start this way - this particular one should be heeded wisely. The action does not stop, it just accelerates at full throttle and hits you right in the chest like a smoldering bullet with a potent mix of fury and adrenaline until the final page. One of my favorite things about "Dead Eye" was the continued introduction of new characters. Most authors recycle heavily, but this is not the case with "The Gray Man" series. Indeed, friends and relatives have commented on how easy it is to read the books out of order, due to the fact that the author has managed to create a phenomenal and very consistent main character, with an ever expanding supporting cast of friends and enemies. In Dead Eye, for instance, we are introduced to a new hunter-killer squad contracted by the CIA to terminate Court, as well as the Mossad, led by a determined agent who won't be deterred by the CIA's agenda. This is really the magic of the Gray Man series - there is very little recycled material, and every book stands on it's own. With Dead Eye, the character, the author hit an absolute bulls-eye. A mirror image of Gentry, in many ways, Russell Whitlock takes the action right to Court Gentry, along with some old foes (or maybe friends?), as well as some new ones. You want to hate him very quickly, and you do, but he doesn't keep you from truly enjoying the book, rather, he adds to the flavor as one of the main antagonists. Strangely enough, as I finished the book, my feelings regarding Russell Whitlock (Dead Eye) change a bit, and I was left in a strange state of melancholic suspense about the character. I have read enough books to be able to gauge when authors really put "research muscle" behind their books, and when they just kind of dial it in. Something I truly enjoy about Mark Greaney's books is their level of authenticity. Whether it is weapons, tactics, locale, lingo, the author goes to painstaking lengths to ensure the readers get as close to the "real" action as possible. Indeed, what really attracted me to "The Gray Man" series was the lean, direct and razor-sharp writing style of the author - there is no unnecessary "fluff" in his prose: every word has a purpose, nothing is ever wasted. High speed, low drag - just like Court Gentry himself. The

only bad part about this book is the fact that it ended. If I could give it a rating higher than 5 stars, I would. Flat-out my favorite book of the year, and now one of my top 5 all-time.

I've been reading the GRAY MAN series for a bit now, following the adventures of burned CIA paramilitary operative and freelance assassin Courtland Gentry as he attempts to fight the good fight and stay one step ahead of those who pursue him. To characterize the odds put against him thus far as nigh insurmountable would be an understatement. In THE GRAY MAN, Gentry evaded competing SOF units looking to bag him for a bounty. In ON TARGET, Gentry evaded the Janjaweed, the Mafiya, and the elite CIA SAD/SOG in an attempt to defuse an assassination attempt on a Sudanese official. In BALLISTIC, Gentry played two drug cartels against each other, drawing the ire of both as he sought revenge for a fallen comrade. How does Mark Greaney go about topping that? Simple: he pits Gentry against his shadow, his carbon copy. The eponymous main antagonist of DEAD EYE is Russ Whitlock, a former Marine Scout Sniper and fellow graduate of the decommissioned Autonomous Asset Program (think a modern day Treadstone 71). He works with his employer, a private military contractor called Townsend Government Services, to take down Gentry at the behest of the CIA. However, Whitlock has his own plans, and by the end of the novel, he has managed to affix atrocities to Gentry's name and has the CIA, the Mossad, and Townsend all actively hunting for him. In DEAD EYE, Greaney swings and hits a home run. The pacing of the novel is perfect. When I set the novel down, I had minor nitpicks, but I did not feel like a publisher's deadline had cut him off at the knees. I felt content and excited for the next GRAY MAN novel. As always, the action is top notch, but further more, there's an extra edge of realism that was not present in previous installments. That is not to say Greaney did not do his research in the first three novels, but rather, he went above and beyond with DEAD EYE. Greaney has achieved that eerie feeling that every thriller author aims for, the one where you wonder where the fiction ends and the non-fiction begins. We also see more of Court Gentry, the man, as opposed to Court Gentry, the Gray Man. Years spent on the run and killing have fatigued him. His armor has cracked. He truly wants to walk away from it all. This is especially stark when contrasted with Russ Whitlock, a psychopath who loves the thrill of the hunt and the satisfaction of the kill. In addition, we finally see the infamous Kiev operation in a flashback, and we learn just how he pulled it off. To say it is inventive would be an extreme understatement. Greaney has perfected his craft in DEAD EYE, and it leaves me wanting to pick up the next GRAY MAN book right now, knowing that things can only get better with his finding his stride.

The first few Gray Man books left me scratching my head a bit because I knew how good a writer Mr. Greaney is from reading his work under the mantle of the late Mr. Clancy. NOW, however, I get it...and it was brilliantly executed! What Mr. Greaney has done was to construct a series of books that slowly progress in their telling. The first two, to me at least, were action packed but, fairly light on intrigue and twists. With book three, he began flexing his literary muscles a bit and introduced some relatively small intrigue and auto elements. With this book--he just, for lack of a better phrase, totally HULKED OUT! This book will have you on the edge of your seat at several points. The twists and turns, the suspense filled chases, the character development, the dialogue...all truly masterful. This book is recommended highly! Read the other three first though to get the fullest appreciation for the body of work.

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