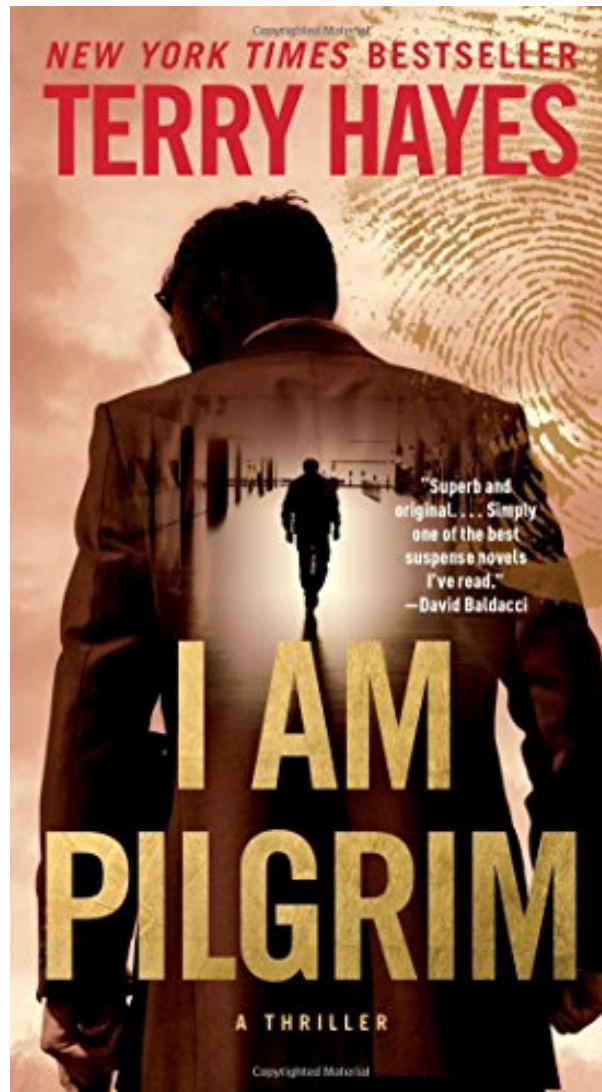
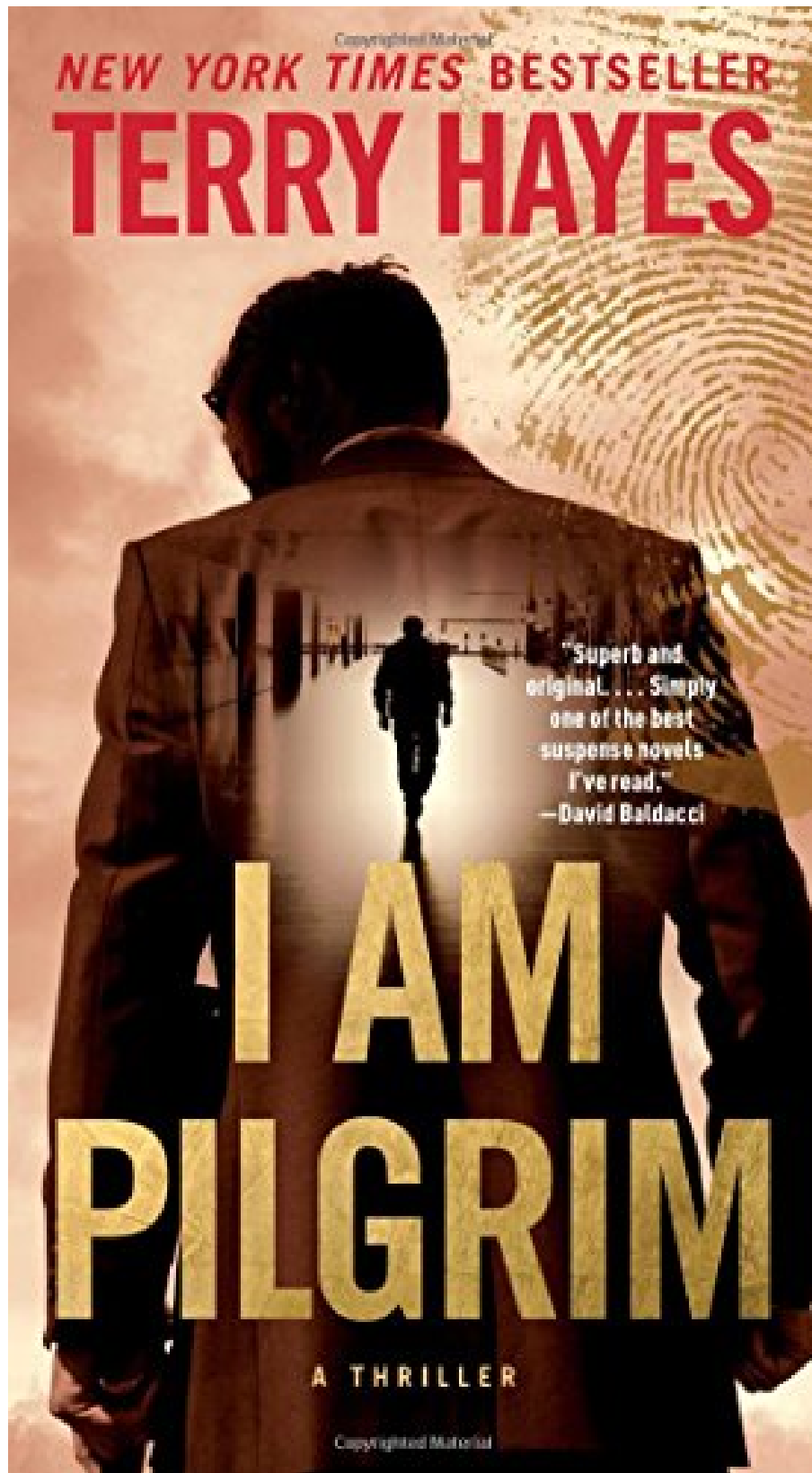


I AM PILGRIM: A THRILLER BY TERRY HAYES



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Amazon.com Review

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Critics are calling I AM PILGRIM, the New York Times bestseller:

"Unputdownable." —Booklist

"The best book of 2014." —Suspense Magazine

"The next Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." —The New York Post

A breakneck race against time...and an implacable enemy.

An anonymous young woman murdered in a run-down hotel, all identifying characteristics dissolved by acid.

A father publicly beheaded in the blistering heat of a Saudi Arabian public square.

A notorious Syrian biotech expert found eyeless in a Damascus junkyard.

Smoldering human remains on a remote mountainside in Afghanistan.

A flawless plot to commit an appalling crime against humanity.

One path links them all, and only one man can make the journey.

Pilgrim.

- Sales Rank: #38169 in Books
- Published on: 2015-07-21
- Released on: 2015-07-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.50" h x 1.70" w x 4.13" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 800 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

203 of 220 people found the following review helpful.

Move over Jackal, here comes Pilgrim?

By Suncoast

This is definitely the best covert ops/terrorism/murder book I have read this year. Whether it gets into my top 10 best thrillers depends on how long it remains in my memory. There is a lot to remember in a complex 700 page book that left me with so many impressions - intelligent and clever, superbly and deeply plotted, brilliant characterisation, ambitious, enthralling, page-turning, action-packed and mostly unpredictable.

Pilgrim is the codename chosen by a man who doesn't want to exist. An adopted son of a wealthy family he has always been a loner and after college becomes part of an unknown covert US government group. After becoming the star operator in the group in an operation in Russia he goes into anonymous retirement and writes an obscure book under a pseudonym about the forensic background to the perfect crime. Can anyone commit the perfect crime using this information?

On the other side of the world in Saudi Arabia another youth grows up in a world where his father is beheaded for being reported to the secret police for criticising the King. This leads him into a life dedicated to Islam but also a life dedicated to eliminating the US, the country who supports the Saudi regime and fights his fundamentalist Islamic ideals. This is the birth of a terrorist called Saracen, a loner with long term plans to change the world.

Hayes takes us on an epic and unpredictable journey by Pilgrim to solve a perfect crime and at the same time find Saracen before he can deliver a far greater blow to the US than a nuclear holocaust. The action moves from the US to Afghanistan, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and Turkey in a maze of seemingly unconnected events and builds up to a potentially cataclysmic ending.

Along the way Terry Hayes sows seeds that grow in unexpected parts of the plot. Sometimes I spotted the seeds but rarely worked out where they would grow. This cleverly designed unpredictability was to me the keystone of Haye's writing powers. At the end of the book he reflects that he had been told that writing a movie is like swimming in a bath and writing a novel is like swimming in the ocean. With his writing skills I think that Hayes would have no difficulty swimming across the (literary) Channel.

Terry Hayes has had a remarkable writing career as a journalist, and TV and movie screenwriter in Australia and the US and this novel is the start of what could become an important career as a novelist. Dame Gail Rebuck, CBE (Chair of Penguin Random House) has reportedly called it "The best debut thriller since Day of the Jackal". I am inclined to agree.

Note: This book is published in Australia, NZ and the UK but won't be released in the US until May 2014.

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174 of 199 people found the following review helpful.

A Good, But Flawed Debut Novel By A Potentially Top-Notch Thriller Writer!

By bobbewig

I won't provide a summary of the plot in my review as this can be obtained in the Book Description on Amazon, Goodreads, etc. I'll just say that what starts off as a very challenging murder investigation turns into a break-neck race against time by the former head of a secret US government organization to try to stop a terrorist attack that could bring the US to the brink of disaster. To say more than this runs the risk of providing spoilers or, at a minimum, to potentially detract from your ability to find out for yourself what occurs in the book.

After reading the first 100 or so pages of the 624-page Kindle edition of I Am Pilgrim, I was sure that this book was on its way to receiving a 5-star rating from me. However, the next 400 or so pages were so descriptive of every move and thought by the "good guy" and the "bad guy" with little action and thrills occurring on these pages that I often found myself just "eyeballing" many pages, with the hope that the book's pace would fulfill my ingoing expectations for an action-packed thriller. A more secondary issue I had with this book is that, while it was very descriptive of many elements pertaining to the main characters' behaviors and attitudes, it did not provide me with a strong enough sense of what they LOOKED like so that I could form a picture of them in my mind. As such, they came off as sort of "faceless" people to me.

Ultimately, my expectations were fulfilled in the last 75 pages or so -- and I Am Pilgrim fulfilled my expectations during these pages in a BIG way! I found that I couldn't turn these last pages fast enough to find out how the book ended. As a result of its final pages, my overall rating which I initially thought was going to be 5-stars, and then dropped to what I thought would be no more than a 3-star ("It was okay") rating,

wound up earning a 4-star ("I liked it") rating overall.

If you think this "up and down ride" with I Am Pilgrim would be a problem for you, than I suggest you definitely save your time and money and read something else. However, if you think that its exciting conclusion would override the flaws mentioned above, than I think I Am Thriller is one you'd enjoy. And, if the latter is the case, I think you'll agree with me that first-time novelist, Terry Hayes, has the potential to eventually become a top-notch thriller writer. I, for you, will be looking forward to reading his next book, which I expect will feature the same main character.

I received an e-copy of this book from Netgalley and the publisher in return for an honest review.

98 of 113 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliantly conceived battle of two Titans

By plane

An extremely literate story about a battle between two titans of their respective sides. One is an American, adopted son of a family with a great deal of privilege, currently an agent for a U.S. government agency only depicted as higher than the CIA. The other is a poor Arab boy born in Saudi Arabia but turned into a terrorist by the Saudi's execution of his father for no apparent reason. The American uses the name of Pilgrim in order to hide his real identity and has become one of the most effective agents his agency has. The Arab is turned onto terrorism by the Saudi's execution of his father just because the man spoke badly of the king. He decides that revenge against Saudi Arabia would be best served by a massive terrorist attack on the United States, which he deems the Saudi's ally. He proceeds to buildup a well prepared background becoming known as the Saracen in order to effect this attack.

Hayes is brilliant in developing the two characters, their motivations, their reactions to each other as mortal enemies. The reader knows each one intimately through the author's descriptions and can relate to their actions on an ongoing basis. What the Saracen decides to use to attack the United States demands a preparation that only a very bright mind could conceive of and work towards. It is a credible threat that the reader will be able to identify as possible. Pilgrim's planning and actions against this enemy must be even more clever in order to win the mental battle between them.

The action moves back and forth starting with a murder investigation in New York and ending in Turkey.

Hayes, in an afterward, indicates that film rights are in process and I would certainly be a fan of that if it comes out. In the meanwhile I do trust that the author is planning more books for the near future, and those I will grab as soon as available.

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