



**Title:** The Bitterroots

**Author:** C.J. Box

**Description:**

Former police officer Cassie Dewell is trying to start over with her own private investigation firm. Guilty about not seeing her son and exhausted by the nights on stakeout, Cassie is nonetheless managing...until an old friend calls in a favor: she wants Cassie to help exonerate a man accused of assaulting a young girl from an influential family.

Against her own better judgment, Cassie agrees. But out in the Big Sky Country of Montana, twisted family loyalty runs as deep as the ties to the land, and there's always something more to the story. As Cassie attempts to uncover the truth, she must fight against the ghosts of her own past that threaten to pull her back under.

**Reviews**

[The Washington Post:](#)

You suspect right away that the Montana forest fire on the first page of C.J. Box's fourth Cassie Dewell mystery isn't just there for the atmospheric. It turns out, though, that the frightening blaze is not the novel's Chekhovian gun. That role unexpectedly goes to ex-cop-now-PI Dewell's 14-year-old son, Ben, who is in the throes of his first teen crush. Sweet, sulky Ben is the center of Dewell's life—her soldier husband Jim died in Afghanistan—and it's rough on both Ben and his mom when she leaves Bozeman, Mont., to investigate what looks like a phony sexual assault charge in a county known to be controlled by a ruthless ranching family. Dewell barely survives the brutal Kleinsasser clan, but she gets help from a feminist law firm, a compromised cop with a conscience, and an abused ranch employee out for revenge. Likable, canny, persistent, messy-haired and slightly dumpy Dewell is also fortified—bless her heart—by Hostess chocolate-covered doughnuts.

[The Associated Press:](#)

Box's characters are well developed, his writing is vivid, the tension runs high, and the plot unfolds at a rapid pace.

[Publishers Weekly \(starred review\):](#)

Vividly etched characters and a realistic plot lift this outing, and the well-done Montana setting is a plus. Box remains at the top of his game.

[Kirkus \(starred review\):](#)

Cassie, an ex-cop single mother, isn't one to back down, especially since she wonders why anyone would take all the trouble to stop an investigation of a case that was as rock-solid as this one's supposed to be. An appealing new heroine, a fast-moving plot, and a memorably nightmarish family make this one of Box's best.

[Booklist \(starred review\):](#)

Corrupt towns are a staple of both crime fiction and westerns, as are twisted families ruled by evil patriarchs. Here, Box entwines those tropes with a harrowing subplot involving Cassie's son, Ben, and fashions a snare that will render readers utterly immobilized until they've closed the book. Game warden Joe Pickett may be Box's main man, but Cassie is equally compelling, and readers will be delighted to have her back. Not content with merely ruling Wyoming, Box has become the dominant mystery/thriller author of the mountain West and deservedly so.

#### [CrimeReads:](#)

From the moment she was first introduced to readers in *The Highway* (2013), Cassie Dewell has been a fan favorite, and Box has developed her brilliantly over the course of four novels, turning her into one of the best female protagonists the genre has to offer. While there are some similarities between Cassie and Joe Pickett—Box's Wyoming game warden and star of his #1 New York Times bestselling series—mainly their work ethics and willingness to see a job through to the very end no matter where it leads, Dewell is unique, and her personality is much different than Joe's. The same too can be said about the feel of the two series in general, with Dewell's books a tad darker and grittier, while also featuring some of the most terrifying villains Box has ever created.

Expertly plotted and filled with nonstop suspense, *The Bitterroots* is another must-read from C.J. Box, and one of the hottest crime thrillers hitting store shelves this year.

#### [The Providence Journal:](#)

This is thoughtful crime-thriller reading at its level best, told in typically sparse Box prose and packed with characters who excel at pursuing their own agendas at everyone else's expense. A tour de force.

#### [The Denver Post:](#)

Of course, things aren't quite what they appear to be in C.J. Box's latest novel. Box, best known for his Joe Pickett books, brings his well-honed writing skills and his love of the Western landscape to this new series.

#### [BookPage \(starred review\):](#)

Box is in top form here, gilding his reputation for finely crafted suspense novels of the New West—a place you wouldn't necessarily want to live but that is endlessly intriguing to read about.

#### [The Real Book Spy:](#)

Though the crime thriller genre is full of talented writers, nobody does it quite like C.J. Box, who remains one of the elite storytellers alive today. As his fans have come to expect, *The Bitterroots* has plenty of twists and turns, as Box again shows his ability to keep readers guessing right up until the very end...From the moment she was first introduced to readers in *The Highway* (2013), Cassie Dewell has been a fan favorite, and Box has developed her brilliantly over the course of four novels, turning her into one of the best female protagonists the genre has to offer...Expertly plotted and filled with nonstop suspense, *The Bitterroots* is another stunner from C.J. Box, and a clear favorite for top crime thriller of the year.

#### [Crime Review UK:](#)

There is much to enjoy about C.J. Box...there is always an almost poetic depiction of the land and the wildlife in Montana or North Dakota. The detail about nutty religious sects and the number of guns wielded by your average citizen is amusing, as is the influence a determined family can bring to dictate what goes on in a sparsely populated rural county...[Cassie] comes across as both professional and feisty once she gets her

teeth into the case, a strong woman who can handle herself up against tough ole mountain boys up to no good.