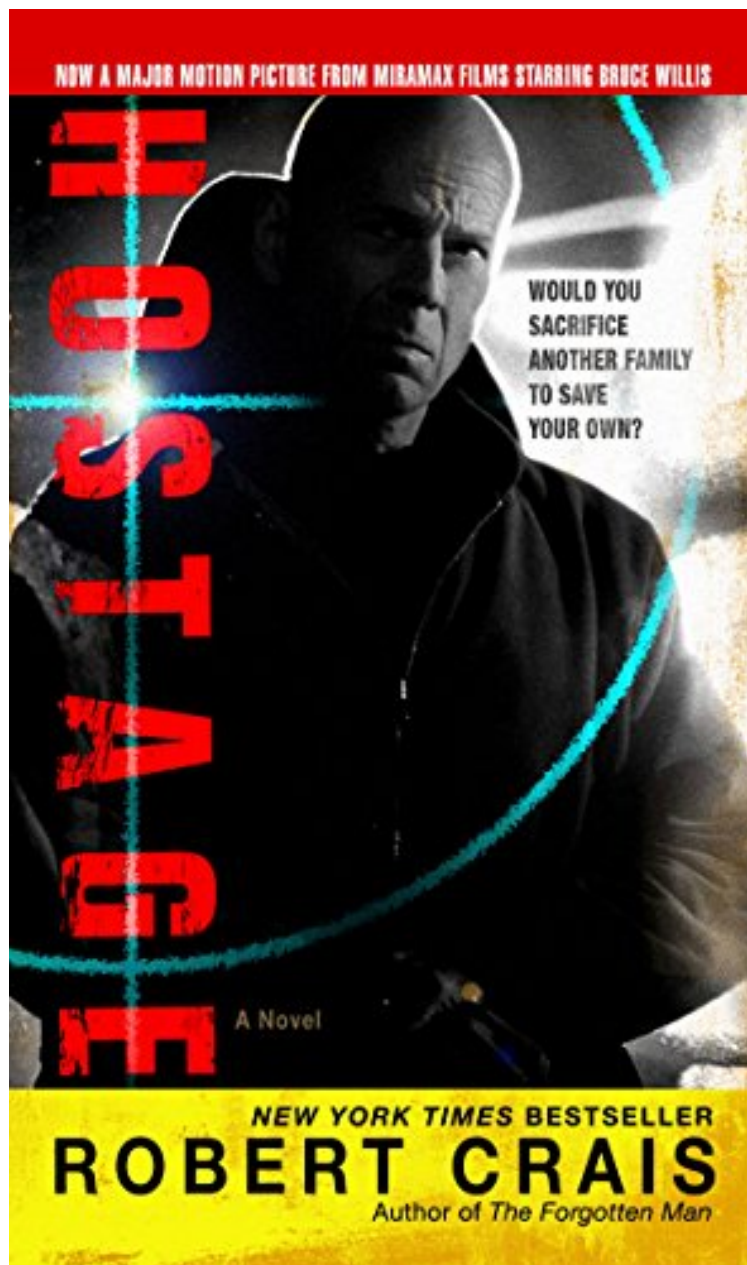


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## Hostage: A Novel

*Von Robert Crais*

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**Von Robert Crais : Hostage: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hostage: A Novel:

Kundenrezensionen  
Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen  
3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sehr spannend!  
Von dieleseratz  
Ein sehr gutes Buch, nicht nur reine Action, sondern eine recht akribische Beschreibung der Verhandlungen zwischen Negotiator und Geiselnemern. Die Charaktere der Geiseln, der Geiselnemern und der wichtigen Polizeibeamten werden sehr gut beschrieben - jedoch überhaupt nicht langweilig, sondern sehr sehr spannend und schlüssig. Man fiebert mit. Nicht der bliche 08/15 Krimi. Absolut empfehlenswert!  
2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Das beste Buch seit langem!!! Logisch bis zum Schluss!!!  
Von Ulysses Niemand  
In aller Krze: Superoberaffengeil!!!!  
Natürlich als Polizei-Roman nicht jedermanns Sache, ist "Hostage" im positiven Sinne sehr dialoglastig wodurch eine gewisse Art von Hektik und situative Spannung entsteht. Der Leser ist dadurch mitten in der Verhandlung zwischen Geiselnemern und Negotiator. Man denkt sich die ganze Zeit, wie man selbst hätte reagieren können oder sollen und auf die Frage, ob diese Szenarien im Buch realistisch sind, gibt es nur eine Antwort: So etwas könnte jederzeit passieren. Wir als Leser können uns nur wünschen, dass dieses Buch vielleicht mal verfilmt wird. 5 Sterne!!!  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. On the Hot Seat!  
Von Donald Mitchell  
The less you know about the details of this story before you read it, the more you will enjoy it. My recommendation is that you stop friends from telling you anything specific, and avoid reviews that summarize the book. As a result, I will characterize the book in a very general way so that you can decide if you want to read it or not without revealing much. Please forgive me for this reticence, but I think you will be glad when you are finished with the book.  
First, let me provide a word of warning. The book contains references to sadism, torture, and violence against children. If such disturb your days or your sleep, perhaps you should ask a friend who has read the book how upsetting it was before deciding to go forward. I found these elements to advance the story, and not to be overplayed . . . but they are certainly there.  
Hostage deals with situations where a criminal has seized someone as a bargaining chip for something they want. Hostage situations usually either lead to lots of people being killed, or everyone getting out alive. The difference is usually related to the skill, talent, and patience of the hostage negotiator.  
Hostage's protagonist is the chief of police in a small town north of Los Angeles, Jeff Talley. He had served as such a hostage negotiator during part of a truncated career with the LAPD. Having had that experience colors your view of the world in many ways. It makes you feel responsible for the hostages, the criminals, and for those who are helping you defuse the situation. That's a lot of responsibility to have on your shoulders. Also, you get used to lengthy delays, suddenly melting down psychotics, and impetuous colleagues. The criminals will make unreasonable and dangerous demands, and you have to decide how to respond with little help. Few would fail to melt under the pressure.  
At one level, Hostage can be read as a classic thriller about the ins and outs of hostage situations. Those who enjoy police procedurals and seeing crimes from many perspectives (of police, hostages, and criminals) will feel like they have a front row seat. If that's all there were to the book, I would have praised it and given it a three star rating. However, the book also operates at other levels. One develops the theme that we are hostages to someone else, whether or not that person is a criminal. Our actions are constrained by that other person, and danger lurks if we stray from the demands of the relationship. I thought this idea was very well developed and interesting. I graded the book up one star for this quality.  
Several other themes also affected and impressed me, including how one obtains redemption for the consequences of avoidable mistakes, the importance of getting the facts right before taking action, being careful who you trust, and how to decide what the right thing to do is when confronted with two evils. All of this amounted to more than an additional star.  
The only reason that I did not take the book up above five stars is that the character development would have had to be stronger for Hostage to become an outstanding book, rather than an excellent one. As much as I admire the earlier novels by Mr. Crais, I felt that this one went beyond his earlier work in entering the realm of fine, mainstream novels through the excellent way that he developed the story both from a thematic and plot perspective.  
In the plot, take notice that the pieces fit together inside one another . . . almost like nesting Russian dolls. That was a particularly fine device. An especially interesting element is that you will see yourself in the role of many of the characters, trying to decide what to do. It's a great mental and emotional challenge!  
Ultimately, any novel lives or dies by whether or not you care about the characters and whether you find yourself inside the story. I was gripped by the third paragraph and the hold on me just got stronger as the pages passed. At one point, I realized that I had forgotten where I was or what time it was. If you are like me, you will remember Hostage for a long time to come.  
After you finish Hostage (and I hope you do read it), think about where you are your brother's keeper. What more can you do to help?  
Size up the situation, check your facts, be careful who you trust, and . . . take the leap!

Kurzbeschreibung  
The bestselling author of Demolition Angel and L.A. Requiem returns with his most intense and intricate thriller yet. As the Los Angeles Times said, Robert Crais is a crime writer operating at the top of his game. His complex heroes and heroines, his mastery of noir atmosphere, and his brilliant, taut plots have catapulted him into the front rank of a new breed of thriller writers. Hostage proves his earlier success was no fluke. Its an unstoppable read.  
An ex-con with delusions of grandeur and his tagalong brother unwittingly team up with a psychopath one wrong word away from meltdown. When their late afternoon joyride turns into a random act of violence, they take a family

hostage in the affluent bedroom community of Bristo Camino. Enter Chief of Police Jeff Talley, a stressed-out former LAPD SWAT negotiator who is hiding from his past. Plunged back into the high-pressure world that he desperately wants to forget, Talley soon learns that his nightmare has only begun. The hostages are not who they seem, and the home contains secrets that even L.A.'s most lethal and volatile crime lord, Sonny Benza, fears. As Talley tries to hold himself together and save the people inside, the full weight of Benza's wrath descends on him, putting the police chief and his own family at risk. Soon, all involved are held hostage by the exigencies of fate and the only one capable of diffusing the standoff is the least stable of them all. Hostage is a blistering stand-alone thriller with superb characters in crisis, multistranded plotting, and pitch-perfect Southern California sensibility. From the Hardcover edition.

deRobert Crais' Hostage opens with Jeff Talley, the police chief in a small southern California town, still having nightmares about the young hostage who died when he made the wrong call in his previous job as a negotiator for an LAPD SWAT team. Now, three small-time punks go on the run after a grocery store robbery and killing in Talley's town. Soon his deputies have surrounded the house where the inept robbers have taken Walter Smith and his two children hostage. And Talley's back in his worst dream again: until the county sheriff's full-fledged SWAT team arrives and takes over, he has to negotiate for their lives. Crais keeps the point of view moving from Talley to the punks to the hostages as the situation unfolds in the house and on the ground. Then he ratchets up the dramatic tension: there's something in Walter Smith's house that a ruthless mob boss wants, and he'll sacrifice anyone to get it--which puts Talley's own family in danger. The action speeds to its climax with the velocity of a heat-seeking missile, which makes it almost criminal to slow down long enough to savour the great writing: Talley... had stepped into the Zone. It was a place of white noise where emotions reigned and reason was meagre. Anger and rage were non-stop tickets; panic was an express. He had been all day coming to this, and here he was: the SWAT guys used to talk about it. You went to the Zone, you lost your edge. You'd lose your career; you'd get yourself killed, or, worse, somebody else. Crais, author of popular books featuring private eye Elvis Cole (including LA Requiem and Voodoo River), belongs in that tier of writers whose novelistic gifts transcend the thriller category--writers such as Michael Connelly, Dennis Lehane and James Lee Burke. Hostage is a breakout. --Jane Adams, .com.co.uk

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