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—THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

# GRAY MATTER



## Gray Matter

*Nick Pirog*

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*Nick Pirog*

**Gray Matter** Nick Pirog

MEET THOMAS.

THOMAS IS HAVING A ROUGH GO.

HIS GIRL LEFT HIM.

HE'S ALONE ON THANKSGIVING.

HE'S OUT OF WAFFLES.

AND NOW SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL HIM.

His love life in shambles, Thomas Prescott returns to Seattle, the very place he fled from after his parents' deaths nearly a decade earlier. Just as Thomas is getting settled in, he sees a body floating in the private cove behind his boyhood home. It is a woman. But not just any woman. The governor of Washington.

As the suspense ratchets, and the twists unfold, Thomas is thrown into the middle of the biggest murder investigation in Washington state history. Prescott is forced to confront the demons from his past and unearths a new enemy, one that couldn't possibly be human, one that has haunted man since the dawn of time...

## Gray Matter Details

Date : Published (first published June 15th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Nick Pirog

Format : Kindle Edition 327 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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# From Reader Review Gray Matter for online ebook

## Gerald says

Funny guy Nick Pirog with another Thomas Prescott tale. Thomas is bright, juvenile and funny and in Gray Matter finds himself in his hometown of Seattle, involved in murder investigation that he not only has no business being involved in, but has been threatened with jail time if he does meddle. And he meddles. Lots of laugh out loud moments.

Nick is quick to mock people with "issues." For example, "All in all, the who's who of birth defects, personality disorders and vagabond of the street" just one of numerous examples in Gray Matter where I personally wish that he would show more sensitivity to folks who are "less than..."

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## ADignorantium says

Nick Pirog shows much improvement with 'Gray Matter', the second Thomas Prescott book. There were none of the frequent grammatical errors that were part of the charm of 'Unforeseen', the first Thomas Prescott novel.

I hate to admit that I was kinda looking forward to some spelling and grammar gaffs.

A year after finally solving the Tristen 'The MAINEiac' Grayer case, Thomas Prescott is once again single. He leaves Maine for his boyhood home in Seattle, which has been empty since the death of his parents. Upon arrival, Thomas goes through the motions of readying the house for habitation: Clearing cobwebs and shaking loose forgotten memories.

Just as Thomas is getting settled in, he sees a body floating in the private cove. It's a woman; a very important woman. ...and the police suspect Thomas of foul play.

I liked 'Gray Matter'. Though there were a few sluggish moments, it was interesting to see Nick Pirog's writing style evolve. The subplot seemed to come out of nowhere, but Mr. Pirog managed to tie it all together nicely.

All in all, 'Gray Matter' is a good read. I look forward to future Thomas Prescott novels from Nick Pirog.

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## Pamela says

The protagonist, Thomas Prescott, is a fantastic protagonist: Self-effacing, with a quick wit and a keen mind. The plots in this series have been very interesting and well paced. It is refreshing to read intriguing and unique storylines which features such a winsome character!

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## Nancy Kennedy says

This one popped up on my Kindle and I thought I'd read a couple pages and see if it's any good. Man, I read this one in 2 days! Very well written. The narrator reminds me a little bit of the guy in *The Martian*, with his dry wit and gumption. The last page nearly gave me a heart attack. I'll read more by Nick Pirog! Way better than the other "Gray" books!!! (Not dirty at all!)

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### **Jeffery A Richman says**

#### **A new interesting character**

Stumbled upon Nick Pirog just last week. I wasn't expecting much but Thomas Prescott is an interesting character. Lots of twists and turns. A fun read. Looking forward to further Thomas Prescott books..

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### **Sayed Hussam Radhi Hassan Alnajar says**

#### **Amazing**

Its hard to find something that i disliked in this novel although it is long it is never boring at any point of the book

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### **Shawn says**

I really like Nick Pirog's writing - he's funny and a great storyteller, and his books are among the most entertaining I've read recently.

Yes, he uses some words incorrectly (e.g. donning for dawning, etc.), and yes, it bothered me, but not enough to ruin my enjoyment of the book. Think he's fixed many of the grammatical and spelling mistakes since the other reviewers made the complaints. Did not find spelling or grammatical errors with noted frequency, and found much fewer than in other Kindle books I've read recently.

This book is two stories in one: a modern murder mystery, and a sort of old man walk through history - old / young man bonding story. I wholeheartedly recommend it and his previous book, *Unforeseen*, especially if you like the genre.

P.S. My only complaint is that he wraps up the books too quickly with too much murder and mayhem all at once, but again, does not stop me from recommending them!

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### **Julie Booth says**

I really enjoyed this book! I'll definitely look for some of his other books. Great "beach" reads - page turner, entertaining, great sense of humor. If you like Nelson DeMille's John Corey character, you will like Thomas Prescott.

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## **Sandy says**

I have such mixed emotions about this book. The reader in me says it was implausible, a little all over the place, had way too much ambition - could have taken a few things out and probably made it a better story that flowed well but, the bottom line is I really enjoy this author. The character of Thomas is maddeningly hilarious and there is pretty much non-stop action - there's always something going on. And the side story (Harold) in this book definitely kept me coming back dying to know what was going to happen. Don't look for this to be a literary masterpiece but if you are looking for what I call "a mindless novel" to lose yourself in and enjoy, read this book.

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## **Amy says**

The main character is an asshole and the things he does in the novel are not plausible. It's not really a mystery - it's a fantasy for 15 year old boys. He does have a couple of good one-liners so that's worth one star.

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## **Laurie says**

I love his style of writing and the humor mixed in .

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## **Greg Tymn says**

Sometimes, humor gets in the way of a story. An author can be too cute or have such an offbeat sense of humor that he loses the reader. That is clearly not the case in Gray Matter. Thomas' internal dialogue and word play was, at time, laugh-out-loud funny. And the story kept rolling along. On the more serious side, I liked the plot. Nick did a masterful job of keeping me interested and off-balance so that I didn't see the linkage necessary to solve the case prior to its reveal. Good job there.

There are a number of technical things that one might say about Nick's writing style, ability to develop characters and set scenes, etc. The other reviewers adequately addressed the strengths and glitches. I'll just say that he did a fine job in all areas and I felt good after reading this mystery. If there was any weakness in the novel, it was the abrupt ending. It worked for me, but a longer signoff would have worked too. Author's choice.

I'm looking forward to reading more of Nick's work and getting to know him and his characters a bit better. I liked Prescott a bunch.

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## **Holly says**

I'm all over the map on this one. I enjoyed that the protagonist was a sardonic asshole, but the characterization of everyone else was extremely shoddy. I also found myself empathizing more with the "bad cop"--who was bad, it has to be said, because he lobbied for the main character to be fired FROM THE POLICE FORCE after beating a suspect so badly he nearly died. So. . . yeah.

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### **Nicole says**

I made it all of seven chapters before I quit. It started with little details that pulled me out of the narrative: no one plays football at 8 am east coast time on Thanksgiving. Even the Macy's Parade doesn't start that early, but Prescott finds both on TV. Then he watches the sun set after 5 in Seattle on the same day despite the fact that in the Pacific Northwest, the sun has already gone down by that time. I know. I live here.

Still, I kept going because everyone makes mistakes on details, and maybe Pirog really knows nothing about the NFL despite its ubiquity. Five more chapters, though, and I realized this was a modern take on the noir detective genre that includes many of the things I like the least about it. A rundown of my pet peeves includes:

1. A non-stop wise-cracking narrator (Prescott) who is more obnoxious than funny
  2. As Prescott stewes over the fact the female detective is leading the way down to the beach, one of his reasons she should have followed him is "he has a penis," related without any obvious sense of irony.
  3. On the walk to the beach, Prescott suggests the female detective take off her top. (He's already been mentally impressed by her melons.)
  4. Prescott was kicked off the Seattle force for beating a suspect nearly to death, something he regrets only in that he didn't kill the guy.
  5. Prescott, the flawed but noble investigator, is being set up against his old colleague who has been introduced as incredibly arrogant but a little stupid and will probably turn out to be interested solely in climbing the political ladder at work in whatever soulless and amoral way necessary. I don't know for certain his character will turn out to be entirely flat, along with the whole narrative, but I'm not willing to waste my time reading this to be proven wrong.
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### **Harold Kasselmann says**

Enjoyable murder mystery with some humorous tidbits that may offend some people. So read it if you want a light-hearted mystery.

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