



★★★★★ **A Gritty, Imaginative, and Visceral Thriller**, June 10, 2009

By [Art Tirrell "author of The Secret Ever Keeps"](#)  (www.ArtTirrell.com) - [See all my reviews](#)

It is distressingly true that most first novels arrive with all the impact of a butterfly emitting gas over the Grand Canyon, but here is one that deserves a much better fate. The concept is fantastic - the killer selects victims we all detest; child molesters, drug dealers, terrorists, and then every Tuesday broadcasts his assassinations live on the net - and from the opening scenes to the gripping denouement, the story never fails to gain momentum. What more could a reader ask?

Adding just the right note of humor, the killer uses "Acme Co." devices - modeled after Wiley Coyote's classic cartoon contraptions (that never worked) as Wiley struggled to ambush the Roadrunner - but in this case the devices are humorously innovative; the ACME DRUG REHABINATOR (used to kill an evil drug dealer), and the ACME PEDIPHRAYER (a violent pedophile)- and always work perfectly. They become the first of a string of imaginative and very deadly remote-controlled weapons designed and built by the killer, and of course his fans quickly number in the millions.

Enter Seth Mathias, a man with a violent past, chosen by the killer to be his spokesman, and FBI special agent Karen Larsen, head of the elite anti-phishing group, and throw in would-be Nobel prize winning vitriolic computer genius Morgan Sicals, and you have the ingredients of a formidable task force with one goal: identify Screenshot. Except, they must do it all off the reservation. They make the decision to go for it but their best plans prove insufficient; the enemy is truly brilliant, and there is no way to trace him, or is there?

The reader is held in almost unendurable suspense as Seth, Karen and Morgan persevere through setback after setback, all leading to the fantastically tense and cliffhanging finale.

In case you don't get it, GET IT: Screenshot is the best novel I've read in many a moon. Highly recommended.

Art Tirrell is the author of "[The VITAMAN Effect](#)," available only on Kindle.