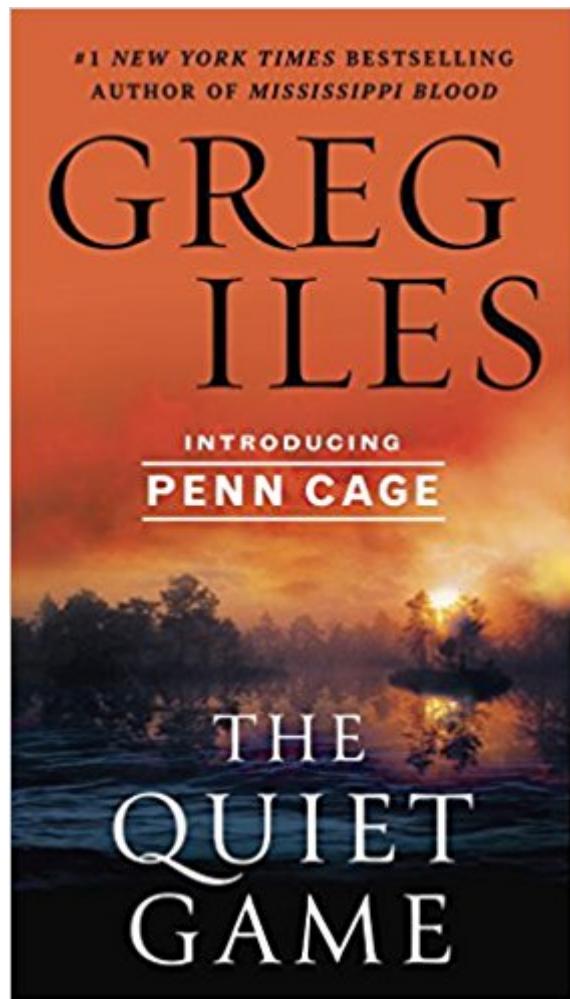


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# The Quiet Game (Penn Cage)



## **Synopsis**

INTRODUCING PENN CAGE...From the author of Mississippi Blood comes the first intelligent, gripping thriller in the #1 New York Times bestselling Series. Natchez, Mississippi. Jewel of the South. City of old money and older sins. And childhood home of Houston prosecutor Penn Cage. In the aftermath of a personal tragedy, this is where Penn has returned for solitude. This is where he hopes to find peace. What he discovers instead is his own family trapped in a mystery buried for thirty years but never forgotten—the town's darkest secret, now set to trap and destroy Penn as well.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Is there space in the overcrowded courtroom for one more writer of sharp, very suspenseful legal thrillers? Yes--if that writer is Greg Iles, who has proven in such varied efforts as Black Cross, Mortal Fear, and Spandau Phoenix that he knows how to squeeze the last drop of suspense out of all sorts of situations. Iles immediately makes us feel both sympathy and empathy for his glossy hero, Penn Cage--a former ace Texas prosecutor turned suspense novelist whose sales are up there in the John Grisham Himalayan range. Trying to cope with the recent death of his wife, Cage takes his 5-year-old daughter to Florida's Disney World, where the child sadly sees visions of her mother everywhere in the fantasy-filled environment. Wouldn't a trip to his parents' stately home in Natchez be more soothing for all concerned? Wrong, as it turns out--and before Cage can catch his

breath, he's deeply involved in several dangerous matters. His father, a dedicated doctor, is being blackmailed for a past mistake in judgment, and a powerful judge (who just happens to be the father of Penn's high school sweetheart) has a nasty personal agenda of his own. Then there's the unsolved 1968 murder case of a black man, which Cage insists on reopening with the help of an attractive, ambitious newspaper publisher. Iles does for Natchez what John Berendt did for Savannah in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, creating a gothic Southern landscape where elegance and depravity walk hand in hand. --Dick Adler --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

Although it takes place in Natchez, Miss., and is flavored with the violence and seamy undertones of a Southern Gothic, this fourth thriller by Iles (*Spandau Phoenix*) owes just as much to a familiar parallel universe where wealthy male lawyers double as tragic heroes, women are invariably smart and attractive, and trials are by definition "high profile." After his wife's death, Penn Cage, a former Houston prosecutor and a bestselling suspense novelist, retreats to his parents' home in Natchez with his grieving young daughter. The healing process is interrupted when Cage learns that someone is blackmailing his father, a saintly family doctor who once made a lethal mistake. In tracing the source of his father's moral dilemma, Cage stumbles upon a trail of lies surrounding the unsolved murder of a black man in 1968. He determines to reopen the case, even though his antebellum hometown is smoldering with racial tension. With the assistance of Caitlin Masters, the attractive, smart and ambitious publisher of the local newspaper, Cage gradually uncovers an intricate conspiracy that reaches up to the highest levels of the FBI. Forced to confront powerful Judge Leo Marston, who nearly destroyed his father in pursuing an unrelated, unfounded malpractice accusation decades before, Cage must also face Marston's daughter, Livy, his old high school sweetheart, who tries to persuade Cage to let sleeping dogs lie. It is difficult at times to sympathize with Cage, who proselytizes about truth, justice and obligation, yet destroys evidence to protect his father and fails to properly shield his loved ones as he single-mindedly pursues the case. Still, this ably crafted, richly atmospheric legal thriller is engrossing, and readers will forgive Iles's protagonist a few shortcomings. Agent, Aaron Priest. Major ad/promo; 15-city author tour; British rights to Hodder Headline; audio rights to Recorded Books. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

A most poignant tale of racial and family catastrophe with all the aspects of a thriller! Superb characterization by Iles. He is truly one of the great writers of our day - and most likely of all times.

The trauma and joys in all his books cross over all generations beginning from the beginning of time! Though this is the first in a stream of Penn Cage tales, all of which I have read, I just now have at last read the very first one. Iles has an amazing way of writing each of the Penn Cage books in such a way that one doesn't need to read them in order to follow the whole story because he deftly inserts previous needful facts in each subsequent tale. I inadvertently began with NATCHEZ BURNING, a book that deserves all and more of the accolades it received when it came out, and have just now come to the very first one, THE QUIET GAME. Iles is an amazing from the heart and life writer. I am happy to have all his books on my Kindle and on my shelf! His endings in each book have been perfect.

The best, bar none. The characters are very real, and provides a small glimpse of our justice system. Penn Cage is someone who I would like to exist in all Attorneys. He was above reproach and continued to work towards the truth during the backdrop of deep corruption and injustice during the dark days of the civil rights struggles in our Country. So many twist and turns. Didn't put book down until I finished this beautifully written book. Mr. Iles is the best!

I was born in a small Southern town. This book unnerved me, offended me, and all the while I am admiring this no-holds-barred, tell it like it was courageous author. I have read few books that are this kind of honest and authentic. AND, the plot kept me going until the last chapter. Iles is a writer the likes of which the South can be proud- right up there with our heavyweights of the past. Mr Iles, I applaud you.

Mr. Isles is a new author for me, and I'm hooked! ☺ This story takes place in Mississippi, and the author makes you feel like your there, smack in the middle if it all! What great characters, full of love, life, and oh yes, hate! I have already bought the next book in this series, I cannot wait.....

Iles spins a good tale. And, adds an occasional insight into race relations in the New South. Plot and characters hang together and are believable. His effort does not rise to my standard for Five Star novelists [Conroy, Grisham, Russo, Updike]. Hooked enough to buy the next book in the series. Four star...

The funny thing is that I read Natchez Burning first because I had not heard about the Penn Cage

series prior to reading about Natchez Burning. I enjoyed that book so much, I went back and bought Book 1. It was like having good friends and then going down memory lane with them. I got to "see" many of the incidents mentioned only briefly in Natchez Burning and it had the same great characters, as the last novel. In this novel, Penn's wife has already died and he moves back to his home town where his parents still live to help his daughter heal, and also to help himself. It is here he meets Caitlin, the new owner/publisher of the local paper. And it is here, also, that Penn meets up with his old high-school love; her father, a local and powerful judge; a dead war vet; a young girl who may be his daughter; his Dad who is the local and beloved town doctor; the FBI director who came up through the ranks and covered a 30-year-old murder in Natchez without anyone going to jail for it. Read in the context of Ferguson, Staten Island and the state of black/white race relations today, it is as insightful now as when it was first written - yet it is still a first-rate page-turner. I feel a little like I am becoming a citizen of Natchez and I cannot wait to read Book 2.

A fast interesting read, but not complex. Has enough twists and turns to hold your interest, but no note-taking is necessary to keep track. Penn Cage, a Houston lawyer, returns to his hometown of Natchez, La. with his daughter after his wife's death from cancer in the hope that his parents can help with their healing process. Little did he know he was to be drawn into trying to solve a 20-year-old murder of a young black man. Some citizens, black and white, don't this case opened because a large company is considering settling in the town which means many jobs. In the process, Penn meets his old high school love, whose father was an important and powerful person, and the spark is still there. In Penn's effort to solve the crime, his family's safety is in jeopardy. In trying to do the right thing, tragedy strikes in some places and decisions have to be made by Penn. Sometimes life is bittersweet.

I like lawyer stories that are more about the characters than twists and turns. While there are plenty of the latter, I love that the main characters were too complex to pigeonhole so neatly. I look forward to a 2nd Penn Cage novel. And perhaps more thereafter.

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