



Greg Iles, *New York Time* bestselling author of *Black Cross*, has written a stunning new thriller of eroticism and murder. With *Mortal Fear*, Iles enters territory no other novelist has dared, delivering a breathtaking novel of psychosexual suspense.

By day, Harper Cole trades commodities from his farmhouse in the isolated Mississippi Delta. But at night, Harper serves as system operator for E.R.O.S., a highly exclusive, sexually explicit on-line service whose clients range from the glitterati of Hollywood to the literati of New York. Shielded by a guarantee of absolute anonymity, these clients pour their secrets into the digital confession box of E.R.O.S. Only “sysops” like Harper—the high priests of the system—know and see all.

When six female clients inexplicably drop off the network, Harper suspects that something is amiss. But when a world-famous New Orleans author—and E.R.O.S. client—is decapitated in her mansion, Harper breaks the code of silence and contacts the police. They are as shocked as Harper to learn that all six women have been brutally murdered, each with a different weapon, and in a different city. And each time the killer has claimed the same bizarre trophy.

Horrified to find himself the prime suspect in the murders he reported Harper is swept into a secret manhunt led by the FBI’s Investigative Support Unit. While the FBI uses the technology of the future and the psychology of the past to trap the brilliant killer, Harper realizes that he alone stands a chance of luring the elusive madman into the open.

Carrying out a daring on-line impersonation, he places everything he has and loves directly in the killer’s path. As their secret dialogue unfolds, Harper discovers that the murderer is driven by a fear that haunts us all. But to make a weapon of this weakness, Harper must confront his marriage and ultimately his life.

With this chilling page-turner, Greg Iles spins an exquisitely intricate plot, infusing it with perfectly pitched erotic suspense and terror.