



Final Target

John Gilstrap

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“Rocket-paced suspense.”—Jeffery Deaver

“Gilstrap will leave you breathless.” —Harlan Coben

“A great hero, a really exciting series.” —Joseph Finder

Freelance operative Jonathan Grave faces his fiercest challenge yet in bestselling author John Gilstrap’s explosive new thriller . . .

The mission: Drop into the Mexican jungle, infiltrate a drug cartel’s compound, and extract a kidnapped DEA agent. But when Jonathan Grave and his partner, Boxers, retrieve the hostage and return to the exfil point, all hell breaks loose. Ambushed, abandoned, and attacked on all sides, their only hope of survival lies inside a remote orphanage where innocent children have been targeted for death.

Even if Grave can lead his precious cargo to safety across a hundred miles of treacherous jungle filled with enemies, he can’t shake the feeling that something bigger is at play. A vast conspiracy of international power players who take no prisoners—and leave no survivors . . .

“When you pick up a Gilstrap novel, one thing is always true—you are going to be entertained at a high rate of speed.” —*Suspense Magazine*

“If you like Vince Flynn and Brad Thor, you’ll love John Gilstrap.” —Gayle Lynds

“Gilstrap pushes every thriller button.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

Final Target Details

Date : Published June 27th 2017 by Pinnacle

ISBN :

Author : John Gilstrap

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Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Suspense, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review Final Target for online ebook

Maryellen says

I do love a good adventure novel and have enjoyed the entire Johnathan Graves series. I wasn't keen on this book as it started like so many others, a search and rescue in the jungle and turns into "an escape from the jungle and drug lords" novel. However, in my opinion it developed into a novel that gives the reader more insight into Digger's character than any previous novels. Gail returns and there is some information shared about their relationship past and perhaps future? The adventure in this novel is not as fast paced as in others, but it introduces new characters in Tomas, Jesse and Dave that I hope we see again. While Digger and Boxer are trying to get out of the jungle, Gail is working the mystery in the US trying to learn more about the precious cargo (PC), the drug trade and political activities. In the end, the novel is satisfying and leaves me waiting for the next one to be published.

Alan says

Exceptional !Worth waiting for! What a pleasure to read!It had everything including cowboys and Indians, metaphorically speaking.

Nancy says

Another great book by one of my favorite authors. Scorpion & Big Guy are in Mexico to rescue a DEA agent. Harry Dawkins is being held buy the Jungle Tigers cartel. Get the agent and go to the exfil point. All of a sudden exfil help has disappeared. Dawkins was asked about an orphanage that they decide is where they need to be next. There are two caretakers and 15 orphans there. Cartel guys show up and all of a sudden the orphans need a place to go so now running from the cartel and getting to a pick up point is all they can work toward.

Gail and Mother Hen are working to find out what went wrong back in Virginia. Lots going on and many people involved. Great read that keeps taking turns at every page.

Clwseattle says

Final Target is the first of the Jonathan Graves novels that has left a dangling end towards a perhaps specific sequel.

John Gilstrap is an impressive guy OUTSIDE of being an outstanding thriller writer, and it's clear from his characters preparation and thought processes that Gilstrap knows what he's writing about. That makes for such a better book.

Final Target has a much more serious plot line in that it involves the lives of children. Consequently, there is (appropriately, thank you) much less light banter between the characters. Oftentimes authors keep their characters IN character and write the story around the character. In Final Target the characters are deftly

adapted for the seriousness of the story. Great job, J.G.

This story is also about finding trust in those you know and those who are new to you and being trusted in return: the children and Jonathan, Jonathan and the children (yes they are two separate things), Gail and her instincts, Jesse and his father. It was done beautifully.

5 stars, A+

Note: Scorpion Strike comes out in June!

Debbie says

I have only recently discovered John Gilstrap and I'm glad that I finally did. This was the second book I've read in this series and I was thoroughly entertained.

This book was intense with all the action trying to avoid this narcissistic and scary Mexican cartel leader and his legions of thugs. He even had the Mexican police on his side. The orphanage children also played a big role in this book.

Lots of action, plot twists, and characters used to capture the DEA man that had been abducted makes this a great read!

Thanks to Kensington Books and Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Jess says

I pre-ordered this novel, because I've enjoyed the entire Jonathan Grave series. I downloaded *Final Target* two days ago, and now it's done. I know some people go through a book in a day or two, but that's not usually me. But *Final Target* had me staying up too late so I could see what happened next.

There are plenty of authors working in this genre, where the protagonist is someone (in this case, two someones) with extraordinary skills they put to work in the extra-judicial delivery of justice. For me, these books can be a fun escape in a world that's much less black-and-white than these novels. The real difference in John Gilstrap's work is that his characters are interesting people with some depth. You care about them, and you trust that they're on the side of the angels.

Without getting into too much detail, for fear of giving away important plot points, *Final Target* pits our guys against some truly brutal criminals, as well as some more privileged--but greedy--individuals who are helping them. We go along on a long trek to try to find safety and keep the bad guys at bay. This was a fun book. In fact, I went on to read the teaser at the end for the next book, *Scorpion Strike*. That got me interested enough that I went to Barnes & Noble online to see if I can pre-order it, as I did with *Final Target*. Too soon for that, it seems, but I'll be on it as soon as it's available! John Gilstrap is a good author who writes entertaining books! If you're not a fan already, give him a try!

Skip says

Jonathan "Digger" Grave and his partner Boxers penetrate a Mexican drug cartel's lair to rescue their current PC (precious cargo), DEA agent Harry Dawkins, eliminating the competition and another unknown group of hostiles. Dawkins seems to be persona non grata, possessing information about U.S. support for kingpin of the Jungle Tigers, Alejandro Azul. Abandoned by their U.S. support team, the three Americans head to an orphanage that houses victims of Azul's violence. Digger's heart cannot abandon these kids and they head towards the Gulf where they hope their support team, headed by Venice Alexander, can arrange transportation home. Lots of action, killing, explosions, and governmental double dealing. Exciting, but I had to deduct a star because it's high time for Gilstrap to find a fresh plot.

Sean Peters says

Thank you to Net Galley, The publishers at the author for an ARC Copy.

My first book by this author, okay I know number 9 in the series. But with a chance on Net Galley to read another action author, I had to have a go.

Freelance operative Jonathan Grave faces his fiercest challenge yet in bestselling author John Gilstrap's explosive new thriller . . .

The mission: Drop into the Mexican jungle, infiltrate a drug cartel's compound, and extract a kidnapped DEA agent. But when Jonathan Grave and his partner, Boxers, retrieve the hostage and return to the exfil point, all hell breaks loose. Ambushed, abandoned, and attacked on all sides, their only hope of survival lies inside a remote orphanage where innocent children have been targeted for death.

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Good points and bad points.

Well the first one is my own fault starting on book number nine in the series.

Bad point is I have just finished Brad Thor and Ben Coes books which were both five stars, okay this author is good, but a step below the above mentioned.

This book started at a reasonably slow pace, from a story point of view, and for me getting to know the characters, they grew on me.

The pace did build half way through and kept at a good pace, with some good tension and some great action.

One character I really liked was Thomas, he really grew on me throughout the book. Enjoyed the sub stories especially with Gail, and the relationship between Bomber and Scorpion(Grave)

A four star book from me. Maybe I should read the first eight!

Jenna says

i really like this series.

unfortunately, i didn't enjoy this one as much as i have the previous others.

i had trouble getting into it. not sure why. i think it was b/c this one didn't move as quickly as the others had.

also, there was more technical stuff in this one (ie. type of gun descriptions)

also, i had trouble w/empathy for some of the characters. (ie. the kids, the PC)

j

jonathon & boomer are still great characters. i like gail (gunslinger) so i'm glad she was brought back in this one. and as usual, it feels researched enough to give that sense of realism.

but it's still worth reading b/c it's a good series.

i look forward to the next one.

Darcia Helle says

One of the things I love about John Gilstrap's writing is the realism. He clearly knows his stuff, and he sets it all up in a way that puts us in the midst of the action, so we feel it, hear it, and see it.

The plot here is straightforward. The suspense comes from the mishaps along the way, as the mission becomes more complicated than expected. We edge into conspiracy theory and political entanglement. A variety of narrators gives us breathing room away from the chaos, though I wasn't as enthralled with some of those aspects. For instance, and I'll be vague to avoid spoilers, I didn't understand their push to get a particular person involved when he was really useless to them in the given role.

We don't get a lot of character development with this story. That's partly because this is the 9th book in the series, but mostly due to this book being plot-driven. We're dropped in the midst of the action, and getting to know the characters is the side effect rather than the focus. Still, we're given enough background on the main characters so that the book can be read as a stand-alone.

I have to mention the treatment of Mexico, which, as the setting, is a big part of the story. On several occasions, the two main characters talk about how much they despise the country, making these comments in a judgmental, scornful way, blaming the country as a whole for the situation they're in. Yes, I know Mexico has a lot of problems. And, no, I'm not Mexican myself. But I was taken aback by the thinly disguised vitriol with these characters on this topic. Honestly, they came off as pompous, arrogant asses, which spoiled some of the appeal for me.

I received an advance copy from the publisher, via Amazon Vine, in exchange for my honest review.

D.B. Reynolds says

This one was slower than most of the Jonathan Grave adventures, but Digger and Big Guy are always well worth the read.

Ms. Just One More Book (Kris Miller) says

A Superbly Crafted Thriller That Will Leave You Craving More!

Alejandro Azul, the leader of a drug cartel, innovates unthinkable ways to torture and execute those who cross him and Jonathan and Boxers have just become his next targets. During a conventional hostage extraction of a DEA agent in the Mexican jungle, things go south. Someone from their own team sabotages Jonathan and Boxers, causing them to seek refuge in a nearby orphanage in an attempt to protect their precious cargo, the DEA agent, Harry Dawkins. But when the orphanage comes under attack their only option is to fight—killing the brother of Alejandro Azul in the process. With orphan's—now marked for death—in tow, and Alejandro's jungle tiger's closing in, the team must cross over a hundred miles of dangerous jungle to safety. Fueled by heart-pounding combat, unthinkable torture, political corruption, and suspense that will twist your insides, FINAL TARGET is a non-stop, action-packed thrill ride. The witty and sometimes sarcastic banter between the characters gives a balanced levity to this superbly crafted thriller that will leave you craving more.

~ Kris Miller, certified TopShelf Reviewer. TopShelf Magazine does not offer 'paid review services' and TopShelf Reviewers are not compensated for their reviews.

Mylinda says

3.5 stars. Entertaining, but much of the story was predictable. The ending was very abrupt, and then very little wrap up. Bang - bang - boom - the end. It would make a good movie, but as a book it would be nice if the ending had felt more "finished".

The author makes it clear that he hates liberals, Mexico, and immigrants, even as he works to smuggle undocumented Mexican orphans into the US. Not sure how that all works out, but I guess that was discussed in the ending to the book that we didn't get.

This series seems to have a pattern of an entertaining action-packed 85%, followed by an abrupt disappointing end. 4 stars, marked down for the ending and the political attacks.

Cathy Geha says

Final Target by John Gilstrap
Johnathan Grave #9

I was so excited to receive a copy of this book through NetGalley since I loved the other books I had read in the beginning of the series. I eagerly looked forward to reading it only to have the app to read it with stop working on my computer. So...with diligence I eventually managed to get the app up and running again only to realize that this book, filled with action and people and no doubt a good story was not one that I was up to reading this hot muggy summer. This has happened to me in the past and I remember well being unable to read *The Hunt for Red October* at one point in time only to devour it a few years later. Not wanting to leave NetGalley and the publisher without a review I did skim a bit and realized that I will enjoy the book in the future...just not before my time to read it in expires. So, I will not give a final star value to the book, since I have not read all of it, but will post this comment and thank NetGalley and Kensington Books for the ARC they so generously extended to me. From what I did read I would guess my rating would be a minimum of a 3 but more likely a 4 or 5.

Viva says

Adventure action novel of a couple of private security guys/mercs dropped off in Mexico to recover an American who's been captured by a drug gang.

Spoilers below:

The writing is easy to read and follow and I got into the story right away. The plot is that the mission goes wrong, a extraction team has to be sent in and the home team has to figure out what went wrong.

The big problem for me was the way the book split into the different narratives: the initial rescue team, the extraction team and the home team. The transition between the narratives was too abrupt and it was annoying to follow the story of one team and then have to start from scratch into another story and then again into the third. I understand that that is the plot but there just wasn't enough meat in each story to make them so separate and it wasn't written in a way that the 3 narratives could be segued naturally into each other.

In the end, I thought the first narrative of the rescue mission was the most interesting and I liked the action at the end of this narrative. The extraction narrative was too detailed and could have been cut short without losing the story, in fact I thought this whole part was unnecessary and took away from the book. The home team narrative was ok as it explained the story. The way it was written, each of the narratives could have been read as a novella itself.

So overall, it was a good plot but poorly choreographed. I liked the book but if others in the series are all like this, I wouldn't read them; there are plenty of other better books.

I got this book as a free ARC.
