



**Title:** Winterkill

**Author:** C.J. Box

**Description:**

Joe Pickett's pursuit of a killer through the rugged mountains of Wyoming takes a horrifying turn when his beloved foster daughter is kidnapped. Now it's personal.

**Reviews**

**Booklist (starred review):**

Box makes it a resounding three for three with this worthy successor to last years celebrated *Savage Run*, which followed his acclaimed debut, *Open Season* (2001). The story opens with another galvanizing set piece -- a Box specialty -- as Joe Pickett, game warden of Wyoming's Twelve Sleep County, is caught in a mountain blizzard with a dead body beside him in his pick-up truck. The body belongs to a federal bureaucrat, much hated by the locals, who may have been killed by a group of survivalists who call themselves the Sovereigns. Pickett isn't sure he buys the connection, but when a couple of bloodthirsty FBI agents arrive in town determined to use the incident as an excuse to attack the Sovereigns, à la Waco, Joe knows he's landed in an all-too-familiar position -- caught in the middle between two sets of bad guys, one of whom works for the government. Matters turn personal when Joe's foster daughter is kidnapped by her troubled mother, now living in the Sovereign camp. Box handles this controversial material superbly, showing vividly how government rigidity causes human tragedy in the name of patriotism. Pickett remains an utterly sympathetic, Gary Cooperish hero, but as the series develops, he has begun to darken noticeably. Box's version of Mr. Smith lives in Wyoming, but Washington keeps coming to him, clear-cutting individual human lives with its ever more virulent strain of bureaucracy. Pickett is our voice for decency in the wilderness, but he's getting steadily angrier. A superb mystery series with an urgent message for troubled times.

***The Washington Post:***

...exquisite descriptions... His story moves smoothly and suspensefully...

***The Denver Post:***

C.J. Box has done it again....gripping...packed with a huge punch.

***Chicago Sun-Times:***

Box writes lyrically of...mountains and forests, the herds of elk that move among them

and the snowstorms that turn the world white as his story unfolds...

***Publishers Weekly:***

Box's description of the harsh yet splendid Wyoming landscape is vivid and memorable, his handling of complex social issues evenhanded and unsentimental...

***Kirkus Reviews:***

The latest in an award-winning series set in the Bighorn Mountains...(a) gift for nonstop action and his ability to see every side of the most divisive issues in the West...