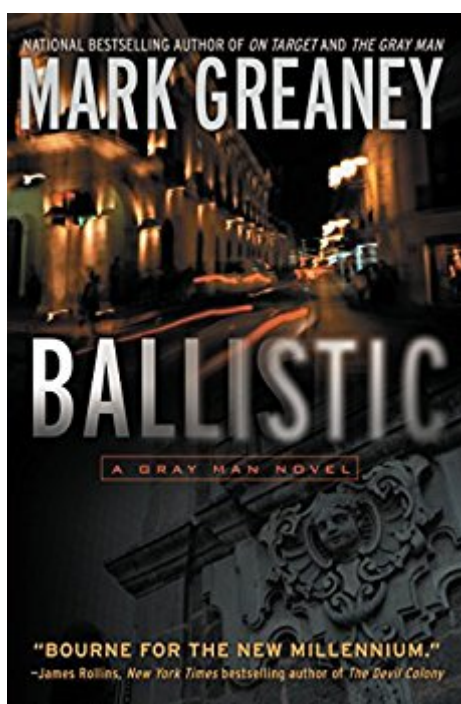


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Ballistic (A Gray Man Novel Book 3)



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Mark Greaney presents the third Gray Man novel, featuring the ex-CIA assassin being hailed as "Bourne for the new millennium" (James Rollins). After Court Gentry was betrayed by his compatriots and forced to take on a near-suicidal covert mission by the CIA, he thought he could find refuge living in the rain forest. But his bloody past finds him when a vengeful Russian crime lord forces him to go on the run once again. Court makes his way to one of the only men in the world he can trust and arrives too late. His friend is dead and buried. Years before, Eddie Gamboa had saved Court's life. Now, Eddie has been murdered by the notorious Mexican drug cartel he fought to take down. And Court soon finds himself drawn into a war he never wanted. But in this war, there are no sides—only survivors...From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Anyone familiar with the first two novels in The Gray Man series (The Gray Man (A Gray Man Novel) and On Target (A Gray Man Novel)) will know they are filled with action and adventure throughout the book. This third entry is certainly no exception. Author Mark Greaney takes the reader on a thrill

ride that would make any amusement park proud. Moving from one challenge to the next Courtland Gentry's exploits kept my attention riveted to the pages of this book. Court has been hiding out from all the many factions who want to see him dead, most recently his ex-boss, Russian mobster Gregor Sidorenko. Hiding in the back-of-beyond jungles of South America worked for seven months but now a manhunter has found Gentry and it's time to move on. With only escape in mind Gentry is waiting in a bus station when he happens to hear a television news story concerning a man he once shared a prison cell with in Laos. Could this Eduardo Gamboa be the same Eddie Gamble he had known back in that prison? Because if so, then Court does not believe the man he had known could be guilty of what these news reports said. Before long Gentry finds himself a very unwilling actor in the bloody business of drugs and other crimes between two feuding Mexican drug lords. Between his former bosses in the CIA, his former boss in the Russian mob, and now these armed and decidedly dangerous Mexican criminals it will take an expert in survival to come out of this mess alive.

I was critical of the first two Gray Man novels. While I liked the concept and the character of Courty Gentry, the first two books had simple, threadbare plots, shallow, flat characters, and repetitive overly-long, action scenes. But they were still well-written and fast-paced books. In this third novel, Mark Greaney has improved considerably as a writer. For the first time, Courty Gentry actually comes across as a real person. The other characters are believable and not just cardboard cutouts. The story is more complex, mature, and well-developed. Rather than non-stop action, there is build-up to the action scenes, and Greaney does a much better job of creating suspense and maintaining tension. While Flynn, Thor, and Silva are re-writing the same Muslim terrorist stories over and over again, Greaney sets Ballistic south of the border. Courty Gentry, still on the run in South America from CIA and Russian mafia assassins, arrives in Mexico to pay respects to a dead friend. There, he becomes embroiled in the drug wars as he protects his friend's family from a Mexican drug cartel and corrupt police. Greaney does a good job of depicting the bleak, violent conflict taking place in Mexico, without overloading his story with background and historical information. He portrays his fictional cartel leaders as these people are in real life; sadistic and completely apathetic to human life. But, Ballistic did not quite make it to a five-star rating from me. The fast pace of the novel comes to a dead halt in the middle of the novel, where Court Gentry and the family under his protection are besieged in a house. This lengthy section just dragged on for too long, but the pace quickly picked up again after this.

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