



## Hostage Zero

*John Gilstrap*

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**Hostage Zero** John Gilstrap  
**Reprinted Edition**

"Gilstrap Is A Master Of Action And Drama." --Gayle Lynds

Hostage rescue expert Jonathan Grave goes where the government can't. An innocent man has been shot and two young people are missing. But tracking them down is just the beginning. To keep them and his covert team alive, Jonathan plunges into the heart of an ugly secret whose insidious path reaches from one of the world's most remote places into the highest corridors of power--and he must defeat enemies who are willing to kill to keep the truth from being revealed. . .

## **Praise For John Gilstrap's Thrillers**

"A Great Hero. . .A Really Exciting Series." --Joseph Finder

"One Of The Finest Thriller Writers On The Planet." --Tess Gerritsen

"A Tour De Force!" --Jeffery Deaver

## **Special Excerpt From John Gilstrap's Newest Thriller! Damage Control**

## **Hostage Zero Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2012 by Pinnacle (first published July 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780786032266

Author : John Gilstrap

Format : ebook 448 pages

Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery Thriller, Suspense

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# From Reader Review Hostage Zero for online ebook

## Skip says

The second book in the kidnapper rescue specialist, Jonathan Grave series. Two 13-year olds are kidnapped from a school for kids with jailed parents, sponsored by Grave. He and Boxer, along with their new colleague, ex-Sheriff Gail Bonneville are pissed off. A local hermit saves one of the boys and then they set off to unravel the reason for the kidnapping, which goes high into the US government. Gilstrap's high octane stuff culminates with a daring attack on a cocaine manufacturing plant in Colombia.

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## Jennifer Brown says

There's nothing like enjoying a digital book you have checked out from the library and it expiring before you have a chance to finish it! Living life on the road, I had to wait until I got home to get the paperback copy of it because of 5 other people waiting for it!! (And, no, I do not buy digital books if I have the option of paperback. I'd rather buy those because I know it'll sit on my shelf ready to be reread and not disappear like the OTHER kind!)

So this book...I love the way John Gilstrap writes. His words just suck me in and keep me wanting more!! This one had Dig and Box get ANOTHER member in their group. Harvey is a vet that doesn't have much options in life. I loved how he brought a sort of realness to the experience. Boxer does everything without thinking and Digger has a pretty much one track mind. Harvey was the one who wanted to fight for everyone (so he has a conscience?) and voiced his opinion. After two kids are kidnapped from RezHouse (a home for criminal's kids founded by Jonathan), the group set out to find them. Their journey brings them to Colombia and the life described there is awful. I know that stuff like this does happen in reality, but reading it (whether it's true or false) makes it worse. The ending did feel a little rushed at a few points where I was expecting more action. It was still enjoyable and still makes me want more! Bring on the next one!!

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## Alex Ander says

Hostage Zero, the second book in the Jonathan Grave series, seemed to be better than the first book, but I can't put my finger on the reason. Perhaps, I'm getting to know the characters better. The foul language is still present, but at least there are no sex scenes that pop up, having nothing to do with the story. Overall, a good read. If it were an option, I'd prefer to give the book 4.5 stars (.5 stars off for the language).

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## Maureen DeLuca says

I'm giving this a 3.5 read- with a splash of a 4 star read. HOSTAGE ZERO is the second of the Jonathan "Digger" Grave novels. "Digger" is a hostage negotiator who does little negotiating and more covert rescuing, rescuing people the government can't or will not attempt to repatriate with their families.

Digger runs an orphanage called Resurrection House, and one early morning someone broke in and then

kidnapped a couple of his boys - Jeremy Schuler and Evan Guinn - shooting the caretaker in the process. Not only will Digger do everything in his power to get these 2 boys back- but the bigger question is WHY on earth were they taken to begin with?

With Digger and his team they will do everything in their power to get these boys back safely. The story moves from location to location –from the wilds of Alaska to the heat and humidity of Colombia – and slowly but surely the stories merge and we make sense of the kidnappings.

Then comes the mission to get the boys back and there you have your good shoot 'em up, blow 'em up read, and in this, involves Columbia, cocaine country, and child slavery.

There was one or two times where I lost some of the plot in this story- maybe because the author really went into such detail - but that didn't stop me from just plowing through it- I did enjoy this book and I really do love the Jonathan Digger Grave character and all of his crew members. When ever I am in the mood for this type of 'hero' book- this is one of my 'go to series' !!

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### **Jim says**

The name of the main character is 'Digger Grave' and the rest follows at about that level. Digger has no confidence in the rule of law or due process, but prefers to use his insider status and vast network of personal friendships to set right the issues at hand. Since there are no gray areas, it's a fast read ("breakneck pace") and a "roller coaster ride" (meaning the story builds up slowly and then slides rapidly down through a series of forced turns to its inevitable conclusion).

It's an easy read and might make a better graphic novel than a paperback.

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### **Patti Mallett says**

It was hard to put down, so I mostly didn't. I would definitely read another Jonathan Grave story!!

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### **Dee Haddrill says**

I'm so glad I have come across this series of books starring Jonathan Grave. He is a hostage rescue specialist who gets in and gets the job done, regardless of how many bad guys he has to kill to achieve his goal. I really liked the inclusion of Harvey in this one, to bring a moral code that can sometimes be forgotten in the quest to rescue people. I loved his interactions with Jonathan and Boxers. Excellent story, well-written thriller with great characters; this is a fantastic series and I am moving straight on to the next one.

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### **Ed says**

#2 in the Jonathan Grave series. Finalist 2011 Shamus Award for Best Paperback. Non-stop action from

Virginia to Colombia and Alaska. Ex-sheriff Gail Bonneville, No Mercy (2009), Is a lead investigator with Graves team. There is no romantic involvement yet, but indications are that it is looming. A very readable page turner.

When two teenage boys are inexplicably kidnapped from a Virginia residential school for children of incarcerated parents, Freelance hostage rescue operative Jonathan "Digger" Grave and his crew set out to locate the victims and apprehend the abductors. Then one of the boys is drugged and left to die in a field, saved only by the fateful intervention of a passing homeless man, and Grave's investigation begins to turn up leads that point to government and organized crime connections.

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## **Jory Strong says**

Loved it! Even better, there are more books in the series.

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## **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

The 2ND book in John Gilstrap's Jonathan Grave Series featuring extraordinaire freelance hostage rescue operative Jonathan "Digger" Grave,

is a great follow-up to No Mercy [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6... .](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6...)

An intricate, multilayered plot with several storylines woven into the story beginning with the kidnapping of two teenage boys from a school for children of incarcerated parents, which Jonathan has a vested interest in, it soon leads him and his team into the world of corrupt politicians, drug lords and the cocaine factories in Colombia.

The story moves along at a great pace filled with suspense and intrigue with twists and turns at every corner.

The obstacles the team faces seem at times so farfetched but the author somehow makes it seem plausible and believable. Never mind that I am totally out of my depth when it comes to all the gadgets and military tactics that we are shown in the story....it comes together in a way that doesn't detract from the plot.

The character development is great with some memorable characters that you can't help engaging with.

Enjoyed the dialogue and interaction between the characters and Jonathan Grave's continually unfolding back-story,

Some quotes that I liked -

**“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing'?”**

**“You have to learn to cope with the reality of what is, he heard Father Dom telling him.**

**When bad things happen to us”**

**“He remembered his drill sergeant from a million years ago in Basic Training telling him that the only life worth living is the one worth dying to protect.**

**“Harry Truman had said it best: If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.”**

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## **Miles says**

A couple of years ago I read John Gilstrap’s first novel No Mercy and loved it. The novel introduced us to a new kind of hero, a hostage negotiator who does little negotiating and more covert rescuing, rescuing people the government can’t or will not attempt to repatriate with their families.

No Mercy was an absolutely thrilling thriller and laid down a terrific foundation for Jonathan Grave’s exploits but Hostage Zero, despite a brilliant premise doesn’t quite live up to his first book in the Grave series. The ending is rushed and although there were a few unexpected moments throughout I always had a feeling I knew how things would play out – there were no edge of the seat defining moments for me which was a shame.

Jonathan Grave is an amazing character and one of my favourite I’ve read over the last few years. He’s cool, reserved, knows what he wants and how to achieve it – either as part of a well-oiled team or on his own. Digger as he is affectionately known to his tight knit unit is certainly back with a bang and when a group of men enter his orphanage called Resurrection House, kidnap a couple of his boys - Jeremy Schuler and Evan Guinn - shooting the caretaker in the process, our protagonist will stop at nothing to get the boys back.

The story moves from location to location –from the wilds of Alaska to the heat and humidity of Colombia – and slowly but surely the stories merge and we make sense of the kidnappings and why the need for a late night raid.

As you would expect from a book of this type there are plenty of explosions, enough killing to satisfy the blood thirsty among us and a few sensitive moments to give a little light and shade. It isn’t all out guns for glory type action, there are some well thought out scenarios and although the dialogue wasn’t as fluent or as powerful as No Mercy it kept the book moving along nicely. The interactions between Boxers and Grave and Harvey and Grave were entertaining to say the least.

Utilising the newest satellite navigation and technology the book moves at a fairly frenetic pace and before you know it the book is over and you’re eagerly anticipating the next adventure in the Grave series. Full of testosterone fuelled encounters, Jonathan Grave isn’t afraid to pull the trigger; I’m certainly looking forward to his next adventure.

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## **amy says**

What John Grisham does for lawyers, John Gilstrap does for men and women of the armed forces.

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**JoAnn/QuAppelle says**

Somewhat improbable thriller, but fast-paced and a book that kept my interest. If the parts about Columbia are accurate, I am horrified.

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**Jan says**

This second book in the series was a definite page turner of non-stop heart pounding action. So glad I found this series, and can't wait to read more.

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**Elyse says**

A fast-paced, chilling addition to the series featuring this kinda-former black ops character, Digger Grave.

Plenty of twists, turns, and drama in the plot. And I appreciate that there are two strong females in continuing roles for Digger's "business," with the addition of Gail.

I didn't enjoy it as much as the first. I think that says more about me than it does about Gilstrap or his writing style. In 2017, it feels to me as if there are too many renegades in all directions in the United States, playing fast and loose with the rules of civilization and law enforcement. So Digger didn't feel as much of a robust hero for me this time and I think that's why. I did like that Gilstrap wove in some brief ethical conversations throughout the novel on precisely these points, but I largely disagreed with his characters' conclusions.

I almost put it down. Then decided to just let it be a fiction novel for the pure romp and intrigue.

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