

The First Rule (Joe Pike Book 2)

By Robert Crais

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Joe Pike and his partner Elvis Cole must solve the murder of an old friend and his entire family in this gripping thriller from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Robert Crais.

When Frank Meyer and his family are executed during a home invasion, the police begin investigating the secret life they're sure Meyer had. Joe Pike's on a hunt of his own: to clear his friend's name, and to punish the people who murdered him. What starts out as a simple trail gets twisted fast by old grudges, double crosses, blood vengeance, and a crime so terrible even Pike and his partner Elvis Cole have no way to measure it.

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The First Rule (Joe Pike Book 2) By Robert Crais Bibliography

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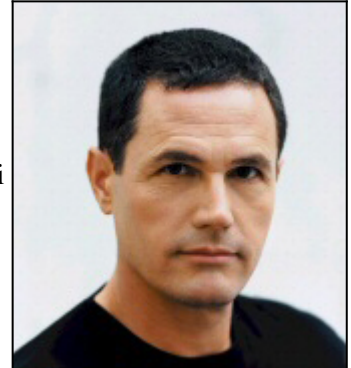
Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Robert Crais on Joe Pike

Joe Pike is back, and this time I'm ready.

I have always received a lot of fan mail, but nothing prepared us for the tsunami that flooded my website when *The Watchman* was published. (*The Watchman* was the first Joe Pike novel. Joe is now returning in *The First Rule*.) I mean, I knew Joe was popular, but c'monnnn.



We always see a spike in e-mail when a book is released (by "we," I'm talking about myself and the sorely overworked Carol T, who creates our newsletter and manages our e-mail). This spike typically lasts eight to ten weeks, before leveling back to our average of about twenty e-mails a day. But when *The Watchman* was published, the spike was way larger, and didn't begin to fade until three months later. Then, amazingly, it grew again—coming back stronger than ever as thousands of readers—Joe Pike fanatics, bless'm!—spread the word. And the word was: *sex*.

Like Elvis Cole, Joe had always gotten a lot of mail from women, but the tone of his mail now changed. They sent gifts. They sent pictures. They wrote, "I love Joe Pike," but not in a way suggesting they were fond of him or maybe kinda crushing on him. Pike's fans were feral. They said, "I WANT Joe Pike."

Meaning: *Pike is my love slave!*

I get it. It is not lost on me that the young male heartthrobs in the current crop of insanely successful vampire films are all brooding bad-boy loners, held in check from their evil ways only by the love of a good woman, who is herself moved by their tortured hearts. Has any vampire been as lethal as Joe Pike, or as tortured?

Pike is the ultimate bad boy. He is dangerous, enigmatic, and male with a capital M, but it is his damaged soul that makes him sexy with a capital S. His lack of emotion suggests an inner landscape so damaged it is as barren as the desert surrounding Tikrit. It also suggests an emptiness waiting to be filled, and therein lies Pike's tragic nature and, I suspect, the sexy-hot core of his huge appeal. My female readers intuit that he is redeemable, and an awful lot of them want to help with his redemption!

For men, Joe Pike's appeal is different, but no less powerful. Pike takes no crap and fears no man, and this is a pretty common fantasy. Try to imagine Joe Pike getting cut off in traffic or shoved off the sidewalk? Ha—they wouldn't *dare*! Pike's red-arrow tattoos probably sum up the fantasy best of all: here is a man who will not back up, or back down, and pretty much every guy wants to be that man (even if only in a fantasy life!) from time to time, or have such a friend as his wingman.

And speaking of friends—Pike wouldn't be Pike if it weren't for Elvis Cole, so hard-core Elvis Cole fans need have no fear: Elvis Cole is back, playing a large and important role in *The First Rule*. I could no more write a Joe Pike novel without Elvis than I could write an Elvis Cole novel without Joe. These guys are more than partners. They are friends. They are two underdogs who have turned themselves into heroes. --Robert Crais

From Publishers Weekly

When garment importer Frank Meyer and his family are executed in their Los Angeles home at the start of bestseller Crais's adrenaline-fueled second thriller to feature PI Joe Pike (after *The Watchman*), LAPD detectives soon connect Meyer to Pike, who knew each other from their days as military contractors. Pike is convinced that Meyer, who left soldiering to start a family, wasn't dirty, even though his murder is the seventh in a series of violent robberies where the victims were all professional criminals. Determined to clear his friend's name, Pike discovers that Frank's nanny and her family have ties to Eastern European organized crime. With the help of PI partner Elvis Cole (the lead in *Chasing Darkness* and eight other books), Pike engages in a dangerous—and not always legal—game of cat and mouse with some of the city's most dangerous crooks. Pike emerges as an enigmatically appealing hero, whose lethal skills never overshadow his unflappable sense of morality. (Jan.)

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Review

“Is it possible for a crime novel to be both ultra-violent and elegant? If so, then *The First Rule* is a prime example. The mayhem is graphic and unflinching, but the prose and story line are as sleek and efficient as a beautifully crafted piece of machinery.”—*The Seattle Times*

“[*The First Rule*] will satisfy longtime fans and make new ones...well-written action sequences and snappy dialogue.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“Crais follows a straightforward, no-nonsense tradition that marks him as a direct descendant of Raymond Chandler.”—*Pittsburg Tribune-Review*

“A devastatingly effective thriller.”—*The Providence Journal*

“Adrenaline-fueled...Pike emerges as an enigmatically appealing hero, whose lethal skills never overshadow his unflappable sense of morality.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Crais plants each twist carefully and detonates it expertly...Righteous vengeance, a reckless pace, astratospheric body count, and just enough surprises to keep you turning the pages.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dustin Singh:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or maybe goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they consider because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Consider the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this *The First Rule* (Joe Pike Book 2).

Jacob Florence:

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book you just read? Maybe the book with the name The First Rule (Joe Pike Book 2) suitable to you? The particular book was written by famous writer in this era. Typically the book entitled The First Rule (Joe Pike Book 2) is the main one of several books which everyone read now. This specific book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their plan in the simple way, so all of people can easily comprehend the core of this publication. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world with this book.

Keith Kemp:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world likes. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new details. When you read a book you will get new information because book is one of several ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, looking at a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you studying a book especially hype book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to others. When you read this The First Rule (Joe Pike Book 2), you are able to tell your family, friends and also soon about your guide. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a e-book.

Buddy Beckstead:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, maybe the e-book entitled The First Rule (Joe Pike Book 2) can be fine book to read. Maybe it can be best activity to you.

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