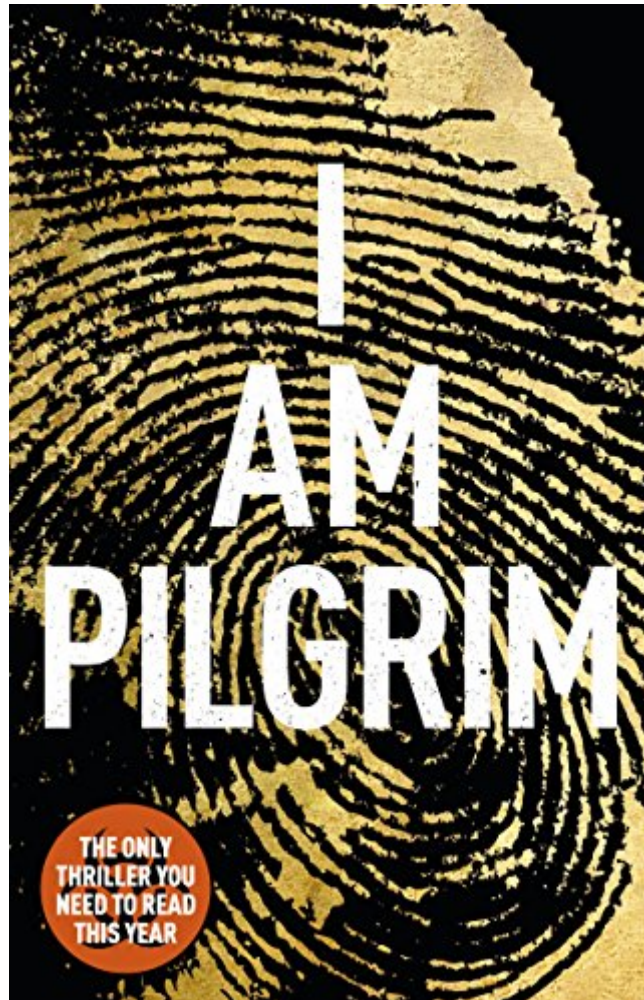


The book was found

I Am Pilgrim



Synopsis

Can you commit the perfect crime? Pilgrim is the codename for a man who doesn't exist. The adopted son of a wealthy American family, he once headed up a secret espionage unit for US intelligence. Before he disappeared into anonymous retirement, he wrote the definitive book on forensic criminal investigation. But that book will come back to haunt him. It will help NYPD detective Ben Bradley track him down. And it will take him to a rundown New York hotel room where the body of a woman is found facedown in a bath of acid, her features erased, her teeth missing, her fingerprints gone. It is a textbook murder – and Pilgrim wrote the book. What begins as an unusual and challenging investigation will become a terrifying race-against-time to save America from oblivion. Pilgrim will have to make a journey from a public beheading in Mecca to a deserted ruins on the Turkish coast via a Nazi death camp in Alsace and the barren wilderness of the Hindu Kush in search of the faceless man who would commit an appalling act of mass murder in the name of his God.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

I won't provide a summary of the plot in my review as this can be obtained in the Book Description on , 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.

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