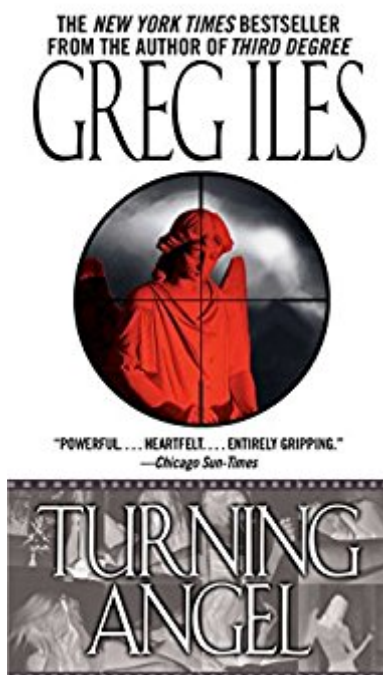


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# Turning Angel: A Novel (Penn Cage Book 2)



## Synopsis

The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Mississippi Blood*, Greg Iles, keeps the secrets of the South alive in this vibrant novel of infatuation, murder, and sexual intrigue set in his hometown of Natchez, Mississippi. *Turning Angel* marks the long-awaited return of Penn Cage, the lawyer hero of *The Quiet Game*, and introduces Drew Elliott, the highly respected doctor who saved Penn's life in a hiking accident when they were boys. As two of the most prominent citizens of Natchez, Drew and Penn sit on the school board of their alma mater, St. Stephen's Prep. When the nude body of a young female student is found near the Mississippi River, the entire community is shocked—but no one more than Penn, who discovers that his best friend was entangled in a passionate relationship with the girl and may be accused of her murder. On the surface, Kate Townsend seems the most unlikely murder victim imaginable. A star student and athlete, she'd been accepted to Harvard and carried the hope and pride of the town on her shoulders. But like her school and her town, Kate also had a secret life—one about which her adult lover knew little. When Drew begs Penn to defend him, Penn allows his sense of obligation to override his instinct and agrees. Yet before he can begin, both men are drawn into a dangerous web of blackmail and violence. Drew reacts like anything but an innocent man, and Penn finds himself doubting his friend's motives and searching for a path out of harm's way. More dangerous yet is Shad Johnson, the black district attorney whose dream is to send a rich white man to death row in Mississippi. At Shad's order, Drew is jailed, the police cease hunting Kate's killer, and Penn realizes that only by finding Kate's murderer himself can he save his friend's life. With his daughter's babysitter as his guide, Penn penetrates the secret world of St. Stephen's, a place that parents never see, where reality veers so radically from appearance that Penn risks losing his own moral compass. St. Stephen's is a dark mirror of the adult world, one populated by steroid-crazed jocks, girls desperate for attention, jaded teens flirting with nihilism, and hidden among them all—one true psychopath. It is Penn's journey into the heart of his alma mater that gives *Turning Angel* its hypnotic power, for on that journey he finds that the intersection of the adult and nearly adult worlds is a dangerous place indeed. By the time Penn arrives at the shattering truth behind Kate Townsend's death, his quiet Southern town will never be the same.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have read several books by Greg Iles and I really like his writing. This is the 2nd Penn Cage book that I have read and it is full of adventure. I'm getting attached to him and his daughter, Annie. The setting is Mississippi and its famous river. It's where Penn Cage grew up and where his parents still live. His father is a doctor who treats blacks and whites equally and has earned the respect of the townspeople. Penn has returned to Natchez after his wife dies so that Annie can get some family nurturing. He knows everybody in town especially his former classmates who seem to always be getting into some kind of trouble and who need his help. He writes about Cemetery Hill in Natchez. The Turning Angel is a statue that seems to be looking at you no matter if you're coming or going. I like Penn Cage and his family because they always seem to want to do the right thing. I know you'll like this author and his exciting stories.

Very disappointed! I found the story line contrived, boring and perverted. The character Penn is working so hard to save is pretty unlikable with choices made and lame rationale for them. It comes across as justifying sex with minors. The action seemed implausible and overall compared to the other books in the series, I thought it was a real dud and I love the other Penn Cage books. I would

skip this one if I had to do it again, I'm honestly not sure why I kept reading it; I kept hoping it would save itself but it did not.

If you like a fast-paced tale, this author delivers. Our mystery discussion book group read and discussed this book online here at [which](#) is always a hoot--readers were from Australia, Canada, California, New England, the Midwest and the South. We agreed this was an exciting story with twists and turns. One member described the author as an "efficient and effective" storyteller. Be warned--the story gets graphic in its descriptions of sex and murder. I prefer less lurid fare, personally, and skimmed over those parts. I still enjoyed the book for discussion purposes and believe the author is talented. Most of the group gave the book 4-4.5 stars. One--a newspaper editor--thought it could have been shortened a tad. But most in the group are planning to read, or already reading, more books by this author which is a strong recommendation.

What a fantastic and detailed mystery. Mr. Iles is a great writer who entices his readers to keep turning the pages. However, if he's going to make his main character a lawyer, he really must be more realistic with how the way our legal system works in real life. That's why I give this fun read only three stars. It's as if he became lazy and hasty in an effort to move the plot forward. To me the plot suffered from this and took away from my reading experience. If this sort of thing happens in book 3, I will not move on to book 4.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I felt it was a little slow getting started but once it did boy did it take off. The novel felt different in that the victim that Penn Cage is defending is not completely a victim in that his moral choices have been very poor (although had the girl the victim is being accused of murdering/raping been slightly older people wouldn't be getting upset by everything that went on between her and the victim). Overall the writing was captivating as usual and I spent all night trying to finish the last couple hundred of pages. I did read some reviews where they thought that there was too much explicit sex scenes in the book. I've read young adult books that are far more explicit than *Turning Angel* ever was. I felt like there was just enough detail to move the story along but it wasn't like reading a romance novel or anything like that.

I'm not usually a fan of mystery or crime novels but I loved this one. The plot had enough twists and turns for the most avid mystery lover and the characters were compelling if rather super human. The setting was rich and vivid. Hard to put down!

Should of had Fabio on the cover. WAY too much graphic sexual detail for my taste. Decent story, a page turner, with indecent details, I sped read through the disgusting parts as no details concerning the story were present. I am always searching for new interesting stories, and have re-read many books. I hit delete when I was done with this one.

Like the other Penn Cage novels that I have read, this is a good one. Iles can reuse the same characters and provide them with freshness. I don't think most authors can do that. This is a book that you will not want to put down.

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