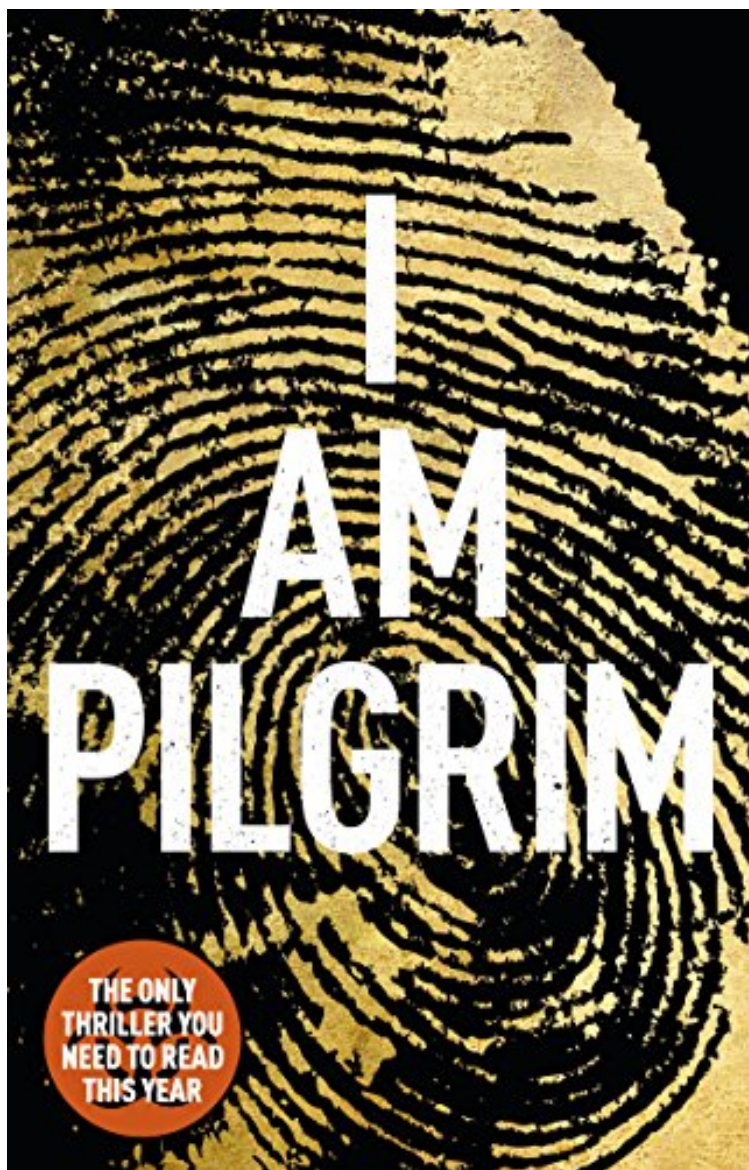


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# I Am Pilgrim



*Par Terry Hayes*  
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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurCan you commit the perfect crime?Pilgrim is the codename for a man who doesnt 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.

Extrait I Am Pilgrim 1 There are places I'll remember all my life: Red Square with a hot wind howling across it, my mother's bedroom on the wrong side of Eight Mile, the endless gardens of a fancy foster home, a man waiting to kill me in a group of ruins known as the Theater of Death. But nothing is burned deeper in my memory than a walk-up in New York: threadbare curtains, cheap furniture, a table loaded with tina and other party drugs. Lying next to the bed are a handbag, black panties the size of dental floss, and a pair of six-inch Jimmy Choos. Like their owner, they don't belong here. She is naked in the bathroom: her throat cut, floating facedown in a bathtub full of sulfuric acid, the active ingredient in a drain cleaner available at any supermarket. Dozens of empty bottles of the cleaner Drain Bomb, its label scattered on the floor. Unnoticed, I start picking through them. They've all got their price tags still attached and I see that, in order to avoid suspicion, whoever killed her bought them at twenty different stores. I've always said it's hard not to admire good planning. The place is in chaos, the noise deafening: police radios blaring, coroner's assistants yelling for support, a Hispanic woman sobbing. Even if a victim doesn't know anyone in the world, it seems like there's always someone sobbing at a scene like this. The young woman in the bath is unrecognizable: the three days she has spent in the acid have destroyed all her features. That was the plan I guess: whoever killed her had also weighed down her hands with telephone books. The acid has dissolved not only her fingerprints but almost the entire metacarpal structure underneath. Unless the forensic guys at the NYPD get lucky with a dental match, they'll have a helluva time putting a name to this one. In places like this, where you get a feeling evil still clings to the walls, your mind can veer into strange territory. The idea of a young woman without a face made me think of a Lennon/McCartney groove from long ago: it's about Eleanor Rigby, a woman who wore a face that she kept in a jar by the door. In my head I start calling the victim Eleanor. The crime-scene team still has work to do, but there isn't a person in the place who doesn't think Eleanor was killed during sex: the mattress half off the base, the tangled sheets, a brown spray of decaying arterial blood on a bedside table. The really sick ones figure he cut her throat while he was still inside her. The bad thing is they may be right. However she died, those that look for blessings may find one here: she wouldn't have realized what was happening, not until the last moment anyway.

Tina: crystal meth would have taken care of that. It makes you so damn horny, so euphoric as it hits your brain that any sense of foreboding would have been impossible. Under its influence the only coherent thought most people can marshal is to find a partner and bang their back out. Next to the two empty foils of tina is what looks like one of those tiny shampoo bottles you get in hotel bathrooms. Unmarked, it contains a clear liquid: GHB, I figure. It's getting a lot of play now in the dark corners of the web: in large doses it is replacing rohypnol as the date-rape drug of choice. Most music venues are flooded with it: clubbers slug a tiny cap to cut tina, taking the edge off of its paranoia. But GHB also comes with its own side effects: a loss of inhibitions and a more intense sexual experience. On the street one of its names is Easy Lay. Kicking off her Jimmys, stepping out of her tiny black skirt, Eleanor must have been a rocket on the Fourth of July. As I move through the crush of people: unknown to any of them, a stranger with an expensive jacket slung over his shoulder and a lot of freight in his past: I stop at the bed. I close out the noise and in my mind I see her on top, naked, riding him: cowgirl. She is in her early twenties with a good body and I figure she is right into it: the cocktail of drugs whirling her toward a shattering orgasm, her body temperature soaring, thanks to the meth, her swollen breasts pushing down, her heart and respiratory rate rocketing under the onslaught of passion and chemicals, her breath coming in gulping bursts, her wet tongue finding a mind of its own and searching hard for the mouth below. Sex today sure isn't for sissies. Neon signs from a row of bars outside the window would have hit the blond highlights in her three-hundred-dollar haircut and sparkled off a Panerai divers watch. Yeah, it's fake but it's a good one. I know this woman. We all do: the type anyway. You see them in the huge new Prada store in Milan, queuing outside the clubs in Soho, sipping skinny lattes in the hot cafs on the Avenue Montaigne: young women who mistake People magazine for news and a Japanese symbol on their backs as a sign of rebellion. I imagine the killers hand on her breast, touching a jeweled nipple ring. The guy takes it between his fingers and yanks it, pulling her closer. She cries out, revved: everything is hypersensitive now, especially her nipples. But she doesn't mind if somebody wants it rough, it just means they must really like her. Perched on top of him, the headboard banging hard against the wall, she would have been looking at the front door: locked and chained for sure. In this neighborhood that's the least you could do. A diagram on the back shows an evacuation route: she is in a hotel but any resemblance to the Ritz-Carlton pretty much ends there. It is called the Eastside Inn: home to itinerants, backpackers, the mentally lost, and anybody else

with twenty bucks a night. Stay as long as you like a day, a month, the rest of your life all you need is two IDs, one with a photo. The guy who had moved into room 89 had been here for a while a six-pack sits on a bureau, along with four half-empty bottles of hard liquor and a couple of boxes of breakfast cereal. A stereo and a few CDs are on a nightstand and I glance through them. He had good taste in music, at least you could say that. The closet, however, is empty it seems like his clothes were about the only thing he took with him when he walked out, leaving the body to liquefy in the bath. Lying at the back of the closet is a pile of trash: discarded newspapers, an empty can of roach killer, a coffee-stained wall calendar. I pick it up every page features a black-and-white photo of an ancient ruin the Coliseum, a Greek temple, the Library of Celsus at night. Very arty. But the pages are blank, not an appointment on any of them except as a coffee mat, it seems like its never been used and I throw it back. I turn away and without thinking, out of habit really I run my hand across the nightstand. That's strange, no dust. I do the same to the bureau, bed board, and stereo and get the identical result the killer has wiped everything down to eliminate his prints. He gets no prizes for that, but as I catch the scent of something and raise my fingers to my nose, everything changes. The residue I can smell is from an antiseptic spray they use in intensive care wards to combat infection. Not only does it kill bacteria, but as a side effect it also destroys DNA materials sweat, skin, hair. By spraying everything in the room and then dousing the carpet and walls, the killer was making sure that the NYPD needn't bother with their forensic vacuum cleaners. With sudden clarity I realize that this is anything but a by-the-book homicide for money or drugs or sexual gratification. As a murder, this is something remarkable.

Revue de presse Hayes delivers muscular prose, sniper-round accurate dialogue and enough superb and original plotting to fill three volumes. He balances it all with the dexterity of the accomplished storyteller that he so obviously is. *I Am Pilgrim* is simply one of the best suspense novels I've read in a long time. (David Baldacci #1 New York Times bestselling author) Mr. Hayes's globe-trotting book has more kicks, twists and winks than anything of its dusty genre has provided in a long time. You will be happily surprised to find a new thriller franchise with brains to match its brawn. (Janet Maslin The New York Times) "THRILLER OF THE WEEK. Delivers thrills and spills...A full tilt mix of Homeland, The Wire and The Bourne Ultimatum." (Mail on Sunday) "I Am Pilgrim is a 21st century thriller: a high concept plot, but with finely drawn protagonists. The plot twists and turns like a python in a sack. The style is visceral, gritty and cinematic...A satisfying and ambitious book, written with skill and verve." (Adam Le Bor The Times, UK) "I AM PILGRIM Is the Best Book of 2014" (The Huffington Post) The most exciting desert island read of the season a big, breathless tale of nonstop suspense. (Janet Maslin New York Times) The pages fly by ferociously fast. Simply unputdownable. (Booklist) "Dude, freak out. That's my new *Gone Girl*. *Gone Girl* was the last book that I couldn't put down. Seriously, email me when you read it. You'll be five chapters in, and you'll look up and be like, 'Dude!'" (Jimmy Fallon) "Massive in many senses, but none more so than its ability to exert a vice-like grip on the reader...Destined to be spy thriller of the year." (Irish Independent) Once you start this taut and muscular thriller, you won't be able to put it down. (Library Journal, starred review) [A] powerful and formidably researched globe-spanning thriller. (Publisher's Weekly) "I Am Pilgrim is a twelve-course meal of a thriller.... A breathtaking accomplishment of a debut." (Gregg Hurwitz, New York Times bestselling author of *Tell No Lies*) Part murder mystery, part globe-hopping spy adventure, this page-turner by screenwriter Hayes will have you anticipating the inevitable movie. (Entertainment Weekly, print mention: New in Paperback) "The best book of 2014." (Suspense Magazine) "Debut novelist Hayes brings well-refined storytelling chops to...[good] entertainment for readers with a penchant for mayhem, piles of bodies and a lethal biochemical agent or two." (Kirkus s) "The strongest [thriller] in years . . . a taut, global trek . . . a long and perfect pilgrimage. (Grade: A)" (Cleveland Plain Dealer) *I am Pilgrim* is a great, gripping thrill ride of a novel (that still feels grounded in reality). If you're looking for an action thriller/spy story for the beach, *Pilgrim* is a winner. (The Hollywood Reporter) "Rendition yourself into a pulsating thriller that never lets up as it carries the hero and the reader on an ever more desperate race between time and an all too plausible disaster for the world we live in. Great nail-biting stuff!" (Robert Goddard) [*I Am Pilgrim*] is like a Jack Higgins novel by way of John Le Carr with more than a dash of Charles Dickens. (BOLO Books) Gripping from the get-go. . . A thriller of a spy novel." (The Washington Missourian) "Exhilarating...Hayes masterfully guides readers through an incredibly elaborate, drum-tight plot." (Newsday) A debut thriller reminiscent of John le Carre. (Wichita Eagle) *I Am Pilgrim* is an all too realistic tale of the dangers the next generation of terrorists can catastrophically impose. The well-developed characters and the non-stop action combine to produce a page-turning unpredictable plot. (BlackFive.net) The storytelling and a truly intriguing protagonist make *I Am Pilgrim* a contender for best-of-the-year lists. (Associated Press) *I AM PILGRIM* is greater than

the hype. Its the kind of book that rocked me to my core and left me breathless. It took me over a month to finally come up with a review but even after a months thought, nothing I say will be good enough. This book is that good...Im counting on it becoming a huge hit this summer. (The Pretty Good Gatsby)I AM PILGRIM has all the elements of a blockbuster thriller. (Denver Post)"Whatever youre doing right now, stand up and turn around. Take a good look at the edge of your seat. Thats where youll be clinging when you read I Am Pilgrim. (Naples Daily News)"I Am Pilgrim features great character development and an expansive, ambitious storyline as it sets the standard for the post-9/11 spy thriller." (S. Krishna Books)Simply amazing! Am Pilgrim is a fantastic read and needs to be on everyones summer must-read list. (That's What She Read)[Terry Hayes is a] masterful novelist wizard. (bibliophilesreverie.com)"High-octane." (Parade)Tom Clancy meets Robin Cook in a thriller that should find a place in many beach bags this summer. (Kirkus)Hayes is a master storyteller, and I Am Pilgrim is an amazing accomplishmentthe perfect summer readits actually greater than the hypecant recommend it any more highly. (Bookalicious Mama)Pilgrim turns out to be the most fascinating thriller hero Ive encountered since Trevanians legendary Nicolai Hel... Bracing, blisteringly original, and hopefully not the last time we see both Hayes and Pilgrim. (Providence Journal)This is one of those whirlwind reads that is a sheer joy to dive into. (Weekly Gravy)"The narrative is thrilling: the tension tightens with action...It's a murder mystery, an illuminating account of contemporary international politics and a study of an unusual man.....An excellent thriller which as a first novel is really remarkable." (Literary , UK)"The next 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'." (The New York Post)"This murder mystery/spy thriller grabs you from the first sentence and wont let you out of its grip. A brilliant American secret agent and forensics expert is in a race against the clock to stop a terrorist with a plan to destroy the United States. Please fasten your seat belt." (Kate White, New York Times bestselling author of EYES ON YOU)"I Am Pilgrim' is [a] gripping debut novel, which pits a brilliant intelligence operative against an equally brilliant terrorist. Weighing in at over 600 pages, you get your moneys worth and more with this thriller." (Brad Thor, New York Times bestselling author of ACT OF WAR)I Am Pilgrim might have you tempted to draw comparisons to other aces of the thrill, but those comparisons will miss the mark for this thoroughly original read that ranks among my favorites of the year thus far. (My Big Honkin' Blog)An intriguing, multi-perspective thriller the story made me almost miss my subway stop. (People Magazine)I highly recommend I Am Pilgrim to fans of Mystery, thrillers, Spy novels, and action-adventure. The writing is much more highly evolved than your garden variety spy thrillers, with excellent characters and a great ending that blows up on the page. (Thugbrarian)The best book of the year. (The Chattanooga)Pick of the Weekgripping debut thriller. (Boston Globe)I was impressed with the confidence of Hayes' narrative voice and the complexity in his plotting, both of which make the violence and the tradecraft details thoroughly believable (and probably real). (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)A definite page-turner. (Fort Meyers Florida Weekly)I Am Pilgrim, by Terry Hayes, is one of the best thrillers I have read in a real long time. (New York Daily News)I've been trying to think of a classier way to answer this question, but the honest answer is that I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN. After starting it, I read I Am Pilgrim every waking moment between work and sleep until I finished the last page I felt like I was actually learning something while being entertained, and the tension just kept building until I thought I was going to burst. (Unshelved)"Absolutely brilliant...beyond amazing...spellbinding." (Sassy Peach Book Blogger)"Riveting, gruesome, thrilling, suspenseful, raw...I AM PILGRIM is one of the greatest books I have read." (Book Baristas)A wicked game of cat and mouse that will keep you twisting and turning. Definitely the best thriller of the year! This is THE book! (Star Tribune)The Best Book of 2014: The Huffington Post, Suspense Magazine, PopSugar, The Chattanooga, Murder By The BookPick of the Week: The Boston GlobeNominated: Goodreads Choice AwardOne of 's Best Books of 2014One of the Top 16 Books on The Wall Street JournalsSpring Break Reading ListThe best way to describe Terry Hayes I Am Pilgrim is to say that it is like a Jack Higgins novel by way of John Le Carr with more than a dash of Charles Dickens. (Bolo Books)Spy thriller, mystery and adventure all wrapped up into one page-turner of a novellike Jason Bourne and Sherlock Holmes combined. (Good Book Fairy)A debut that will surely be considered a thriller classic in the future. (Fantasy Book Critic)This modern-day thriller, with its breakneck pace, intricate plot and well-developed characters, is impossible to put downTerry Hayes is the new name to watch in thrillers. (KSL.com, Online Pick - Best Books of 2014)Sharp in its pacing, crystalline in its prose, gripping in its suspense... it possesses an extraordinary credibility in its plot. (New Mexico of Books)This epic spy thriller begins as an urban murdermystery, but quickly sprawls into a globetrotting manhunt with the highestpossible stakes. You wont

be able to put it down. (Best Thrillers)