



Out of Range

C.J. Box

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A Joe Pickett novel from #1 "New York Times" bestselling author C.J. Box.

Game warden Joe Pickett returns in a twisting, action-packed tale of greed, power, and murder.

Joe Pickett is attempting to enjoy-all right, survive-his mother-in-law's wedding to a local big-shot rancher when he receives some disturbing news: Will Jensen, a fellow Wyoming game warden and a good friend, has killed himself. And Joe's been picked to temporarily run Jensen's Teton district.

Jackson, Wyoming, is a far cry from Joe's hometown of Saddlestring-it's the epicenter for many environmental extremists and an elite playground for the rich and powerful-and Joe quickly finds himself in over his head. Yet despite the pressures of his new job, he can't get his friend's suicide out of his mind. By all accounts, Will had changed in the last few months, becoming violent and unpredictable.

The closer Joe comes to the truth about Will's death, the more his own life spirals out of control-and he realizes that if he's not careful, he may end up as Jackson's next victim. "Out of Range" proves once again that C. J. Box is one of the most original and entertaining voices in mystery fiction."

Out of Range Details

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Author : C.J. Box

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From Reader Review Out of Range for online ebook

Helen Drake says

Another gripping tale of greedy elitist land developers doing dastardly deeds, starring my favorite fictitious game warden, Joe Pickett. I will go on to the next in the series but am taking a break from my new addiction to read a WWII saga....but, as Arnold says... (cue Austrian accent)...I'll be back!

Peggy says

I am a big C.J. Box and Joe Pickett fan. Joe is a game warden in Wyoming. He is married with 2 daughters. Joe struggles with feelings of inadequacy as a bread winner: game wardens are very poorly paid. But, he loves his job. Joe is very independent and often rubs authority the wrong way; but he is highly principled and follows his own moral compass. In this book Joe is being asked to temporarily work in another district because of the suicide of the game warden there. He leaves his family and goes. While he has a good marriage, in this book they are struggling, as all married couples do. His wife wants him to take the assignment, but is resentful of being left to manage without him. Joe finds the new district disturbing and the suicide of his friend inexplicable. Politics, environmentalist, wealthy ranchers, and renegade hunters all figure into a harrowing experience for Joe. He is tempted by a land developers wife, he is attacked, he is forced to shoot someone, he is lonely and scared. I love the layers of complexity of the emotions in this series juxtaposed with the rugged environment of the area.

Karolyn Sherwood says

One thing I love about reading is discovering a book you love by an author you've never read before. C. J. Box is one of those authors. (Ann Patchett is my other new favorite author.) I've never read his work even though I had seen his books in bookstores. Out Of Range is a great story. I picked it up because the story takes place in Jackson, Wyoming (where my WIP takes place. I wanted to read how a Wyoming native wrote about the same location).

Box is a storyteller, in the best sense of the word. His writing is pure and never gets in the way of the story. Specifically, the hero Joe Pickett (this is apparently his fifth Pickett novel) is a fully developed, complicated man. He seems authentic and yet relateable, even for someone who's never personally dealt with a game warden. But my favorite element of this novel is the number (at least five, maybe seven) of "bad guys" in the story. Box kept me turning the pages because so many of his characters made me nervous - I was anxious to find out who did what, and what they were going to do next.

I read this book in a couple days, and I'm very glad I did. I might even read another C. J. Box novel in the near future. I can't give it five stars because it seems a little cookie-cutter, but believe me when I say: I love cookies.

Four stars.

LJ says

OUT OF RANGE (Game Warden-Wyoming-Cont)- Ex

Box, C.J. – 5th novel in series

Putnam, 2005 – Hardcover

Joe Pickett has been called to Jackson Hole for temporary duty. The previous game warden has just committed suicide. Joe's reputation precedes him, and he's immediately caught up in local struggles between the old ways and new. At home, Joe's wife is trying to hold things together at home, but she's receiving anonymous phone calls.

*** Box excels at sense of place and creating interesting characters. This book has the classic elements of drama and suspense. But there is much more to it than that. This is a book about conflict on many different levels. It's intriguing, dark, and honorable and made me think. It is, I believe, Box's best book so far.

Leigh says

I wish this was a little stronger.

JoAnn says

This was my least favorite book so far, which is a bit depressing since the last book was my favorite.

For me I think it was the marital stress in this book. I know in a series that involves a married couple it is to be expected, but I didn't like it. For me Joe Pickett is the good guy with moral standards that happens to enjoy beauty in women. Who doesn't? My husband tells me when he thinks girls are hot and I never fail to point out the good looking guys. It's a good thing in a relationship. But good guy Joe Pickett almost strays from his beautiful wife after an encounter with a married women who isn't afraid show how little she cares. I'm still pretty sure he got duped, I guess we'll find out later or not at all.

Any who to get to my point, I know CJ Box doesn't pull punches... and I just hate to see the Pickett family fall apart...

This is why I read romance novels too, nobody wants to deal with marital problems while they're reading... at least I don't

Jill Kenna says

This book hit the ground running and didn't let up! I loved every second of it. I think this one was my favorite so far. Can't wait to read book #6!

Joe says

Not my favorite Joe Pickett. I wish Mr. Box had used real Jackson Hole geography and landmarks. I would have found it more interesting if I could have said, "I know where he's at now" kind of thing. It was ok though otherwise.

Robert James says

Didn't quite like this one as much as the preceding two books. Plot was terrific and the characters were again expertly drawn. Pickett and his wife show a few flaws this time out and Pickett proves to be more than someone who stumbles into a solution. Probably why I didn't like it as much because I kind of liked the way Pickett would come across the answers in the preceding books.

Sarah says

I enjoyed this book, mainly because it's set in Jackson Hole (is that the Bunnery that's mentioned?) but also because I had no idea how difficult a game warden's life is. Yes, I did sit in on JH planning commission meetings and recognized some of developers' arguments. The book was a fun vacation to a place I love.

Bryan Schmidt says

Fast paced page turner with well developed characters and some surprising twists and turns set in a unique setting. Well done. Recommended.

ElleEm says

This was a good, light read. I was aware that this was the 5th in a series but gambled that it would be fine as a stand-alone and I was right. Don't get me wrong there were events discussed at the beginning that I didn't have a clue about but it was brief and didn't have any bearing on this story. I enjoyed it being set out west and liked the main character. I will definitely read more of the series.

Hunter Shea says

The best of what is already an excellent series!

Bill Lancaster says

Authors such as Craig Johnson, Tony Hillerman, James Lee Burke and Bill Pronzoni and others have set the bar for mysteries that take place in the contemporary rural American West. C.J. Box is not yet ready to join them. Despite having written a slew of novels about Wyoming game warden, Joe Pickett, this novel lacked pace, believeable characters and a compelling plot.

Though reading about the beauty of Wyoming was engaging, I felt that the writing was average and most of the characters outside of Joe Pickett himself were two-dimensional.

As to the writing, here he describes a major female character:

"While she said that she was looking for authenticity, she had chosen the life of pretense – married to a man who possibly hated her and living with him in the resort town of Jackson Hole. He wondered what kept her there and why she had chosen Will. Had it been merely an attraction to a man in a uniform? Joe didn't think so. It was more, much more. Almost as if she had passively accepted being categorized by others because of her beauty and circumstances (whatever they had been) and was only now realizing that she could change them. When Will died, she found her replacement in Joe or so it seemed."

And it goes on like that. Writing without a spark.

The secondary characters are caricatures of themselves: the short tempered developer, the mean-spirited sheriff who has been voted out of office, the strident animal-rights activist. The list goes on.

If I were to recommend a mystery that takes place in the American West, I would surely choose a Walt Longmire novel by Craig Johnson over a novel by C.J. Box.

Michael says

Excellent for anyone's choice to jump in on this richly satisfying series about Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett and his travails with illegal hunters, greedy developers, over agressive environmentalists, and looney survivalists. This, the second in the series, has Joe transfer temporarily from the Bighorn Range region to the Jackson Hole territory due to the apparent suicide of a fellow game warden and old friend. This turf is even more shadowed by politics and the egos of the wealthy than his home territory and their nefarious schemes, which Joe must thwart. Plus, poor communication with his distant family and a seductress threatens his otherwise moral path.?
