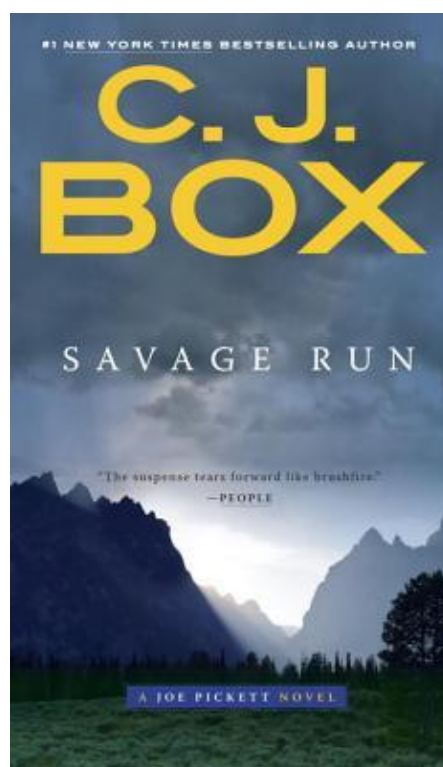




Savage Run

C.J. Box

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

C.J. Box's debut novel, "Open Season," with its memorable hero, thrilling plot, and vivid settings, was hailed by critics as "suspenseful" (New York "Daily News"), "fascinating" (USA "Today"), and "heartfelt" ("The Washington Post Book World"), "a high-country "Presumed Innocent" that moves like greased lightning" ("Kirkus Reviews"). Now Box returns with a gripping and suspenseful new mystery, as dramatic and brutal as its Wyoming setting.

When a massive explosion occurs deep within the forests of Twelve Sleep County and a colorful environmental activist appears to have perished in the blast, Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett is called to the scene to help investigate. The case is wrapped up quickly, explained as an environmental publicity stunt gone wrong, but Joe isn't convinced. He soon discovers clues that suggest a deadly conspiracy one that will test his courage, his survival skills, and his determination to do the right thing despite all costs.

Set against the rugged Wyoming landscape, "Savage Run" is a richly textured novel and an exciting confirmation of the talents of a writer hailed by Tony Hillerman as "a great storyteller."

Savage Run Details

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Author : C.J. Box

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From Reader Review Savage Run for online ebook

Sherri says

The second of the charming game warden Joe Pickett series finds Joe again in Wyoming's Bighorn mountain range. A famous ecoterrorist, out peacefully spiking trees with his bride of three days, is killed by an exploding cow. Joe is drawn into this crime and must meet with the cow's owner, who seems complacent about the deaths on his ranch land. Joe wants to know why this bizarre circumstance of facts doesn't phase the jerk.

Marybeth, Joe's wife, begins receiving phone calls from an old high school beau, who happens to be the guy blown up by said exploding cow.

And then the suspense begins. Body count begins to grow, environmentalists are in danger; and Joe is now busy with good and bad guys, and trying to figure out which is which. His surprise, anger and humor as he stumbles his path in this book, are typical Joe Pickett stuff, and you won't want to miss it.

The Wyoming landscape as described by C.J. Box will take your breath away, not to mention the twists and turns and ups and downs of Joe's life, sometimes you want to reach into the pages and help the poor guy.

Book Concierge says

Book # 2 in the Joe Pickett series starts with the death of an infamous environmentalist. A fire-spotter has noted the explosion, and the Sheriff, expecting some sort of poaching of elk, calls on the Wyoming Game Warden to join him in investigating. The bloody scene of destruction is not what they were expecting and the Sheriff seems particularly angry that Pickett is involved. "But," Pickett reminds him, "YOU called me to join you." The case is closed fairly quickly, but Joe isn't satisfied, and several other deaths among environmentalists increase his suspicions.

I love the Joe Pickett character. He's an honest-to-God "good guy" – highly principled, and deliberating carefully before acting. However, he does have a tendency to overreach and not consider the political ramifications of his black-and-white thinking. I guess I'd have to say that he is naïve and hasn't matured into the kind of warden he certainly is capable of becoming – yet. Those missteps are what make the plots of these books so interesting, and make Joe such a likeable character.

Box also is skilled at crafting a fast-paced page-turner. In this novel he moves back and forth between Joe, the killers, and Joe's wife, Marybeth, giving the reader short vignettes that slowly reveal the big picture. This kind of structure also helps build suspense.

And this book has one of the best opening lines – ever: *On the third day of their honeymoon, infamous environmental activist Stewie Woods and his new bride, Annabel Bellotti, were spiking trees in the forest when a cow exploded and blew them up. Until then, their marriage had been happy.*

I'll definitely keep reading this series.

?Susan? says

Joe Pickett is a family man and one of the few Game Wardens in Wyoming, he has a steady moral compass and is an intelligent, lawful man. In this second addition to the series Joe gets wrapped up in an environmental feud. After radicals set off an explosion in the deep woods, an investigation reveals that a cow and possibly two people were accidentally killed. Joe knows that there is more to it than that and goes back later to look into it further. When he is shot at with a long range rifle he knows his suspicions were correct and is now on foot and on the run in a heavily wooded, rugged terrain.

I have read quite a few books in this series and this one was not bad but I think the writing is better in the later books. It was nice to have a little more insight into Joe's personal life and how hard it was for he and Mary Beth, his wife, when he first took the job. I am looking forward to the newest release in this series, "Endangered ".

Alan Williams says

This is the second Joe Pickett novel and the series is getting stronger.

The series is set in some amazing scenic backcountry, and Joe Pickett is a pleasantly flawed lead character. Unlike many flawed heroes in crime novels, Joe is just human. He's mucked up a few times, but he believes in what he does.

Although I enjoyed the story, there was an element of predictability about it, but not so much that the overall story suffered, I think I would just rather have known a little less about what was going on in the background and therefore the way the story unfolded would have been a little less obvious.

The strengths of this series; the backcountry and Joe Pickett mean that I'll be returning to it again soon, for the third instalment

Madeline O'Rourke says

There's not much that is particularly notable about *Savage Run*, but I did get everything I needed from it: a super consumable mystery, just to kind of reset me and my reading mood.

As in *Open Season*, I still love this take on detective novels with a game warden at the fore. Box crafts an interesting backdrop to these stories, always giving plenty of attention to the environment and terrain, which I really enjoy. As for *Savage Run* in particular, I loved the ecoterrorism angle, but my favourite part was definitely the characters. Box is a bit miserable when it comes to female characters (both women and children), but the blokes were fun, and I loved the dynamics between Joe and Stewie.

It's nothing particularly extraordinary, but *Savage Run* is plenty enjoyable and I look forward to continuing with the series.

~?~Autumn♥♥ says

I enjoyed it as much the second time as I did the first time and will probably read it again!

MadProfessah says

SAVAGE RUN is the second book in C.J. Box's Warden Joe Pickett mystery series set in Saddlestring, Wyoming.

There are several good features of these books: they are relatively short (under 300 pages), feature characters and settings that are unusual (wide-open countryside, cowboys and other rural residents) and are relatively suspenseful.

There are problematic aspects of the books as well. Joe Pickett is VERY taciturn and shockingly inept when it comes to the political aspects of his job. He is stubborn and doesn't seem to make great decisions. He often puts himself in danger by following leads by himself without any back up. He doesn't appreciate the unwritten rules which maintain the power structures in his state.

SAVAGE RUN was interesting because the plot was basically about the fight between environmentalists and ranchers in the 1990s. The body count is larger than the previous book but this serves to raise the stakes of what and who are involved. In the end Joe is lucky to have survived his showdown with some "tree huggers" and their opponents.

Overall I enjoyed the book but I'm not convinced that these mysteries will be able to keep my attention to finish out the entire series.

Rating: 3.5 Stars.

Anthony Bellaleigh says

Joe Pickett #2 (the Murder Mystery sequel to Open Season) opens with a jaw dropping paragraph and then nicely propels you back into Joe's world at the edge of the Rocky Mountains.

If I'm honest, then it seemed to drift for a couple of chapters and I was wondering whether a serious case would ever emerge - and, how Joe would end up in the middle of it...? More fool me. I should be more familiar with cleverly crafted scene setting...

I recommend making sure you give yourself some serious reading time for the last two thirds, and particularly the last third as the story rips forwards from a light jog into a breathless chase and I (at least) found myself exhausted, frightened and running for my life on a dark mountainside (whilst nestling in the cosy confines of my city-bound sofa).

#3 is immediately on my to-read list. Which should tell you everything you need to know.

Eric says

Savage Run perhaps is not as good as the first book. It is still a very satisfying thriller in the Joe Pickett series.

Joe Pickett is a Wyoming game ward charged with overseeing the Big Horn Mountains in the northern part of the state. Mary Beth, Joe's wife, is a beautiful woman. As their 10 year daughter, Sheridan, observes of her mother: "Mom, you're a hottie." Mary Beth, went to college to become a lawyer. But she fell in love with Joe and they live the austere life on game warden's wages. This is an insecurity that bothers Joe knowing that she could have a live a life at a much higher of standard living if she decided not marry Joe. However, Joe loves his work and family and Mary Beth loves Joe. He counts himself very lucky.

The story starts of with Joe getting a call about an explosion in the forest. It turns out that explosives were attached to cow and was detonated. It also appears there were a couple of victims killed by the explosion but there are not enough of evidence to for sure to tell who or how many might have died. Joe is happy to let the law enforcement authorities handle the case. Joe doesn't have the best relationship with the Sheriff because of what happened in Book 1. But something is bothering Joe about what happened. Something is just not quite right about this bizarre event.

The story progresses and it becomes revealed there are assassins killing environmental extremists. The author does a pretty good job portraying the views of environmental extremists and the ranchers and oil/mining interests who want to exploit the natural resource of the public-owned in the America mountain West. In short, both sides of this heated argument have positive points and negative points and both are flawed to some extent. There are a couple parts that are a little over dramatic at times but doesn't detract from story much. To make things a little more interesting Joe finds out that Mary Beth used to hang out with a couple of the eco-terrorist types in college.

One of the things I love about these books is the back drop of the wild country in and around Yellowstone National Park. It doesn't hurt the Joe Pickett is a fly fisherman. All of the characters are pretty well developed and are easy to connect with as I listened to this story. Mr. Box also throws in a little western history to keep things interesting.

I listened to the audio book and the narrator does a good job with the story. The style is somewhat akin to a National Geographic TV show narration. He does a good job with characters though and makes the story easy to listen to.

C. J. Box is becoming one of my "go-to" authors for when I want to read good suspense thriller set in the wilderness of the American West. They are well written and I find the stories hard to resist. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Melissa says

I want to love these books because they came with such high recommendation. However, they are good but not wonderful! The main character is a fish and game warden, is very moral, and a bit too naive. I really hate to say it (because I should appreciate a moral, trusting character) but he was almost too good to be true. Oh, that is so sad to say. He is the kind of man who trusts in a handshake and expects that everyone will abide by the rules. I truly hope there are people like that still in the world though in what I've seen in my business world, it seems they are few and far between.

The story was interesting. A hired gun seems to be targeting environmentalists and Joe Pickett is chasing down the story. It begins with a famous tree hugger being blown up as he is walking through a cattle field (looking to do some eco-terrorism) and comes upon a cow strapped with C4. Joe gets called in to check out the scene and it becomes his quest to figure out what's going on in his neck of the woods. An interesting story, again, for some reason his simple nature actually rubs me a bit wrong - I just want him to be a bit tougher or less gullible - something I can't quite put my finger on.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

Although this series is growing on me, I wish Joe didn't make me think of Barney Fife. I think even his own daughter would be able to get the drop on him and take his weapon. The plot was really interesting, some good characters and some good historical comparisons. The negatives are that Joe seems to stumble upon clues and let's people get the drop on him.

Cathrine ?? says

3.5★ for book 2 in what has become my favorite *Man Lit* series. #nohasslereading

JoAnn says

3.5 stars

This book was a little more intriguing to me than the first. A lot less getting to know the characters and more detail to the surroundings and feelings, still just as stressful though.... lol

There is only one thing that has bothered me a little bit so far. I am not to sure (I haven't looked into it) but guessing from the writing I would say the first book on this series was the first book actually written by this author. I assume this because I feel he doesn't seem to trust the reader a whole lot yet. He plainly spells everything out for you and does not use a lot of subtext. There are many places in this book, especially the beginning, were things would have just clicked for readers even if he didn't explain it. I assume as the series continues this will diminish due to gained confidence in both writing and readers.

Still even with that pet peeve of mine it was still a good read. So far his books have been taking something from the past and modernizing it, in this book we get a modern range war, as well as a look at the history of range wars. Very intriguing. And Joe Pickett, happily married family man, that doesn't waste word, and has no luck with his gun is growing on me... :)

Angela says

Listened to this on road trip to Chicago; it kept our attention, and the plot was interesting. However, don't know if the third in the series will top my TBR list since there are so many other better books out there.

Suzanne says

First be foremost: I am very sensitive when it comes to violence against animals so some of this book was really sad and hard for me to read (like the wolf attack on the elks & Lizzie being shot). The plot in this book was interesting especially Mary Beth's past and Joe dealing with taking the moral high ground instead of the path with no backlash. I am really glad I started this Joe Pickett series and I actually grabbed Winterkill from the library today to this week.

My quick and simple overall: interesting read but if you are a huge animal lover like me, tread carefully.
