



## Nowhere To Run

*C.J. Box*

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**Updated cover of this Kindle edition.**

A mountain patrol leads Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett into a dangerous situation in this gripping novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author C. J. Box.

It's Joe Pickett's last week as a temporary game warden in the mountain town of Baggs, Wyoming, but his conscience won't let him leave without checking out the strange reports coming from the wilderness: camps looted, tents slashed, elk butchered. What awaits him is like something out of an old campfire tale, except this story is all too real—and all too deadly.

## Nowhere To Run Details

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# From Reader Review Nowhere To Run for online ebook

## Jon says

Tenth installment in the Joe Pickett series is a worthy entry. There are three fairly distinct parts that add up to a solid story. Box continues to weave violent stories with the story of a good family man trying to balance both sides. Great villains in this one. Some what disappointing ending. Good amount of Nate Romanowski.

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## Shannon says

The beginning of this - with Joe being on his own and stalked by two seemingly crazy guys in the mountains - creeped me out and made me anxious. However, as the book moved forward and the story/stories unwind to the grand finale, and all the pieces of the puzzle are put together it all made sense to me. I can't tell for sure of Box's critique of our government and how it works is totally dead on but I do know that I agree in principle that our government is way too big for it's britches and, when Box refers to those in high government offices going in making about \$150,000 a year but leaving office multimillionaires, I know he's right - it's the most frustrating thing in the world to me. I do not have the courage to go underground but boy it's sounding more and more like the right thing to do. I didn't like how Joe, who's be a victim of some of these high-up bureaucratic turds, still stuck to his 'it's the law' baloney - sometimes there are grey areas dude.....seriously. And I'm one of those damn government workers - can't wait to get out.

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## Mary says

I am liking all of C.J. Box's books but this is one of my favorites. In addition to the non-stop action I liked how Box dove deeper into Joe and how he feels about who he is and what he does. The fact that he questions himself and his job is real and honest. The fact that he even questions himself as a man, provider, husband, father is real. Box also did an excellent job of showing the reader more deeply how Joe's character and what he believes in affects the choices he makes everyday. In previous books this is brought up and addressed but in this book, Box really shows us how strongly Joe feels about what he believes in, the truth and doing his job right. And finally how all of this plays in with his relationship with Nate. They clearly care and respect each other but in this book they are faced with addressing how different they really are. And their struggle to support and be there for each other at the same time stand true to their personal code was excellent. But while Joe was struggling with himself and he and Nate were struggling with their differences, Box also showed how people, like the Kline brothers struggle with their choices and how they struggle to be true to themselves as well. The ending was excellent. Box did an amazing job of portraying how difficult this situation was for everyone, as individuals and for their personal causes.

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## Ryan says

I have been a pretty avid Joe Pickett fan since Open Season.

Nowhere to Run was an exciting book. Frankly, the first hundred or so pages were some of the best of the

series. However, I did read the whole book.

I believe that this will be my last Joe Pickett book. I have just grown very weary of this series. I don't understand the need to jam in the political stuff. The series was better when these themes were more subtle. I liked reading about Joe the good guy, not about how the federal government is out to get us.

I will add that I am getting weary of how all this bad stuff keeps happening to Joe. If Joe solved this many mysteries and murders, he would be much more than a game warden. I understand that these are fictional books, but the events are getting a bit hard to accept as fictional reality if that makes sense.

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### **Michael says**

Joe Pickett, a Wyoming game warden, comes across a pair of evil brothers hiding out illegally in a remote mountainous area of the State forest. He faces many dangerous challenges, and as usual his stubborn determination to do the right thing with little help from inept and corrupt law enforcement saves the day. The formula works because of his grounding in his family, a savvy wife and wise kids. A man of few words, his actions speak louder than words. We all wish we could have his moral compass. I am addicted to this series, so take my bias into account.

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### **Ed says**

#10 in the Joe Pickett series. Finalist 2011 Barry Award for Best Novel. Pickett is wrapping up his year of exile in Baggs, Wyoming and feels it wouldn't be right to leave his successor with no status on several issues of game theft, looted cabins and a missing runner. Joe spends his final week on horseback through the most wild backcountry and encounters a set of twin poachers who almost kill him before he escapes. They certainly shake his confidence and make him question his manhood. While on medical leave, he returns to the mountains accompanied by his friend Nate Romanowski.

Joe Pickett series - Heading into the Wyoming backcountry while responding to a hunting complaint, game warden Joe Pickett senses someone lurking in the woods. Rumors have been flying about this region ever since a world-class female runner disappeared here a few years ago. But it's not until Joe is ambushed and almost killed and staggers out of the forest talking about twin survivalist-type guys and a lone woman that things get really crazy. The runner's parents, the media, and mercenaries descend. An intense story of multiple crimes that asks rhetorically how much government interference is mandatory when people just want to be left alone.

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### **Brian O'Leary says**

Joe Pickett is a great character and I highly recommend the series to anyone. But, in my opinion, this book was a bit too repetitive and was missing some of the classic Pickett elements. I like when Joe tracks a criminal in the wilderness and shares his insights with the clues he sees and how to interpret them, but this book has way too much tracking, as a matter of fact, that is pretty much all there is to the book. He tracks the criminals, find them, has to run away, finds a recluse, tracks some more, gets back home, brings Nate with him and tracks again. Too much. This book is also missing the parallel family issue that is in all his other

books. Joe is always trying to solve a crime and deal with a new home issue, which makes him seem very human, but that element is not in this book.

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### **Giovanni Gelati says**

You may flog me now. This is actually the first time I have read C.J. Box and his hero Joe Pickett. I have no excuses why it took me so long to read my first one, only regrets that I have not been involved as a reader sooner. Maybe I am not the only one out there that hasn't read the fine works of C.J. Box. If that is the case then let it be known to the uninitiated that he has won numerous awards: The Edgar, Anthony, Macavity, Gumshoe, and Barry awards as well as the French Prix Calibre .38 and the French Elle magazine literary award. His novels have been translated into twenty- two different languages. Not too shabby. Nowhere To Run finds Joe Pickett in his last week as the temporary game warden in an isolated town where some funny business has been going on. Instead of just riding out the time and calling it a day, he can't let it go and has to investigate the mysterious goings on. Would we expect no less from the man of more? I don't think so. Being a first timer, I enjoyed the characteristics that make this guy who and what he is. In fiction right now there are very few horse riding, modern time detectives and hero types. I enjoyed the total originality of the character, the manner in which C.J. Box not only constructs Pickett but the surrounding microcosm and the people that inhibit it. This is not an urban affair and for me that was more refreshing than the mountain high air the characters were breathing.

C.J. Box for me stands apart in the genre, which foot you can say he has it in would be a matter for another discussion. Is he a western, mystery, thriller or action/suspense author? Nowhere To Run is all that and one heck of a fun ride. I plan to backtrack and get my hands on the rest of his work as I feel compelled to find out what I missed before this. What makes Joe Pickett who and what he is? Where did he start and how did he arrive at Nowhere To Run? For me, that is why Box has won all the awards. He has created in me the thirst, the desire to embrace Joe Pickett and inhabit his world and learn as much about him as possible and enjoy the ride with him. I have some catching up to do, how about you? If you have read C.J. Box and his amazing character Joe Pickett, what is your favorite novel? Have you read his stand alone efforts as well: Three Weeks To Say Goodbye & Blue Heaven?

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### **Bryan Higgs says**

I was hoping that this was my introduction to a new author whose books I'd enjoy.

Not really. The book held my attention, but there was far too much of a super-Libertarian focus to it. As usual, those that hold a blind belief in small government confuse the excesses of government (which we clearly have in the US) with socialism, when in fact the excesses of government here have much more to do with oligarchy and the rich running rampant over the normal people -- the opposite of socialism as it should

be practiced.

Add to that the feeling that the characters were not terribly realistic, and that the hero is idealistic, but seemingly not terribly competent, and I was disappointed.

I have another of his books from the library, so I'll see what it's like, but I'm not thinking this author is a keeper for me...

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## **Dorothy says**

After successively reading two relatively long and dense literary novels with complicated plots, I felt the need for something simple and undemanding. I thought of C.J. Box's Joe Pickett series.

This is actually the tenth book in that series. Hard to believe I've read that many; they all sort of elide together in the memory.

I like Joe Pickett and his family. He's an honorable man trying to do a job that he loves and believes is important. His wife and daughters are believable people with whom the reader can empathize.

In the last novel, the Picketts learned that the foster daughter who they thought was dead was very much alive and living in Chicago in rather desperate circumstances. They brought her home but she has many problems emanating from her hard life and she is a disruptive influence in the family, constantly at war with her two sisters.

Joe had been sent away from his home and family for a year to be the temporary game warden in Baggs, Wyoming. At the beginning of this book, he's in his last week of that assignment and looking forward to going home. Somehow the reader suspects that this is not going to go off on schedule.

The first part of this book is a nail-biting thriller in which Joe comes up against two seemingly superhuman mountain men (brothers) who have been terrorizing the region and, most importantly from Joe's point of view, breaking game laws. When he tries to hold them accountable for their breaches of the law, their ruthless and violent nature is revealed. They follow him as he leaves their camp, eventually attacking him and his horses. They kill the horses, wound him, and take all his supplies. He's left with nothing but his service weapon and the clothes on his back.

Of course, Joe is used to surviving in the wild, so, in spite of his serious leg wound, he continues on his way down the mountain, even as he's being tracked by a pack of wolves - wolves that aren't supposed to be there.

Eventually, he happens upon the cabin of a recluse woman who dresses his wound and shelters him. But then the crazy brothers, who are friends and protectors of the woman, show up and Joe has to escape out a back window and later watches from a distance as the three burn the cabin.

Okay. So far the story was an exciting, page-turning read, as we wonder how Joe is going to escape from another fine mess he's gotten into. But then the narrative takes a turn and becomes essentially a right-wing libertarian screed. Government bad! Mountain men good! Even when they terrorize the neighborhood and destroy other people's property, slaughter wildlife, attack a game warden just trying to do his job, and eventually kill at least four people. They just want to be left alone! And being left alone to do as one pleases

is the highest good in this philosophy.

A great proponent of this philosophy is Joe's friend, Nate Romanowski, and most of the arguments for it are spoken by him, as were, in the last book, the arguments regarding denial of human-caused climate change. He finds a soul mate in the woman recluse on the mountain, both of them great fans of Ayn Rand, and we are treated to their admiring discussion of *Atlas Shrugged* and their denigration of European socialism.

One suspects that C.J. Box, too, is an admirer of Ayn Rand and that his writing is influenced by her. He manages to get those arguments against government and any kind of regulation into every one of his books, and always - ALWAYS! - the law enforcement authorities from the local sheriff to the FBI are corrupt and only out to thwart the work of the only honorable man, Joe Pickett. Joe Pickett who strongly objects to being referred to as "the government man," even though that's exactly what he is.

I don't know. The plot of this book has holes that a herd of pronghorns could run through and I'm beginning to lose patience with Box, but then I've never read *Atlas Shrugged* so before I write him off completely, maybe I should read it. At the same time, I would encourage him to study the benefits of European socialism a little more closely and with an open mind.

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## **L says**

This begins as a nail-biting, harrowing tale. Joe Pickett is trapped in the mountains, at the mercy of a couple of seemingly superhuman, ruthless, violent men who have been terrorizing the region. He is injured. His horses have been slaughtered. He has no supplies and no way to contact anyone in "the world." A strange recluse saves his life and gives him temporary respite, but there is no hiding from these men. It's looking pretty bleak. Since this is less than 1/2 way into the novel, it isn't much of a spoiler to note that he eventually finds himself in a hospital. The problem is not solved, of course. No one can find any evidence that any of what he reports actually happened. There is nothing. Bring in Pickett's dreadful mother-in-law, problems with the foster daughter, now a teen, and a brief reintroduction to Nate--easily as ruthless and superhuman as "the bad guys". Wyoming is, of course, absolutely beautiful. So far, fabulous story. Unfortunately, Box takes the reader deep into a twisted right-wing rant.

Actual spoiler--The rant begins with the back-story on the violent brothers, past victims of an immoral land-grab by a crooked, greedy politician wielding eminent domain like a club. Ok, we have some psychological motivation. However, by the end of the final confrontation, everything these violent men have done is somehow blessed by Nate and Box, because they just want to be left alone. Apparently that justifies claiming public land for themselves, terrorizing locals and tourists, slaughtering animals, murder and everything else this pair has done because government is bad. The best Pickett can come up with to justify the confrontation is that it's his job as game warden, because they're breaking the law re game, even though he sympathizes with these two--after they killed his horses and almost killed him. What?!? As for the runner who disappeared years ago and has been hiding in the mountains, in league with these brothers, she somehow has to go underground in order to be free. This is never, ever explained. Her father is evil. Ok. And the need to run from the rest of society, including her poor, heart-broken mother? Well, who knows? The right-wing, libertarian slant is always part of Box' novels, but it's over the top in this one and pretty much undercut all that was good in the book.

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## **Paula says**

I have read other Joe Pickett stories. After reading this one, I feel wet, tired and isolated.

Joe is the most beat up Game Warden I know. He's ethical and it gets him into trouble EVERY time. His wife Mary Jo has her own troubles with her very manipulative Mother. He doesn't play well with the political higher ups. His children are bored with life in rural Wyoming.

The landscape is wild and free, and desolate. Don't get into trouble, because help is far away. On one of the last days of his "penance" assignment near Baggs, he plans to ride the country and turn it over to the next guy in good shape. He stumbles on the twins- Camish and Caleb and his nightmare misadventure begins. His horses are killed, he's shot at with an arrow, he loses his gear and he is all alone.

When he escapes and starts telling his story to the authorities, no one believes him. The twins have cleaned up well.

Never one to leave things be, he enlists the aid of Nate, an in-hiding fugitive from the law. Together they fight off the twins, learn about the political intrigue that caused Camish and Caleb to live off the land in the mountains and rescue a woman who does not want to be found.

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## **Minty McBunny says**

This book was ok, not up to the usual high caliber of this series. The story seemed really dragged out and the mystery was not all that compelling. I was glad that Joe's family was not imperiled this time, but I would have liked to see their storyline advance a bit.

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## **LJ says**

First Sentence: Three hours after he'd broken camp, repacked, and pushed his horses higher into the mountain range, Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett paused on the lip of a wide hollow basin and dug in his saddlebag for his notebook.

Game Warden Joe Pickett is making the last pass before going home through the territory he has been covering for the past year. He's following up on reports of vandalism and other hunter's game butchered out. He doesn't expect to run into twin brothers who resent being asked to follow the rules and nearly cost Joe his life. He also doesn't expect the only reason he escapes is a woman who may have been an Olympic contender but disappeared. His determination to enforce the law and to possibly rescue the woman sends Joe, with his friend Nate, back into the mountains and an old-West showdown.

Box writes books that are entertaining, exciting and occasionally touching. He also writes book that make you think about the bigger issues and does it in such a way that doesn't preach or become didactic, but makes you weigh both sides of the question and make your own choice. That is a real talent.

The character of Joe Pickett is one of an average man; very human, married, loves his family, loyal to his friends. He learns he is not invincible, but believes in his job even it's dangerous and, perhaps, not



smart..."It's my job. I do my job." Even his wife, Marybeth, acknowledges his job is who he is..."You do what you do because you're hardwired for it. You get yourself into situations because you have a certain set of standards..." That relationship and those principles give Joe the structure that defines him.

The interaction between Joe and the other characters is believable, and occasionally humorous. In this book, Box has given Joe two very challenging enemies; both in terms of surviving against them, but opposition of views on issues that are very timely.

One thing, of which I am becoming very tired, is the overuse by authors of the ignorant, obstructive, jealous superior official. Yes, I know it all-too-often exists, but it has become rather cliché.

The pacing is wonderful; it fluctuates between tension and rest. Box's descriptions demonstrate his knowledge and love of Wyoming, and shares that with us by taking us along and letting us see what Joe sees, both in terms of its beauty and potential danger. The dialogue has a natural flow and refreshingly little profanity.

This is a very good story. I became so involved, it was a one-sitting read for me and I am now anxious for the next book.

NOWHERE TO RUN (Lic. Inv-Joe Pickett-Wyoming-Cont)- VG

Box, C.J. – 10th in series

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## **Rex Fuller says**

This is the one of the series I have the most affection for, now having read all of them. Others, Breaking Point comes to mind first, are more impressive to me. But this one feels the best. A very simple story. The ongoing palpable erosion of freedom sets events in motion where Pickett is nearly killed, then against good judgment and what he might really want to do, goes back to do his job. Joe still believes he is not part of the problem that is taking freedom away but he is relying more and more on hope that he is right.

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