



Sleep No More (Mississippi #4)

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The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Penn Cage series explores the dangers of obsession in this gripping psychological thriller.

John Waters is a successful businessman and a happy family man--but his life comes crashing down around him with one word from a beautiful stranger: "*Soon.*" Suddenly, he is face to face with a memory from his past--of an obsession that he thought he had escaped. One that now plunges him into the darkest side of love and passion...

"This novel should come with a red wrapper marked DANGER: HIGH EXPLOSIVES."--Stephen King

Sleep No More (Mississippi #4) Details

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Author : Greg Iles

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From Reader Review Sleep No More (Mississippi #4) for online ebook

Malcolm Frawley says

Greg Iles' crime novels are set in Mississippi. I have enjoyed several others but found this one disappointing. The supernatural element, while fascinating in & of itself, seems to sit awkwardly with these characters & settings. And I still don't understand what relevance the title holds.

Susan (aka Just My Op) says

I like Greg Iles as an author, and I've enjoyed all the books of his that I read previous to this one. He writes a good story and he writes it well. There are always twists and turns and it is just enjoyable entertainment.

However, this one has been my least favorite so far. There are lots of supernatural happenings, and I'm not going to tell whether the book made them real or delusions, but I didn't really care for that storyline. Sex was an integral part of the story, but the sex wasn't even sexy. It was mostly violent and angry.

I'm not giving up on Greg Iles, but I'll read the blurbs a little more carefully before I pick up another of his books.

Jenn says

I really like this author, even though sometimes the stories become so far-fetched that you would never believe these things could happen. He manages to make it plausible and suck you in to the story before he drops the crazy on you.

But this one? ehhehh...I'm still not sure. I think the strength of his other stories are that, even with all the twists, they are still based in reality. This was definitely not.

*****SPOILER*****

I'm not going to give the whole plot line here but I will say that it starts off fairly normal. You begin to think that something weird is going on with the main character John Waters, but you are sure there is a reasonable explanation to it. Not so much. His old girlfriend Mallory managed to switch her (her what? essence? That sounds like an Emeril spice. Bam! Her soul? Oh, whatever you want to call it...) into the mind and body of the man who is raping and about to kill her. From there she finds a way to pass "herself" along from person to person until she winds up in the body of a realtor in the same town as John Waters. And then she confronts him with the fact that she is Mallory, and hey, how about they have lots of sex?

Towards the end of the book, there are lots of alternate explanations offered up (conspiracy to blackmail him, etc....) so you aren't really sure if this supernatural element is going to be the real explanation. Turns out, yes it is. And in the end, Mallory is inside John's wife's brain/soul/subconscious forever. So she could surface and decide she is REALLY pissed off about everything at any time.

AND there are some sketchy explanations given involving DNA which made me think "really? Is that a thing? that can't happen" but being at the end of the book, it was a bit late to quit reading.

I still like this author, but no more supernatural stuff, please?

Angela says

John Waters is a successful businessman and a happy family man -- but his life comes crashing down around him with one word from a beautiful stranger: "Soon." Suddenly he is face-to-face with a memory from his past -- of an obsession that he thought he had escaped. One that plunges him into the darkest depths of love and passion.... (cover blurb)

On the surface, John Waters has it all -- a loving wife, a beautiful child, a successful business -- but appearances are deceiving. His marriage is in trouble, his business is under investigation by a federal agency, and his business partner has made questionable financial decisions which jeopardize everyone's future. Into this mix wanders Eve Sumner, a stunningly attractive woman who makes it abundantly obvious she's chosen Waters as her next conquest. However, appearances are again deceiving, because Eve Sumner claims she is actually Mallory Chandler, Waters' first great love.

Funny thing, though: Mallory Chandler died ten years previously.

So who is this woman? And how does she know things only Mallory should know?

In an effort to discover the truth, Waters finds himself involved in an affair that quickly turns dangerous, as Eve/Mallory displays the same obsessive behavior that destroyed Waters' love for Mallory twenty years ago.

This novel requires a major suspension of disbelief for its critical plot device: transmigration of a soul. Once the reader accepts that, however, the story moves along quickly and works well within its preposterous premise. Waters flails and fumbles and does his best to fix the mess he's made by getting involved with Eve/Mallory, even as she seems to be setting him up for a murder charge. His desperation and fear are palpable, and certainly mitigate his at times wrong-headed choices. I truly enjoyed this story, that is, until I read the final pages.

The final plot twist, which I won't reveal here, is so farfetched, even within the confines of a plot that stretches suspension of disbelief to its outermost limit, as to spoil all the good trashiness that preceded it. I read the last few pages and threw the book across the room. I felt cheated. I think Mr. Iles wrote himself into a corner and couldn't think of any other way to give the reader a happy ending. Gah.

Never have I been so disappointed with a novel's resolution.

Oh, and the frequent references to a novel written by a character within this novel which happens to have the same title as a novel written by Iles bugged me too.

Gah.

Oh. Go ahead and read the story. Just rewrite the ending in your own head. I did.

Beagle Lover says

3.75 stars

Read this many years ago....am I showing my age by stating this?? An excellent read that kept me on my literary toes.

Christie says

Stephen King said “should come with a red wrapper marked DANGER: HIGH EXPLOSIVES” about Greg Iles book *Sleep No More*. People magazine said: “Irresistible Pass-the-popcorn fun.” And somewhere in the middle is the truth.

There are three different types of books – fun books without a lot of literary merit and intelligent books that are, often, dry as toast and books that fall in the middle - well written prose with characters that jump off the page. Iles isn't a bad writer and *Sleep No More* isn't a bad book - but it's not literature. I read the book in a day and a half, but I had to suspend all disbelief to do it because the premise of this book is ridiculously silly.

John Waters lives in the south with his wife and young daughter. The blurb on the back of the book would have you believe that he's got all his ducks in a row- happy marriage, successful business, but that isn't true. His business (oil dilling) and his marriage (his wife has been depressed for four years after the loss of their second child) are both floundering making John the perfect candidate for an infidelity. So, he cheats. Only he cheats with someone from his past and things get slightly more complicated than he might have expected.

It's impossible to say much more about the plot without giving away the book's central conceit - the one you'll have to suspend disbelief for. The book is filled with illicit couplings - though none of them are very titillating, so you won't be getting your thrills that way. The characters aren't particularly sympathetic and the whole thing tidies up just the teensiest bit unbelievably. Still, if you want to haul a book to the beach this summer, this will be reliably entertaining so long as you don't expect too much.

Free Fall says

What I like about Greg Iles' books is that they start from a precarious point for the main character and then they steadily get worse.

It's as though you're slowly watching Waters' life fall apart while he stands at the sidelines, completely helpless to do anything about it. Though it ends with everything settled, for the majority of *Sleep No More*, Waters is buried up to his neck and surrounded by crocodiles.

Oh, Mallory. Wow. Okay, I really don't see how what she did could be possible, but the book takes a supernatural premise and builds on it so convincingly that it terrified me even in broad light. And she's as close to being an omniscient, malicious force as anyone could be. It seems impossible that Waters could ever get away from her obsession.

With all that said, Mallory is the one who held my attention throughout the entire book. And in a way I wish

she had succeeded in getting and keeping John, because her doubt and obsession towards him are such interesting factors in her personality. Though I wonder, if she got him so easily, would she still want her prize?

Cathy DuPont says

A couple of times I had to check the author of this book, thinking it was written by Stephen King.

I have a couple of books on my shelf by Iles but have never read him until now so didn't know what to expect. I was surprised when there were some mysterious things happening.

Before I read another Iles, I'm reading what my Goodreads friends have to say about the book.

As most everyone knows, I love mysteries, noir and hard-boiled and not quite sure if "Sleep No More" fits snugly into any of these categories. Therefore the rating. But it was ok.

Reenie says

The premise of this book seems quite simple; a man has an affair and then his lover dies. Now, that wouldn't be interesting at all now, would it?

I think that I went into this book with eyes closed, so to speak, as I wasn't aware that there must be another reason for what has happened. I seemed to spend three quarters of this book searching for a 'realistic' explanation for an event. It wasn't until closer to the end that I fully embraced what was happening. I do think that, had I embraced such reasoning earlier on in the book, however, the read would have been dulled down as Iles really does tell you what's happening.

The novel to a fair bit to get me hooked into the storyline, however there were some great 'wowza, I didn't expect that' moments ...I'm thinking of you waking up in the hotel room, Waters.

There are characters that you may take a dislike to, hi Mallory or perhaps those that you wish you were as cool and level headed as, hello Penn, but overall there is a good mixture. You believe that Waters is a good guy, so that definitely helps.

I enjoyed the latter half of this book, yet I'm only giving it three stars as it took a while to get into it (I admit that may be partly my fault) with this in mind, Greg Iles is an author that I would read again.

Michael says

I'm kind of a sucker for any novel or movie that Stephen King recommends. It may not always pay off when it comes to movies, but when it comes to good books, King has rarely steered me wrong. It's because of King that I discovered one of my favorite authors, Laura Lippman.

I didn't come to Greg Iles through King. I picked up his novel "Turning Angel" and was hooked immediately. Most Iles books are those that I'd classify as "books that own me" while reading them. I keep wanting to go and do other necessary things, but I can't because I just have to read "one more chapter" to find out what happens next.

So, combine the fact that I already like Iles with a front cover blurb by King and I find myself wondering why I hadn't read "Sleep No More" before now.

Set in Iles fictional town of Natchez, Mississippi, "Sleep No More" tells the story of John Waters. With his long-time friend Cole, Waters is part of an oil-drilling business that's had some solid success. He's married to Lily and they have a precocious daughter together. Their marriage looks great, but it's been on a shaky ground since Lily had a miscarriage several years before and they haven't exactly been connecting in a physical way.

Years before, Waters had a long romance with Mallory Candler, a beautiful woman who turned out to be a couple of tacos short of a combo platter. The romance took place in college and the couple aborted two unwanted pregnancies. This helped bring on some of Mallory's less desirable traits and led to her stalking Waters for a period of years. She was killed several years before and Waters hasn't forgotten her but has tried to move on with his life.

Enter Eve, a woman who claims she's been possessed by the spirit of Mallory. She comes to Waters and tells him this. Eve is a local real estate agent who has a certain reputation around town. Is she looking for a new fling with Waters or is she telling the truth? Waters is convinced it is Mallory and enters into an affair with Eve/Mallory. (It seems that Mallory can enter the body of a new host upon sexual peak only).

If it all sounds like it takes a huge dose of suspension of disbelief to make the story work, it does. But the thing is that by grounding Waters as he does, Iles takes a page from King or Richard Matheson and gives us an ordinary person facing extraordinary circumstances. Seeing how Waters reacts as the web slowly closes in around him keeps the pages flying, just to see what happens next. And Iles is willing to at least throw in a few things that are plausible reasons as to why this could be certain people in Waters' life trying to mess with him.

In fact, half the fun of the story is trying to figure out which twist is the right twist and which are red herrings.

According to the critical blurbs, "Sleep No More" was recommended as a beach read when it was first published. And that's exactly what it is. Iles has done some great stories and while this may not be his most profound or important, it's one of the more enjoyable stories he's told. Like a blockbuster, popcorn movie, don't think too much about it and just enjoy the ride. You'll be glad you did.

Coral says

Yaaaaaaaaaaaaawwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwnnnnn.

Totally predictable and what story there is gets buried by all of the poorly-written sex scenes.

Melissa says

Really????!!!!?? I am having a rough spell with picking up kind of icky books. I have no problem with the basic plot of Sleep No More, however, the fact that the development of the plot took place during, illicit coupling as another review described, was a turn off for me. (I'm trying to not make a spoiler so I know my description is weird!) I guess all I'll say is that normally, I reach a sex scene and I just jump to the end of the section or end of the page as it may be, and I feel that I can censor my reading in that way. Unfortunately, with this book I would have had to have skipped 60% of the pages. Greg Iles could have kept the exact same story and had the act of sex not be a part of the plot so heavily if he were creative, in my opinion.

And if we set aside my moral preference, I have to say, I still wasn't that impressed with the premise of the book anyway. You have to suspend disbelief and love a true supernatural-thriller genre. We picked this book up at the used bookstore, I'm afraid it's going back there.

Shirley Laliberte says

Forgot how much I love Greg Isles

lynne naranek says

This book would make a good thriller/supernatural movie.

The book itself was rather disappointing, especially when the dust cover boasts Stephen King saying "This novel should come with a red wrapper marked DANGER: HIGH EXPLOSIVES."

One amusing repetition/recurrence in Sleep No More and Turning Angel is the hiring of ex-district attorney Penn Cage with one dollar here, and twenty dollars in the other tale, in order to secure attorney-client privilege even if Mr Cage didn't really end up as the accused lawyer.

I found the premise of this tale extremely contrived. I'd buy it in a movie, but not in a book, or not as it plays out in *this* book, anyway! Characters are only a rickety rung above two-dimensional, and I never was able to empathize with John Waters despite his roller coaster emotional ride when someone who seems to be channeling his dead psycho ex girlfriend ensnares him in 2 weeks of hot sex and then dies in suspicious circumstances.

Go ahead and read it, just be prepared to not be impressed.

Hyderali says

Grossly Engaging!!

This is my second book of Greg Iles and I'm glad that I took this book from the library. After reading his first book "The Quiet Game" where we get to introduce Mr. Penn Cage, a former lawyer and now an author

who decides to go his home, Natchez in Mississippi and gets entangled in a murder of a black korean war veteran.

Coming to this book, I was totally enthralled by the writing and the way the plot is written. We get introduce to Mr. John Waters who put his wife and daughter's life at stake after engaging in extramarital affair with a young lady recently shifted to his town, Natchez in Mississippi. But there is a twist in the plot which would make you shiver.

I don't understand why people here in GoodReads had given so low rating and bad reviews. To be frank, I enjoyed this book as much as because it has been recommended by Stephen King. The starting might give you some yawning but don't stop there, just keep on reading and you'll be totally engrossed into finishing it.

The only downfall of this book is the climax which I felt could have been better had Mr. Iles given some thought on how to make powerful in the same time very shocking.

I totally recommend this book to everyone who wants to wake up all night just to finish this book.

I'll definitely read some other books of Mr. Iles where he put himself better than Stephen King in the department of Horror.
