

robert crais elvis cole series

Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series: A Deep Dive into a Modern Detective Classic

robert crais elvis cole series stands out as one of the most captivating and enduring detective fiction sagas in contemporary literature. For fans of mystery novels, crime thrillers, and hard-boiled detective stories, this series offers a unique blend of wit, grit, and emotional depth that sets it apart from typical genre fare. Robert Crais, the author behind this beloved series, has crafted a world where the private investigator Elvis Cole and his partner Joe Pike navigate the shadowy corners of Los Angeles, delivering justice with a mix of charm and toughness.

If you've ever wondered what makes the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series so special, it's worth exploring the characters, narrative style, and the themes that weave through these novels. Whether you're a longtime reader or new to the series, understanding the elements that define this collection will enrich your appreciation of Crais's work.

The Origin and Evolution of the Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series

The Elvis Cole series debuted in 1989 with the novel **The Monkey's Raincoat**. From the outset, Robert Crais introduced readers to Elvis Cole, a wisecracking, tough-as-nails private investigator whose charm is matched only by his moral compass. Set against the sprawling, often gritty backdrop of Los Angeles, the series has evolved over decades, reflecting changes in society and crime fiction itself.

From Humble Beginnings to Acclaimed Detective Fiction

Robert Crais's initial foray into detective fiction was met with critical acclaim, especially as **The Monkey's Raincoat** won the Anthony Award for Best First Novel. Over time, the author expanded the series to include over 20 books, each deepening the character development and exploring more complex cases. The series is notable for balancing procedural detail with character-driven storytelling, making readers invested not only in the mysteries but also in the lives of Elvis Cole and Joe Pike.

Key Themes and Settings

Los Angeles isn't just a backdrop in the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series — it's almost a character in its own right. The city's diverse neighborhoods, cultural tensions, and hidden dangers provide fertile ground for the stories. Themes such as loyalty, justice, and redemption frequently surface. Moreover, the series often tackles issues like corruption, organized crime, and the human cost of violence, all while maintaining a narrative pace that keeps readers hooked.

Meet the Characters: Elvis Cole and Joe Pike

At the heart of the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series are its unforgettable protagonists. Their dynamic relationship is one of the series' greatest strengths, providing both tension and warmth.

Elvis Cole: The Charismatic Private Eye

Elvis Cole is a former Marine and ex-cop who turned to private investigation after his time with the LAPD. His personality is a mix of humor, street smarts, and a deep sense of justice. Unlike many detectives in noir fiction who are hardened or cynical, Cole's character often exhibits empathy and a genuine concern for the victims he helps. His quick wit and ability to read people make him an engaging narrator, often drawing readers into his perspective with a conversational tone.

Joe Pike: The Stoic Enforcer

Joe Pike, Elvis's partner, is a man of few words but immense presence. Where Cole is approachable and personable, Pike is the silent, brooding force who often handles the physical threats and danger. His background is shadowy, marked by military and law enforcement experience that complements Cole's investigative skills. The interplay between Cole's verbal agility and Pike's quiet strength creates a compelling duo dynamic that has resonated with readers for years.

Why the Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series Appeals to Readers

No detective series remains popular without offering something unique to its audience. The Robert Crais Elvis Cole series does this on multiple levels.

Engaging Storytelling with Emotional Depth

Many crime novels focus solely on the puzzle, but Crais infuses his narratives with emotional stakes. The cases Elvis Cole takes on often intersect with personal struggles, moral dilemmas, and the darker aspects of human nature. This emotional layering makes each story more than just a whodunit; it's about characters grappling with their own demons as much as external threats.

Realistic and Gritty Crime Drama

While maintaining accessibility, the series doesn't shy away from the harsh realities of crime. The investigations are methodically detailed, and the challenges Cole and Pike face feel authentic. This realism adds credibility that appeals to readers who appreciate a grounded approach rather than sensationalized crime stories.

Strong Character Development Across the Series

One of the reasons fans return to the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series is the ongoing development of the characters. Over the course of the novels, readers witness growth, setbacks, and the evolution of relationships, particularly the bond between Cole and Pike. This progression provides a satisfying continuity that makes the series feel like a long-term investment rather than standalone mysteries.

Notable Books in the Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series

While the entire series is worth exploring, certain titles have become iconic within the detective fiction community.

- **The Monkey's Raincoat** (1989): The series opener that introduces Elvis Cole and sets the tone for the novels to come.
- **Blind Faith** (1990): A gripping tale that deepens the partnership between Cole and Pike.
- **Lullaby Town** (1992): Known for its intense psychological suspense and intricate plotting.
- **Sunset Express** (1996): A fast-paced thriller that showcases Crais's skill at blending action with emotional resonance.
- **The Watchman** (2007): Highlights Joe Pike's character while maintaining the strong narrative voice of the series.

Each book builds on the last, offering new insights into the characters and more complex mysteries, making it easy for readers to become deeply invested.

Tips for New Readers of the Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series

If you're considering diving into the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series, here are some suggestions that might enhance your reading experience.

Start with the First Book

Though many of the books can stand alone, starting with *The Monkey's Raincoat* gives you the best introduction to Elvis Cole and Joe Pike. It sets up their personalities, backstories, and the tone of the series.

Pay Attention to Character Interactions

Much of the enjoyment comes from the dynamic between Cole and Pike, as well as the recurring supporting characters. Observing how their relationships evolve adds depth beyond the main plot.

Appreciate the Setting

Take note of how Robert Crais portrays Los Angeles — the city's nuances often influence the story and add authenticity. Recognizing the real-world elements can make the mysteries feel more tangible.

Don't Rush the Series

Given the emotional complexity and layered storytelling, it's worth savoring each installment. These books are as much about the journey through the characters' lives as they are about the resolution of crimes.

Robert Crais's Impact on Detective Fiction Through the Elvis Cole Series

Robert Crais has significantly influenced modern detective fiction with his Elvis Cole series. His ability to combine traditional noir elements with contemporary themes and well-rounded characters has revitalized the genre. The series' mix of humor, action, and emotional depth has inspired other writers and attracted a broad readership.

Moreover, the partnership between Elvis Cole and Joe Pike offers an alternative to the lone-

wolf detective trope, emphasizing teamwork, trust, and loyalty. This has helped broaden the appeal of detective fiction beyond the typical hard-boiled archetype.

For readers seeking a series that balances suspenseful crime-solving with compelling character work and an evocative setting, the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series remains a standout choice. Whether you're drawn to classic detective stories or modern thrillers, these novels offer a rich and rewarding experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the main character in Robert Crais's Elvis Cole series?

The main character in Robert Crais's Elvis Cole series is Elvis Cole, a wisecracking private detective based in Los Angeles.

How many books are there in the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series?

As of 2024, there are over 20 books in the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series, with new installments released periodically.

What genre does the Elvis Cole series by Robert Crais fall under?

The Elvis Cole series by Robert Crais is primarily a blend of detective fiction, mystery, and crime thriller genres.

Has the Elvis Cole series by Robert Crais been adapted into any films or TV shows?

As of now, the Elvis Cole series has not been officially adapted into films or television series, although the books have a strong fan base and cinematic qualities.

What makes Robert Crais's Elvis Cole series stand out in the detective fiction genre?

Robert Crais's Elvis Cole series stands out due to its sharp dialogue, well-developed characters, particularly the witty and morally complex Elvis Cole, and its gripping, fast-paced storytelling set against the backdrop of Los Angeles.

Additional Resources

Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series: A Deep Dive into the Quintessential Private Eye Saga

robert crais elvis cole series stands as a seminal work in the realm of modern detective fiction, blending sharp wit, intricate plotting, and a compelling protagonist to redefine the private investigator genre. Since its inception in the late 1980s, this series has attracted a dedicated following and critical acclaim for its nuanced storytelling and vivid portrayal of Los Angeles. With Robert Crais's deft narrative style, the Elvis Cole series offers an engaging lens into crime, morality, and human complexity, appealing to both genre aficionados and casual readers alike.

Exploring the Roots and Evolution of the Elvis Cole Series

Robert Crais introduced Elvis Cole, a wisecracking yet principled private detective, in his debut novel **The Monkey's Raincoat** (1987). This book not only launched the series but also set a high standard for crime fiction, winning the Anthony Award for Best First Novel. Over the course of more than two decades, Crais penned over a dozen novels featuring Elvis Cole and his partner Joe Pike, creating a rich tapestry that blends noir elements with contemporary storytelling.

The series is notable for its consistent setting—Los Angeles—which serves as more than just a backdrop. The city's multifaceted nature, from its glamour to its grittiness, is intricately woven into the narrative, grounding the stories in a tangible reality. The evolution of the series mirrors shifts in societal attitudes and crime fiction trends, yet Crais maintains a distinctive voice characterized by crisp dialogue, well-drawn characters, and moral ambiguity.

The Dynamic Protagonist: Elvis Cole's Characterization

Central to the series' success is the character of Elvis Cole, a private investigator with a strong moral compass and a penchant for dry humor. Unlike the stereotypical hard-boiled detective, Cole exhibits warmth, empathy, and a sense of loyalty that distinguishes him from his peers. His background as a former Marine adds layers of discipline and resilience, while his street-smart approach allows him to navigate Los Angeles's diverse social strata effectively.

Cole's relationship with Joe Pike, his stoic and enigmatic partner, adds depth and balance to the narrative. Pike's quieter demeanor contrasts with Cole's more loquacious nature, creating a dynamic interplay that enriches the character development and plot progression. Their friendship, built on trust and mutual respect, often anchors the stories amidst the chaos of criminal investigations.

Thematic Depth: Morality, Justice, and Human Complexity

The Elvis Cole series transcends mere crime-solving by delving into complex themes such as justice, redemption, and the gray areas of morality. Crais uses his protagonist's investigations to explore societal issues, including corruption, family dynamics, and the consequences of violence. This thematic richness elevates the series beyond formulaic detective stories, inviting readers to contemplate broader ethical questions.

Moreover, Robert Crais skillfully avoids black-and-white portrayals of good and evil. Characters often possess flawed motivations, making the narrative more realistic and compelling. This narrative choice enhances suspense and emotional engagement, as readers are compelled to reassess their judgments alongside the protagonist.

Comparative Analysis: Elvis Cole Series vs. Contemporary Detective Fiction

When juxtaposed with other popular detective series, such as Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch or Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone, Robert Crais's Elvis Cole books carve out a unique niche. While Bosch embodies the hardened, introspective cop and Millhone represents a fiercely independent female investigator, Elvis Cole merges charm with moral earnestness and a nuanced approach to crime-solving.

Crais's writing style is often described as lean and fast-paced, yet it does not sacrifice character development or atmospheric detail. This balance appeals to readers who appreciate both plot-driven narratives and immersive character studies. Additionally, the recurring partnership with Joe Pike introduces elements of action and suspense reminiscent of thriller genres, making the series versatile and broadly appealing.

Strengths and Limitations of the Series

- **Strengths:**

- Strong character development, especially the chemistry between Elvis Cole and Joe Pike.
- Richly detailed Los Angeles setting that enhances authenticity.
- Intricate plots that blend mystery, action, and emotional depth.
- Engaging prose style that combines wit with suspense.

- **Limitations:**

- Some critics note a formulaic pattern in later installments, potentially reducing suspense.
- Readers seeking a more traditional noir atmosphere might find the lighter tone less satisfying.
- Occasional reliance on genre conventions that could feel predictable to seasoned crime fiction fans.

Robert Crais's Narrative Craftsmanship and Impact on the Genre

Robert Crais's expertise in crafting tightly woven plots and authentic dialogue significantly contributes to the Elvis Cole series' enduring popularity. His background in television writing is evident in the cinematic quality of his scenes, pacing, and character interactions. This narrative craftsmanship not only enhances readability but also translates well for adaptation potential.

Indeed, the Elvis Cole series has influenced a generation of crime writers by demonstrating that detective fiction can be both commercially viable and artistically ambitious. The series' blend of humor, action, and psychological insight has inspired authors to explore similar multidimensional storytelling within the genre.

Key Novels in the Elvis Cole Series

To appreciate the series' scope, it's useful to highlight some of its most significant entries:

1. *The Monkey's Raincoat** (1987)* – The inaugural novel that introduces Elvis Cole and sets the tone for the series.
2. *Voodoo River** (1989)* – Expands on Cole's backstory and explores deeper emotional territory.
3. *Lullaby Town** (1998)* – A critically acclaimed installment noted for its intricate plot and character development.
4. *The Forgotten Man** (2005)* – Showcases a more action-oriented narrative with intense suspense.
5. *Sunset Express** (1996)* – Demonstrates Crais's ability to balance humor and

darkness effectively.

Each novel adds layers to Elvis Cole's persona and the evolving landscape of Los Angeles crime, making the series a rewarding experience for long-term readers.

SEO Perspective: Why the Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series Remains Relevant

From an SEO standpoint, the continued interest in the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series can be attributed to several factors. The evergreen appeal of detective fiction combined with Crais's reputation ensures consistent search traffic for related keywords such as "Elvis Cole books," "Robert Crais detective novels," and "best private investigator series." Additionally, ongoing discussions about the series on literary forums and book review sites sustain organic engagement.

Content targeting the series should emphasize:

- The unique blend of character-driven storytelling and mystery.
- Comparisons with other crime fiction giants to attract broader audiences.
- In-depth analyses of themes and character arcs to satisfy readers seeking substantive content.
- Updates on new releases or adaptations to leverage trending queries.

By weaving these elements naturally into articles, blogs, or reviews, content creators can tap into the robust interest surrounding Robert Crais's work while providing genuine insights.

In sum, the Robert Crais Elvis Cole series represents a landmark in contemporary crime fiction. Its mixture of humor, heart, and hard-boiled investigation continues to captivate readers and influence writers. As the series evolves, it remains a vital part of the literary conversation about what makes a private detective story resonate in today's cultural landscape.

Robert Crais Elvis Cole Series

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robert crais elvis cole series: Stalking the Angel Robert Crais, 2020-01-28 Meet Elvis Cole, L.A. private eye . . . he quotes Jiminy Cricket and carries a .38. He's a literate, wisecracking Vietnam vet who is determined never to grow up. The blonde who walked into Cole's office was the bestlooking woman he'd seen in weeks. The only thing that kept her from rating a perfect "10" was the briefcase on one arm and the uptight hotel magnate on the other. Bradley Warren had lost something very valuable—something that belonged to someone else: a rare thirteenth-century Japanese manuscript called the Hagakure. Just about all Cole knew about Japanese culture he'd learned from reading *Shogun*, but he knew a lot about crooks—and what he didn't know his sociopathic sidekick, Joe Pike, did. Together their search begins in L.A.'s Little Tokyo and the nest of notorious Japanese mafia, the yakuza, and leads to a white-knuckled adventure filled with madness, murder, sexual obsession, and a stunning double-whammy ending. For Elvis Cole, it's just another day's work. Praise for *Stalking the Angel* "Stalking the Angel is a righteous California book: intelligent, perceptive, hard, clean."—James Ellroy "Out on the West Coast, where private eyes thrive like avocado trees, Robert Crais has created an interesting and amusing hero in Elvis Cole."—The Wall Street Journal "Devotees of the rock 'em, sock 'em school should find [*Stalking the Angel*] tasty."—The San Diego Union

robert crais elvis cole series: The Promise Robert Crais, 2016-11-29 Elvis Cole and Joe Pike are joined by Suspect heroes LAPD K-9 Officer Scott James and his German shepherd, Maggie, in this heart-stopping thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Robert Crais. Elvis Cole and Joe Pike keep their promises. Even if it could get them killed... Elvis Cole is hired to find a woman who's disappeared, a seemingly ordinary case, until he learns the missing woman is an explosives expert and worked for a Defense Department contractor. Meanwhile, LAPD K-9 Officer Scott James and his patrol dog, Maggie, track a fugitive to a house filled with explosives—and a dead body. As the two cases intertwine, they all find themselves up against shadowy arms dealers and corrupt officials, and the very woman they promised to save may be the cause of their own deaths.

robert crais elvis cole series: Lullaby Town Robert Crais, 1999 Reissue of the third Elvis Cole novel from the bestselling author of *THE WATCHMAN*. Peter Alan Nelsen is a super-successful movie director who is used to getting what he wants. And what he wants now is to find the wife and infant child he dumped on the road to fame. It's the kind of case that Cole could handle in his sleep, except that when Cole actually finds Nelsen's ex-wife, everything takes on nightmarish proportions - a nightmare which involves Cole with a nasty New York mob family and a psycho killer who is the son of the godfather. And when the unpredictable Nelsen charges in, an explosive situation blows sky-high.

robert crais elvis cole series: Free Fall Robert Crais, 1994 Elvis Cole investigates a case that erupts in gang violence in South Central Los Angeles.

robert crais elvis cole series: Chasing Darkness Robert Crais, 2008 Cole and Pike work to determine if Cole unwittingly set a murderer free to kill again.

robert crais elvis cole series: L. A. Requiem Robert Crais, 2008-06-01 A reckoning has come to the City of Angels... Karen Garcia is missing and her father doesn't trust the cops - he wants someone he knows on the case. So he enlists the help of Elvis Cole and Joe Pike. It seems that Karen is the latest victim of a distinctive serial killer and the police are determined to pin her death, and four others, on the witness who found her body. Cole doesn't believe the man has the guts to murder, and with his partner and the police at each other's throats, it's down to him to find the connection that will reveal the killer. But nailing the murderer means choosing between the two people he cares most about...

robert crais elvis cole series: The Monkey's Raincoat Robert Crais, 2019-10-01 "Elvis Cole provides more fun for the reader than any L.A. private eye to come along in years."—Joseph Wambaugh WINNER OF THE ANTHONY AND MACAVITY AWARDS FOR BEST NOVEL • NOMINATED FOR THE EDGAR AND SHAMUS AWARDS FOR BEST NOVEL Meet Elvis Cole, L.A. Private Eye. . . . He quotes Jiminy Cricket and carries a .38. He's a literate, wisecracking Vietnam

vet who is determined to never grow up. When quiet Ellen Lang enters Elvis Cole's Disney-Deco office, she's lost something very valuable—her husband and her young son. The case seems simple enough, but Elvis isn't thrilled. Neither is his enigmatic partner and firepower, Joe Pike. Their search down the seamy side of Hollywood's studio lots and sculptured lawns soon leads them deep into a nasty netherworld of drugs, sex—and murder. Now the case is getting interesting, but it's also turned ugly. Because everybody, from cops to starlets to crooks, has declared war on Ellen and Elvis. For Ellen, it isn't Funtown anymore. For Elvis, it's just a living . . . He hopes. Praise for *The Monkey's Raincoat* "Outstanding characters, tight plot, and scintillating prose style. . . . This fast-paced story speeds Elvis Cole to a chilling, heart-stopping ending."—Mystery Scene "Is Bob Crais good? Put it this way: if they're taking you out to put you against the firing squad wall, and you want to enjoy your last moments on earth, pass on the last cigarette and ask for an Elvis Cole novel."—Harlan Ellison "Far and away the most satisfying private eye novel in years. Grab this one—it's a winner!"—Lawrence Sanders "The best private eye novel of the year . . . lots of action; bright, crisp dialogue; and sharply drawn characters."—The Denver Post "Robert B. Parker has some competition on his hands. . . . Elvis Cole is an appealing character and Crais's style is fresh and funny."—Sue Grafton "In Crais, a new star has appeared on the private eye scene—a dazzling first novel."—Tony Hillerman

robert crais elvis cole series: *Indigo Slam* Robert Crais, 2014-02-18 Life in the California sun suits Elvis Cole -- until the day a fifteen-year-old girl and her two younger siblings walk into his office. Then everything changes. Three years ago, a Seattle family ran for their lives in a hail of bullets. Hired by three kids to find their missing father, Elvis now must pick up the cold pieces of a drama that began that night. What he finds is a sordid tale of high crimes and illicit drugs. As clues to a man's secret life emerge from the shadows, Elvis knows he's not just up against ruthless mobsters and some very angry Feds. He's facing a storm of desperation and conspiracy -- bearing down on three children whose only crime was their survival . . .

robert crais elvis cole series: *The Promise* Robert Crais, 2015-11-10 Elvis Cole and Joe Pike are joined by Suspect heroes LAPD K-9 Officer Scott James and his German shepherd, Maggie, in this heart-stopping thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Robert Crais. Elvis Cole and Joe Pike keep their promises. Even if it could get them killed... Elvis Cole is hired to find a woman who's disappeared, a seemingly ordinary case, until he learns the missing woman is an explosives expert and worked for a Defense Department contractor. Meanwhile, LAPD K-9 Officer Scott James and his patrol dog, Maggie, track a fugitive to a house filled with explosives—and a dead body. As the two cases intertwine, they all find themselves up against shadowy arms dealers and corrupt officials, and the very woman they promised to save may be the cause of their own deaths.

robert crais elvis cole series: *Free Fall* Robert Crais, 2008

robert crais elvis cole series: *The Last Detective* Robert Crais, 2004 When the son of his long-time girlfriend, Lucy, goes missing, Elvis Cole finds himself encumbered by his personal demons, the dark secrets of his childhood, and long-suppressed memories of his service in Vietnam.

robert crais elvis cole series: *The Forgotten Man* Robert Crais, 2005-02-15 "[A] riveting novel with a vivid sense of place . . . Anyone who enjoys a well-written, fast-paced, noirish thriller with a great aha! moment shouldn't miss *The Forgotten Man*."—The Boston Globe In an alleyway in Los Angeles, an old man, clutching faded newspaper clippings and gasping his last words to a cop, lies dying of a gunshot wound. The victim claims to be P.I. Elvis Cole's long-lost father—a stranger who has always haunted his son. As a teenager, Cole searched desperately for his father. As a man, he faces the frightening possibility that this murder victim was himself a killer. Caught in limbo between a broken love affair and way too much publicity over his last case, Cole at first resists getting involved with this new case. Then it consumes him. Now a stranger's terrifying secrets—and a hunt for his killer—give Cole a frightening glimpse into his own past. And he can't tell if it's forgiveness or a bullet that's coming next. . . . "Robert Crais is a crime writer of incredible talent—his novels are not only suspenseful and deeply atmospheric but very hard to put down."—Dan Brown, author of *The Da Vinci Code* "A brutal but exhilarating climax."—USA Today

robert crais elvis cole series: Elvis Cole and Joe Pike Robert Crais, 2022-04-26 The #1 New York Times–bestselling author invites you into a conversation with his two most popular characters—one well-liked and the other, not so much. In this short piece, Robert Crais brings us into the world of quirky and likable Los Angeles PI Elvis Cole and his friend Joe Pike, a survivor and an enigmatic man of few words. The discussion revolves around the choices they've made, the obstacles they've overcome, the things that drive them to be who they are, and the hope that keeps them persevering through the darkness. It's a fresh look at this "superb series" (Kirkus Reviews), and a fascinating visit with its "whip-smart" author (Booklist), who has also written for such television classics as *Cagney and Lacey* and *Hill Street Blues*. "Cole and Pike make a terrific pair." —Seattle Times

robert crais elvis cole series: Sunset Express Robert Crais, 2005-01-25 Prominent restaurateur Teddy Martin is facing charges in his wife's brutal murder. But he's not going down without spending a bundle of cash on his defense. So his hotshot attorney hires P.I. Elvis Cole to find proof that Detective Angela Rossi tampered with the evidence. Rossi needs a way back to the fast track after falling hard during an internal investigation five years ago. But Cole needs to know if she's desperate enough to falsify the case against Martin in order to secure her own position. As Cole and his partner Joe Pike work their way through a tangle of witnesses and an even greater tangle of media, they begin to suspect that it's not the police who are behind the setup.

robert crais elvis cole series: Three Great Novels, Featuring Elvis Cole Robert Crais, 2002 'Shooting for the big time with all guns blazing' GUARDIAN Containing FREE FALL, VOODOO RIVER and SUNSET EXPRESS, this omnibus continues the adventures of one of the sharpest PI's on the scene; Disney-obsessed Vietnam vet Elvis Cole. And the most frightening sidekick since Spenser's Hawk; the taciturn and lethal Joe Pike. Award-winning and critically-acclaimed Robert Crais built a rock-solid following with this series of sparkling crime novels.

robert crais elvis cole series: The Monkey's Raincoat Robert Crais, 2011-03 A fantastic Joe Pike and Elvis Cole novel from the bestselling author of *L A REQUIEM* When quiet Ellen Lang enters Elvis Cole's Disney-deco office, she's lost something very valuable - her husband and young son. The case seems simple enough, but Elvis isn't thrilled. Neither is his enigmatic partner and firepower Joe Pike. Their search down the seamy side of Hollywood's studio lots and sculptured lawns soon leads them deep into a nasty netherworld of drugs and sex - and murder. Now the case is getting interesting, but it's also turned ugly. Because everybody, from cops to starlets to crooks, has declared war on Ellen and Elvis.

robert crais elvis cole series: The First Rule Robert Crais, 2010-12-28 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.

robert crais elvis cole series: Chasing Darkness Robert Crais, 2008-07-01 Private Investigator Elvis Cole learns that LA fires bring more than heat, they bring his old friend Joe Pike and the past. Cole's fight to clear his name brings murder and corruption terrifyingly close to home. It's fire season, and the hills of Los Angeles are burning. When police and fire department personnel rush door to door in a frenzied evacuation effort, they discover the week-old corpse of an apparent suicide. But the gunshot victim is less gruesome than what they find in his lap: a photo album of seven brutally murdered young women—one per year, for seven years. And when the suicide victim is identified as a former suspect in one of the murders, the news turns Elvis Cole's world upside down. Three years earlier Lionel Byrd was brought to trial for the murder of a female prostitute named Yvonne Bennett. A taped confession coerced by the police inspired a prominent defense attorney to take Byrd's case, and Elvis Cole was hired to investigate. It was Cole's eleventh-hour

discovery of an exculpatory videotape that allowed Lionel Byrd to walk free. Elvis was hailed as a hero. But the discovery of the death album in Byrd's lap now brands Elvis as an unwitting accomplice to murder. Captured in photographs that could only have been taken by the murderer, Yvonne Bennett was the fifth of the seven victims—two more young women were murdered after Lionel Byrd walked free. So Elvis can't help but wonder—did he, Elvis Cole, cost two more young women their lives? Shut out of the investigation by a special LAPD task force determined to close the case, Elvis Cole and Joe Pike desperately fight to uncover the truth about Lionel Byrd and his nightmare album of death—a truth hidden by lies, politics, and corruption in a world where nothing is what it seems to be. *Chasing Darkness* is a blistering thriller from the bestselling author who sets the standard for intense, powerful crime writing.

robert crais elvis cole series: *A Dangerous Man* Robert Crais, 2020-02-04 A brilliant new crime novel from the beloved, bestselling, and award-winning master of the genre--and Joe Pike's most perilous case to date. Joe Pike didn't expect to rescue a woman that day. He went to the bank same as anyone goes to the bank, and returned to his Jeep. So when Isabel Roland, the lonely young teller who helped him, steps out of the bank on her way to lunch, Joe is on hand when two men abduct her. Joe chases them down, and the two men are arrested. But instead of putting the drama to rest, the arrests are only the beginning of the trouble for Joe and Izzy. After posting bail, the two abductors are murdered and Izzy disappears. Pike calls on his friend, Elvis Cole, to help learn the truth. What Elvis uncovers is a twisted family story that involves corporate whistleblowing, huge amounts of cash, the Witness Relocation Program, and a long line of lies. But what of all that did Izzy know? Is she a perpetrator or a victim? And how far will Joe go to find out?

robert crais elvis cole series: *Racing the Light* Robert Crais, 2022-11-01 *On Reader's Digest's list of 30 new books we can't wait to read in 2022* Private investigator Elvis Cole and his enigmatic partner, Joe Pike, are back on the case in this brilliant new thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Robert Crais. Adele Schumacher isn't a typical worried mom. When she hires Elvis to find her missing son, a controversial podcaster named Josh Shoe, she brings a bag filled with cash, bizarre tales of government conspiracies, and a squad of professional bodyguards. Finding Josh should be simple, but Elvis quickly learns he isn't alone in the hunt—a deadly team of mysterious strangers are determined to find Josh and his adult film star girlfriend first. With dangerous secrets lurking behind every lead, Elvis needs his friend Joe Pike more than ever to uncover the truth about Josh, corrupt politicians, and the vicious business cartels rotting the heart of Los Angeles from within. And when Elvis's estranged girlfriend, Lucy Chenier, and her son, Ben, return, he learns just how much he has to lose...if he survives. Written with the heart, humor, and relentless suspense for which Crais is famous, *Racing the Light* delivers Elvis Cole's most dangerous case yet.

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