



The Window Trail (A Big Bend Country Mystery #1)

J.J. Ruzs

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What could go wrong on a spring break trek down the storied Window Trail at Big Bend National Park in Texas? For Assistant Professor Claire Harp, a terrifying incident at the canyon drop-off at the end of the hike merely hints of troubles to come. Drawn into a murder investigation that rocks the small town of Alpine, Claire finds herself involved with both a famous writer and an appealing young captain from a sheriff's office baffled by a homicide that points in too many directions. What she discovers on her own is a crime of a whole different sort. Full of sly humor, local color, and characters fresh off the range, "The Window Trail" will keep you guessing and guessing again.

The Window Trail (A Big Bend Country Mystery #1) Details

Date : Published July 3rd 2018

ISBN :

Author : J.J. Ruz

Format : Kindle Edition 285 pages

Genre : Westerns, Mystery, Cozy Mystery

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From Reader Review The Window Trail (A Big Bend Country Mystery #1) for online ebook

Susan Novak says

I'm about 1/3 of the way in, and have no real desire to get back to this book. It seems the author tries to find ways to insert adjectives everywhere to the point the words become stumbling blocks. I have no interest in the characters and whether they get romantically attached or not. Boring.

Glen says

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

A college professor goes on a hike. On the way back, she and her compatriots see a coyote with a hand in it's mouth. She reports it, and meets with the handsome deputy. The rest follows as night follows day.

The mystery itself is pretty predictable, too.

The problem is that the author can't quite end the book. There's at least three false endings, and the book finally staggers to halt, like car that runs out of gas.

Pam says

They say it's the quiet ones and that still waters run deep. What happened to a young man, promising and down to earth? Michael Kinkaid, mentor to Mote, writes a book of this young man's death by suicide. Sam Vogt, the quiet, less talented friend of Mote reads the book after urging from a new friend and the end of the book and more importantly his friend's life bothers him. Something isn't right.

Professor Claire Harp, Sam's teacher, at Sul Ross State University answers a request to take two young women to the last place Mote was alive and the area the book speaks of with such beautiful words and depth. Sam gives the directions and strikes up a friendship. On the way back, Claire and Sam notice a coyote with a grisly prize crossing in front of them.

Deputy Clayton Shoot, is assigned to the case of the dead woman, Lupe Mendez. She was a woman of interesting tastes and adventures. She also worked at Sul Ross. As the case progresses, Clayton finds evidence pointing in directions he'd rather not go.

J J Rusz takes us on a journey in the beautiful desert and parkland of Texas. The characters are alive and not without faults. This is a story that teaches the mistake of taking friendships for granted and ignoring those with much to offer. We are all guilty of seeing the gregarious, rich, confident, and beautiful instead. We learn of greed, guilt, envy, and cowardice. This, the first in a series, promises more in the future.

Elaine says

Since I live in the Southwest, I could really relate to this story set in southern Texas and the wilds of Big

Bend National Park. Although I figured out the "who-dunnit" about a third of the way in, it was still an exciting and meaningful mystery full of twists and turns. There are several plots going on at once that weave themselves together at the end. And there is a nice romance blooming between the main characters. Clayton, the deputy and Claire, the English professor. They are compelling and well-developed characters who come from very different backgrounds. Murder brings them together and keeps their paths crossing throughout the book. Another important character, Mote, is already dead when the book starts, but has an important role in the story. He loved the beauty and wildness of the Big Bend area and was able to capture the essence of it in writing. When you read this book you will feel like you are in Texas; you can almost smell and feel it around you. The book was well written and perceptive. I received a copy as a Goodreads Giveaway and I thank them for introducing me to a fine new author!

Barry Maid says

A great summer read

This held my attention on several levels. It's a good mystery that had some interesting twists to the end. I'm now thinking about a road trip to Big Bend country because of the descriptions. Most of all, however, I liked the wry sense of humor that permeated the entire book.

Christine Garver says

Another new mystery series. Interesting characters and intriguing location in Western Texas.

Julie says

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

I give it a middling rating because I had guessed the murder and motive long before the big reveal. Normally, that would annoy me but I really liked the characters and the setting. I found myself reading not so much to see how the story ended, but what happened to the characters.

I'm looking forward to reading more of this series.

Joel Lucio says

This was a great read! The scenery is described so well out in West Texas: the skies, everlasting roads, down to the critters and plants. I don't usually read westerns, but the continuous twists kept me reading, along with interesting characters (especially Sam!). As I got to know them, I kept wanting more. The story becomes denser, more complex as you're pointing your finger alongside them. I loved getting caught off guard!

Tara says

Enjoyable read

I won an e-copy of this book. I found it to be an above average mystery with likable characters and dual plot lines.
