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The Watchman (Joe Pike)

By Robert Crais



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A wild-living young heiress slams into trouble in the L.A. night—the kind of trouble even her money can't shut down. After her Aston Martin collides with a mysterious car, Larkin Conner Barkley attempts to help the accident victims—and becomes the sole witness in a federal investigation. Whisking her out of her Beverly Hills world is Joe Pike—ex-cop, ex-Marine, ex-mercenary—hired to shield Larkin from a relentless team of killers. But when a chain of lies and betrayals tightens around them, Pike drops off the grid and follows his own rules for survival: strike fast, hit hard, hunt down the hunters. . . .



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The Watchman (Joe Pike) By Robert Crais Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #56622 in Books
- Brand: Pocket Books
- Published on: 2011-11-29
- Released on: 2011-11-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.50" h x 1.40" w x 4.13" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 448 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As the subtitle suggests, Joe Pike, the intriguing, enigmatic partner of L.A. PI Elvis Cole, takes center stage in this intense thriller from bestseller Crais (*The Two Minute Rule*). To pay back an old debt, Pike is coerced into protecting Larkin Barkley, a hard-partying young heiress whose life is in danger after a "wrong place wrong time" encounter that quickly escalates and spins out of control. The enemy is shadowy, violent and relentless—but the fierce, focused Pike, one of the strongest characters in modern crime fiction, is equal to the challenge. The breathless pace and rich styling are sure to appeal to readers of hard-boiled fiction in general, but since up to now Pike has mostly remained in the background, some fans of the Elvis Cole series (*The Forgotten Man*, etc.) may find the explicit picture that emerges of Pike at odds with the image they've constructed for themselves. (Mar.)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Robert Crais wrote for the hit television shows *Hill Street Blues*, *Miami Vice*, and *L.A. Law*, among others, so it comes as no surprise that his novels (including 11 featuring Elvis Cole and Joe Pike) have a hard-boiled feel and seamlessly incorporate cutting dialogue (see the recently reviewed *The Two-Minute Rule*, HHHJ May/June 2006). In *The Watchman*, Crais maintains his reputation as an edge-of-your-seat plotter with a psychological bent, not unlike Lee Child in his Jack Reacher series or James Lee Burke with Dave Robicheaux. Although one critic wishes that Pike had remained an enigma and another cites a predictable plot, most agree Crais's fans will take to this highly charged first effort featuring Pike. "Elvis will still be the series star," Oline H. Cogdill points out, "but putting a spotlight on Joe will make for richer novels." Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Larkin Barkley, a troubled L.A. woman from a wealthy family, finds herself under the protection of federal agents after emerging uninjured from a serious car accident. Something she saw warrants her death. The bad guys came close to success, probably with an assist from someone charged with her safety. Joe Pike, a former marine, LAPD officer, and mercenary, is hired to protect her on the word of his former police partner. Pike and the girl go underground after another attempt on her life leaves three would-be assassins dead. Pike then enlists his partner, private investigator Elvis Cole, to do the digging while he does the shooting. Cole targets a drug cartel's money-laundering network as the source of the death squads and identifies Barkley's father as the possible link. As the plot careens forward with nail-biting suspense, the similarities between Pike and Barkley become heartbreakingly clear. What could a taciturn killing machine have in common with a spike-haired, tattoo-on-her-ass valley girl? Every adult is a product of childhood, and Pike recognizes in his charge the same chronic emotional pain fueling his own lonely life. Saving her physical being is tough, but not as tough as saving her life. Fans of the Elvis Cole series have long wished for an installment focusing on sidekick Pike, and their wish is more than granted with this stunningly emotional thriller. Wes Lukowsky

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rodney Schmitt:

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Gary Stark:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This The Watchman (Joe Pike) is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Emma Patterson:

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