



On Target

Mark Greaney

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Killing is Court Gentry's business. Now, his business is about to get personal in the second Gray Man novel from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Mark Greaney.

Four years ago, Court Gentry was betrayed by his handlers in the CIA. To survive, he had to eliminate his own brothers in arms. Now, as a master assassin known as the Gray Man, he makes his living killing other people. But when an old comrade he thought dead returns to haunt him, his own life is put in the crosshairs.

On Target Details

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From Reader Review On Target for online ebook

Patrick says

The 'Gray Man' series is the bomb for we thriller lovers....Lee Child's 'Reacher' is still my favorite choice of bad asses but let me tell you and for what it's worth, 'Court Gentry' (the bad ass protagonist) is rapidly gaining ground. Many thanks to our friends at youtube for providing this outlet for audio books galore. The historical fiction is worth the time and effort alone. Memphis, TN author Mark Greaney has certainly done his homework in preparations for these incredible novels. Oh to have and hone such talent. Try it, you'll like it, I sure as hell do!

Mike (the Paladin) says

The second book about Court Gentry. This one is actually a bit more thought provoking. For me it sort of makes me question my own attitudes. I mean...I'm a Christian and I don't want (on an actual personal and real level) to be too quick to accept the idea of..."sanctioning someone with extreme prejudice".

There is a level of frustration built into this novel, but then there's supposed to be. Court is caught between the proverbial jaws of and upon the proverbial horns of a seemingly insoluble dilemma. Trying to work out his situation and put his life back together he finds himself with two masters either of which could kill him.

This book is still, as the first one The Gray Man was a page turner. There's bone shaking action and teeth rattling violence built into a "geopolitical" firestorm. Traveling through Africa across parts of Asia every man's hand against him The Gray Man again delivers an exciting read. I like these and already have the third.

My only real concern is, there's only three.

The character of Court Gentry while not as detailed as some action heroes is filling out very well. I find I know a bit more about him. This volume finds his "walls" cracking a bit. Between physical damage and the psychological damage he's sustaining will he hold together?

Good book and I'm really impatient to get to the next one. I may not be able to allow myself to start it till tomorrow afternoon.

Bummer.

Enjoy.

Sinistre Imrul says

Goodreads is asking me what do I think. Well right now I think only two word. FUCKIN MINDBLOWING. How come there's no movie based on this series? Yeah well, I got nothing else to say. Please don't read this review, read the damn book.

K. says

3.5/5, but we all know how Goodreads feels about half stars.

This is one of those stories that makes you kind of hope Court fails at securing his given objective, which is a snatch and deliver, and instead does what he does best, which is killin' folks. The snatchee, Abboud, is essentially a renamed Omar al-Bashir and Court finds himself in between a rock and a hard place; he just wants to put a bullet in Abboud's head. Those pesky extrajudicial murder urges rise up on him once again! But CIA promised to remove the shoot-on-sight order *and* contracted, if shadowy, employment if he pulls off this op. Court's primary objective is to keep his own ass alive, so he knows what's what here.

Even if he really, *really* thinks the world would be better off if he just shot the dude, full stop.

On one hand, yeah, I'm blood-thirsty enough to not shed a tear when someone of al-Bashir's character bites it, but on the other, how can we trust the morals of a mercenary? Why does he get to keep choosing where to place the line between dealing out death or doling out prison sentences? That's the whole reason the legal system exists, after all, because we have evolved to a point as a society that we no longer see "eye for an eye" as a civilized means of justice. Because I have the narrative benefit of seeing into the minds of characters like Court Gentry or Frank Castle, I trust their judgment. I trust them to do what's right - right in the sense that needs of the many (innocent public & victims) outweigh the needs of the few (the right to life for murderers/traffickers/sexual predators/etc.). It doesn't work like that in the real world. _(?)_/

This concept of judge, jury & executioner is the theme of *On Target*, though Court seems to struggle more with a burgeoning narcotics addiction (thanks to his many injuries from *The Gray Man*) than he does with this philosophical question. He never once changes his belief in his right to kill people like Abboud, only that the political implications of doing so may be worse than *not* killing him. Not quite what Ellen Walsh wanted, but it works out in her favor anyway.

Ah, yes, let's discuss Ms. Walsh, shall we? Ellen is a well-meaning, but ultimately ineffective investigator for the International Criminal Court. She gets too far in over her head in a situation where she doesn't know all the players, so Court takes it upon himself to save her from the Sudanese secret police. It's similar to the scene in the first book, where he rescues a soldier from Al-Qaeda at the expense of his own skin, against all his instincts to go forward and forget. Except in this case, the rescue is a much longer mission and she consistently fucks up every plan he makes to get back on track with his original op until he finally drops her off at a UN camp. Court is, for this genre especially, strangely fair-minded about Ellen's unwise decisions; it's not as if she *knew* what he was working on in Sudan, so why should she trust him when he tells her to do something?

Regardless, the way she is presented is grating, self-righteous and unfathomably naive for a woman of thirty-five. If I were stuck in the scrublands of bumfuck Africa with the only thing between me and more danger is a strange man holding a gun (who has already rescued me twice at this point), I'm not going to outright reject his dubious charity by become a whirlwind of screeching invective. I believe the same can be said for most women, born out of a socially proscribed self-preservation method that we learn from birth. For me, this is just one more way to tell that a man wrote Ellen. She doesn't have to trust *him*, but attempting to make *him* trust *her* and her future reactions, to show she's not a threat? Yeah, that's a thing, it's important and it's not being established at all.

On the plus side, there seems to be none of the useless "we're gonna die, let's fuck" romantic tension that usually pervades this sort of fictional situation - THANK GOD.

(Sidebar: I can't believe Court got pinned down in the middle of a gunfight by a dead camel. And then later, in *another* gunfight, manages to get shot in the back with a fucking arrow. Amazing.)

To make a long review short, Court fulfills his end of the original bargain and the CIA fucks him over YET AGAIN. We're all very surprised.

P.S. I still want to know what happened in Kiev.

NEW THINGS I LEARNED:

A haboob (???????) is a crazy ass dust storm that sounds patently awful to ride a goddamn horse through for hours.

[image error]

Aiden Bailey says

Every time I start a new author I'm never sure what to expect. With Mark Greaney, I was pleasantly surprised as he writes espionage thrillers with all the elements I really enjoy. These include (1) a tough special forces soldier betrayed and on his own and hunted by his own people, (2) exotic locations outside of the US and Europe that feel really dangerous, (3) really bad Bad Guys, (4) unexpected plot twists and (5) lots of action.

On Target delivers on all fronts.

The action shifts from Ireland to Russia, then to the South Sudan and Sudan, and finally Venezuela. There is great prose describing on what it must really be like to operate in one of Africa's most desperate and war torn nations. The characters are well-developed and the geopolitics feels real.

One certainly gets the impression from Greaney that the intelligence, terrorist, military and criminal settings of his stories have no good guys, and those who fight on the side of good do bad things.

This is gritty thriller fiction at its best.

Debbie says

"On Target" is a military-type thriller that reads like an action movie in novel form. The target audience appears to be men. The sole female character was a damsel-in-distress who was fatally (if not for Court) naive and determined to ignore all sensible advice. I suspect, though, that male readers will sympathize with Court being the hero while dealing with an incomprehensible woman.

While I liked that Court had a moral standard and a human side, he came across as way too soft to be an assassin-for-hire. He refused to kill anyone unless he absolutely couldn't survive their attempts to kill him. This included his targets. The plot also had logic holes, like a superior said that it was worth the deaths of

everyone on the team to get the kidnapped president out of the country, yet he's the last one in line to be extracted (thus causing more danger and complications).

However, the novel was packed with non-stop action and close escapes from mortal danger. If you want a fast-paced, action-packed, suspense-filled read, this novel will give it to you. Also, the author clearly researched the details about the job, locations, and culture, and that helped bring the story alive in my imagination. Yet some aspects still didn't come across as realistic because they're exaggerated. (For example, I've read the author's source for how to tell if a person is lying, which that book says isn't a sure thing, but the author makes Court a no-fail expert at it.)

There was no explicit sex. There was a lot of cussing and a lot of violence, though the violence wasn't very gory. Overall, it was an exciting action thriller, and I'm guessing that men who enjoy action movies will probably enjoy this novel.

I received this book as a review copy from the publisher.

Kyle Leeper says

Court Gentry is back in action, and this time we start to learn more about his past and why he's such a lone assassin. However, we don't learn everything and there are still many questions about his past that need answering.

The Gray Mans new target in this book has the ability to set him free from constantly running from people who want him dead. But as usual, his conscience gets in the the way and shoves him right back into life or death situations.

I really liked this audiobook. As usual the voice actor was fantastic and the action is vivid and complex. There wasn't as much a feeling of "Gray Man vs the world" in this book and that is why I still favor the first in the series. I'm gonna set Gray Man aside temporarily but will definitely be returning soon.

Diane says

Just too unbelievable to keep my attention/focus. Not crazy about the author's writing style - maybe a bit too much influence from "JP"! This author is just not for me.

Suspense Magazine says

How does an author follow up a debut, national bestseller with high expectations on the line? How about brilliantly and without fail.

Mark Greaney's sequel to "The Gray Man" picks up right where he left off as Court Gentry, a.k.a. 'the gray man', a.k.a. 'six' is left to fend for himself as a private contracted assassin. Gentry cannot rest on his laurels since his former employer—the CIA—has issued an SOS order, shoot on sight!

Gentry has agreed to a very risky contract with his untrusting, Russian employer, but also agrees to an

alternate deal with the CIA that would rescind his SOS order if he completes his mission successfully. Of course, everything goes haywire from the start and Gentry has to deal with all of it.

If you are looking for a truly, cover-to-cover, action-packed thrill ride, start reading this series as it will not leave you disappointed.

www.suspensemagazine.com

Garlan 🖐️ says

A MUCH better (more believable) second offering from Greaney. The Gray Man is back and wreaking havoc, but on a much more credible scale this time. The action is pretty non-stop, the "bad guys" are fairly well rounded characters, and the setting/political climate rings true. I'm looking forward to continuing the series now.

Lindsay Nixon says

For so much action this book was surprisingly boring. I loved the first book but this one was lackluster.

Cort is still a burned and hunted agent, hired for an assignation that could 'free' him from the blacklist.. but (predictably) the mission goes wrong and Cort (our spy with a soul) starts to question everything...

I appreciated the political timeliness of the 'spy job' (Russians! Darfur! Oil fights! The ICC and 'economic hitmen') and I like that Cort is actually likeable (he's a Jason Bourne type) but this action-packed thriller wasn't thrilling... and the woman in it, gah! This author should avoid writing Woman characters...

Tom Tischler says

Four years ago Court Gentry was betrayed by his handlers in the CIA. In order to survive he had to eliminate his own brothers. Now he is a master assassin known as the Gray Man and he makes his living killing other people but when an old comrade he thought was dead returns to haunt him his own life is put in the cross hairs . The man wants Court to complete a mission with one catch. Instead of a difficult assassination the job entails a near impossible kidnapping and Court must return his quarry to the very CIA that turned on him. With his unforgiving employers on one side and his blackmailing former friends on the other and a doomed mission ahead Court will have to kill to get out of this alive. This is book two in the Court Gentry series and it's a typical Gray Man book with a lot of action and a pretty good story. I gave it a 4.

Siddharth says

I loved the first book.

It was an adrenaline rush with a hero who seemed to be the love child of Bourne and Rambo. It pitches the hero against insurmountable odds. I had to suspend my disbelief a little too much but I still enjoyed every page, every word.

I picked up the second book hoping for more of the same. That was a mistake.

It is quite fast, like the first book and I quite like Court Gentry's character. I finished over 1/3rd of the book in very quick time. Then came Ellen Walsh. She has to be one of the stupidest characters ever. Oh I truly detest her and hope she gets killed.

The book was going on so well till she gets introduced. Then it becomes slow and silly.

**** Spoilers Ahead ****

Court should have let her die and get on with his mission. She was begging to be killed. Her stupidity makes me cringe, Miss Goody two-shoes who does not have the capacity to think practically.

And Court has to be the hero who just has to save the stupid lady, mission and self preservation be damned.

And while I'm not gonna read any further I'm pretty sure she'll be whining the entire time about the fact that he's a killer. I hope he shoots her himself.

I'm shaking my head at the missed opportunity. I guess the plot itself will pan out nicely but this detour is just too stupid and I'm done.

Sadly, this is my first book in the 'did not finish' pile for 2016.

Ij says

Another thriller!!! The Gray Man survives, but is still hunted.

Kemper says

Courtland Gentry was once a top operative for the CIA, but they issued a burn notice and shoot-on-sight order about him for unknown reasons. A burn notice? I wonder if Court gets to hang around Bruce Campbell drinking beers like other burned spies?

Court went underground and became a legendary contract killer known as the Gray Man in certain circles, but things aren't going well. Circumstances have forced him to start working with a sleazy Russian gangster, and he's picked up a prescription drug habit while recovering from injuries suffered in the last book.

The Russian has a contract for Court to assassinate the president of Sudan, but the Gray Man doesn't trust the Russian and wants nothing to do with it. However, Court's old CIA team leader shows up with an offer. He wants Court to pretend to take the Russian contract, and the Americans will piggy back their own covert operation into Sudan on it. In return, the CIA will drop the kill order and even let Court work for them again.

Court takes the offer, but things almost immediately start going off the rails in Sudan. His first headache involves an incredibly naïve and very annoying Canadian woman working for the International Criminal Court regarding violations in Darfur. Despite Court saving her ass a couple of times, she insists on busting his balls over how he's dealt with a gang of genocidal thugs. (Here's something that seems like a bad idea: If you wind up alone in the desert with a highly trained killer, threaten to have him arrested as soon as he leads you back to civilization.) For some reason, Court doesn't just pop her head off, but the problems with the operation have just started.

The first book featuring Court, *The Gray Man*, was over-the-top action fun with a Jason Bourne-style manhunt across Europe. I didn't enjoy this one as much as the first one. Since Court is dealing with his old boss and a CIA paramilitary team for a lot of this one, there's a lot of G.I. Joe stuff and combat-talk like "Contact right!" or "Sierra 6 to Sierra 1." Plus, Court doesn't seem nearly the legendary bad ass in this one that he's supposed to be. Granted, he's fighting a pill habit, but he doesn't seem nearly as fearsome.

It still had a lot of good crazy action scenes, and the plot did zigzag in surprising directions I didn't see coming. But having Court as part of a team and having to follow other people's orders isn't nearly as much fun as Court on his own and leaving mayhem in his wake.
