



# NEIL TURNER READER'S CLUB

Greetings,

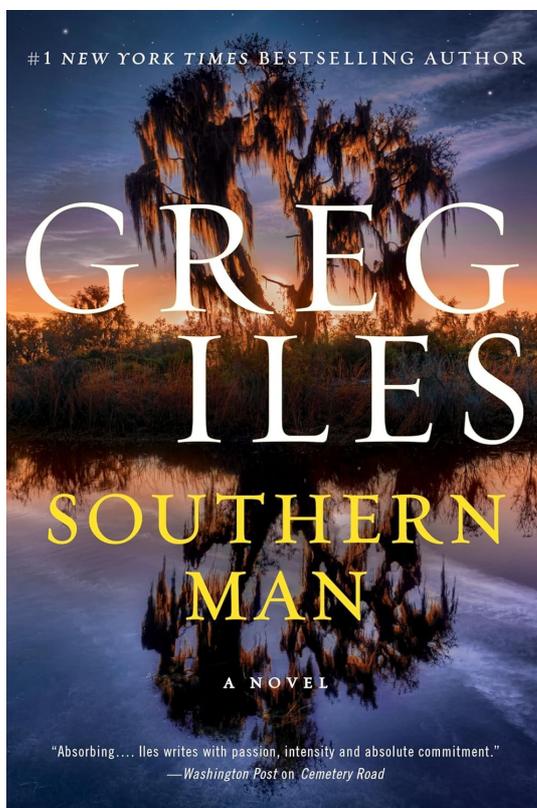
I hope this finds you well. Don't you just love summer? I'm enjoying it so far, but am afraid I don't have anything much in the way of news after a relatively quiet month finding ways to kill time without exerting myself too much. In addition to working on Book #9 (*still* no real title!), I've been going down various rabbit holes, some writing-related and some not. The most fun has been revisiting a few musical artists I haven't listened to in some time. Isn't it amazing to "rediscover" music and find yourself singing right along while being transported back in time? God, I love that! This month's Reader's Club Update was written and scheduled before we departed Ottawa on Tuesday, so any late-breaking news will have to wait until next month (as if I *ever* have late breaking news, but it's fun to imagine). We should be in Munich (*München*) this morning, the first stop in a three-week sojourn. For those of you who don't yet follow me on Facebook and are interested, you can tag along with us [here](#). I hope some of you found a cool new book or two during our BookSweeps contest last month, but the fun isn't over yet! I mentioned that we had a dynamite new promotion coming up. Watch your inbox on August 22nd for an exciting announcement about how you can claim *free* reads in an exclusive offering from an exciting array of thriller authors. The promo is called *Your Next Great Thriller Novel*—I think you're going to love it. In this month's Reader's Club Update, I'll also share my thoughts about a book I've just read, and the old mutt welcomes his first ever guest columnist to Deano's Corner! Read on!

## The Latest Tony Valenti News

### Hot Off the Presses

In addition to the  
aforementioned "Your Next

Great Thriller Novel” promotion, presales for the audiobook release of *Scared Silent*, the sixth Tony Valenti Thriller, have opened for a September 10th release. Gary Bennett has once again lent his exceptional narration talents to bring the story to life. Check it out [here](#). As for eBook editions, this summer we’ve had Amazon Countdown deals on the first three books in the series. More will follow beginning in early September with *A Time for Reckoning*. Each book sale will run for one week. I’ll share details in next month’s Reader’s Club Update. You can also keep track of the offers on my Facebook Author page.



## **Southern Man by Greg Iles**

### **What's Neil Reading?**

Wow! The final Penn Cage novel from Greg Iles has been a long time coming as the author navigated a number of personal challenges, some of which he reveals through the character of Penn Cage. I’ve been looking forward to this book for years, and *Southern Man* is a suitably grand and fitting finale. It’s a lengthy novel, clocking in at almost a thousand pages, and it’s a testament to the author’s exceptional writing craft that he

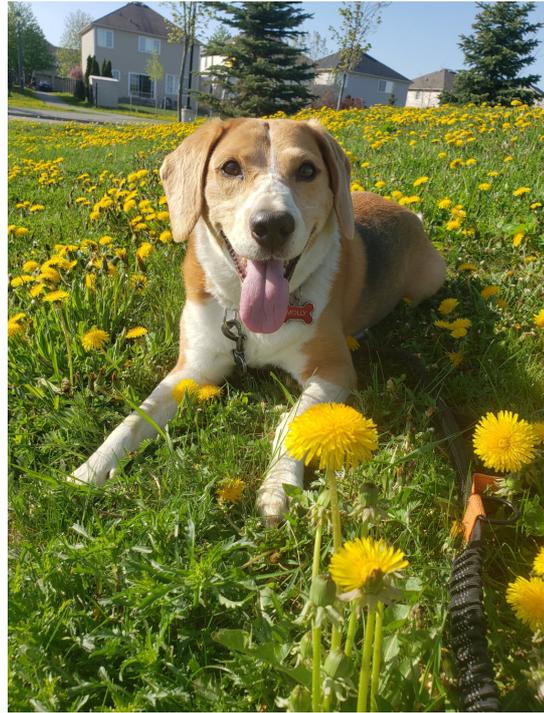
keeps the story moving forward the entire time. The scope of *Southern Man* is breathtaking, tackling not only heartbreak within the Cage family, but an equal measure of anguish in their community. Iles shows a great deal of courage in tackling the current political climate of the United States, which has attracted considerable heat on the review pages. Whether or not you agree with the positions taken by the characters isn’t really the point in reviewing the book; I admire the fact that Mr. Iles refuses to shy away from a topic he clearly has strong feelings about. He’s of the South, and his love of the region is as clear as the lens he turns on its complex history and how that informs the present. As always, the characters are complex, interesting, and often unpredictable, and the story takes numerous twists and turns on its way to an intense

and satisfying climax. Somehow or other, Mr. Iles left me wanting more—quite an accomplishment more than nine hundred pages into the saga. An epic read.

## A Fresh Canine Perspective

### Deano's Corner

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Molly. I rule the roost in the Turner home, and I've been asked to tell you a little about myself. Some of my favorite things? Well, there's food, of course. Who doesn't like to eat? Just saying. So, my history. I'm a rescue, primarily of the Beagle breed, or so I'm told—something about a predilection to sniff *everything*



we pass during our walks. Ever see one of those cartoons showing a city block or whatever, captioned by a human saying, “a pleasant five minute walk on my own; two hours with my Beagle”? Like that. These Turner people don't know much about my past, but I suppose the last several years have been pretty good. The family doesn't feed me as much as they should (nor as well), but I suppose a couple of meals of kibble every day isn't the worst thing—so long as it's supplemented by a few snacks here and there. At least they allow me to lounge around and sleep a lot. I mean, they can't expect too much activity from me on those meager rations, right? And the whole watchdog thing? Puh-lease! That's for well-fed dogs. When people enter our house, I check to see if they've brought nourishment, and I make no apologies for doing so. Lest you suspect that I'm somewhat indolent, note that I take one of the humans for a walk at least twice every day—rain, shine, or snow. That said, I have a bone to pick with that Turner guy ... on second thought, let's not waste any bones on him, they're all mine! *Mine* I tell, you! Let's just say I have issues with the guy. *I* know who he modeled that Deano character on! Where's my fair share of the royalties, huh? He doesn't fool me with this story about not making a fortune off those books. Actually, the lengths he goes to in hiding the spoils are rather impressive ... living in a regular old house, driving an old Subaru, wearing crappy old clothes, maintaining a meager bank account balance. Yeah, well, I'm *not* fooled. I imagine it was quite a thrill to meet me, but alas, I must go in search of sustenance. *Ciao!*



**Win a Free Book!**

## **Reader's Club Q & A**

What's on your mind? Ask away! I'll answer one reader question in every Reader's Club Update. If I choose yours, I'll send you a

free eBook copy of one of my novels! Please send your questions via the *Contact* page on my [website](#) or send an email to [info@neilturnerbooks.com](mailto:info@neilturnerbooks.com). If you send an email, please type *Reader's Club Q & A* in the subject line. Thank you!

Here's this month's question and answer:

Q: How do you decide if a plot idea will make a good novel?

A: What a great question! I play something of a game with myself when I land on an intriguing potential novel idea. Step one is posing a string of questions to myself to work through possibilities. Some examples are: What if this were to happen? And then what? Who would do this or that? What does the protagonist want/need to achieve? Who and/or what stands in the way of the protagonist achieving his or her goals? How will our hero overcome this opposition? What can go wrong to make it harder? What will make the situation worse? How can I make things desperate! If I feel confident the idea can be developed into a full length novel, I'll flag it as a potential book and allow the idea to further develop. By whatever alchemy these things work themselves out, a point will come where the story crystalizes, and then it's time to start writing. Sometimes the idea works out, sometimes it doesn't.

And that's it for this month. Thanks for being a member of our Reader's Club!

Take care, be well, and happy reading (or listening!),

Neil



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