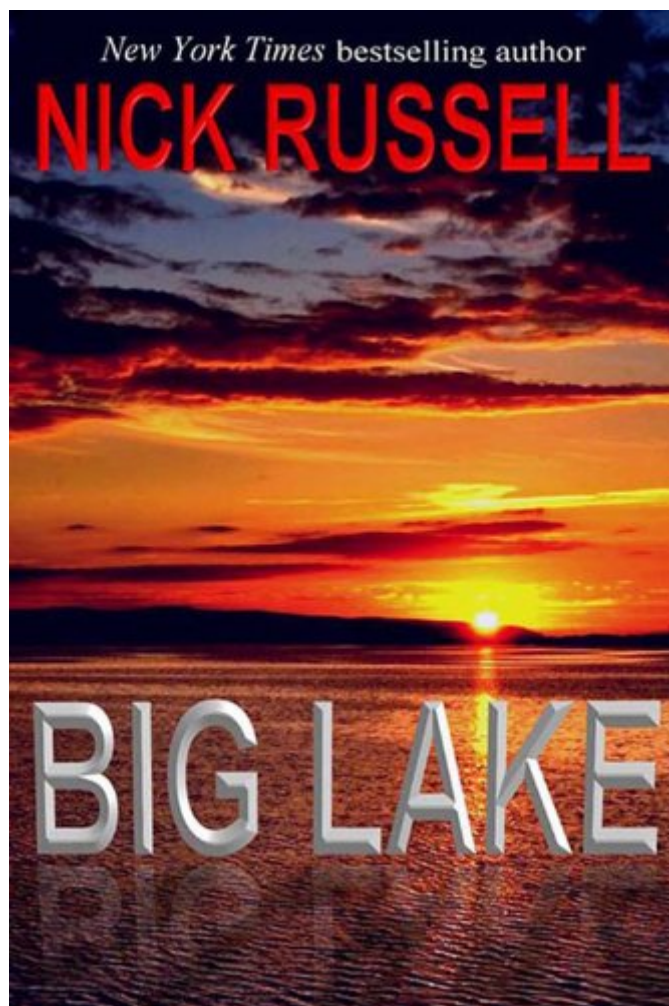


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# Big Lake



## Synopsis

When an armored car hijacking leaves two men dead, Arizona Sheriff Jim Weber takes the crime personally, because one of the dead men is his brother-in-law. His hunt for the killers leads him into a world of sordid sex, deceit, and violence, with a suspect list that includes jilted women, a family of anti-government survivalists, and the beautiful wife of the richest man in town. With a plot that has more twists and turns than an Arizona mountain road, a cast of characters you won't soon forget, and a shocking ending that shakes the town of Big Lake to its very foundation, this first book in the Big Lake series will keep you turning pages to the very end! One reviewer has referred to the Big Lake mystery series as "Mayberry Meets Twin Peaks." It's a combination of humor and intrigue that launched author Nick Russell's first Big Lake book into the 100 Top Paid Kindle books for over 78 days!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Every one of his books are fantastic! This entire series? He can't write fast enough for me.

Incredibly great characters and a spot on description of mountain town people.... especially that

mayor! Each book makes me laugh out loud and the mysteries are not easy to figure out. Puts your detective skills to work. I hope Nick continues to write because he is a talented, unique writer! God bless you and your family Nick.

Nick Russell is one of my favorite authors. Excellent mystery, written with humor. Love the characters, and the way the story evolves. Read the sequels, too! I can't recommend these books highly enough.

I just finished the Big Lake series (through Big Lake Brewpub) and it's ... okay. The dialogue is contrived, but some of that may be clumsy exposition. The series bounces from whodunnit to tough-guy crime novels, so one gets some variety in it not present in other series and the author doesn't get too predictable in his whodunnits, although he is pretty predictable in them. The first one, Big Lake, a whodunnit, contained a nice twist ending. However, that ending is repeated in various ways in the other whodunnits of the series "If it was X in the first one, it must be Y in this one." Major character reveals can be seen coming from miles away (in Big Lake Reckoning, a character reveals something of her past that was obvious to the reader)..The archetype characters who exist solely to annoy the protagonist have no redeeming features. They're two-dimensional cartoons. With major exceptions in Big Lake Scandal where two annoying characters are humanized. Like most whodunnits, the sheriff seems a little slow to explore alternative theories of the crime that the reader is practically shouting at him to consider. Situations are contrived that cause the characters to laugh hysterically, but leave the reader rolling his eyes. So, what does the author succeed in? He's created a highly readable series. He's created likable (though somewhat stock) characters. He's created a good rationale for his small town's spiraling crime rate. And not every book in the series is a gruesome murder. Arson, rape, and robbery make their appearances as the crimes du jour. So, one is not left wondering why anyone would remain in a town with a near-constant murder rate. The author is also unafraid to take on mature themes. One book centers around the rape of a young woman. Other mature matters (spousal abuse, teenage pregnancy, etc.) are discussed throughout the series in an adult manner. The causes of the crimes are real motivations; no one is killed over a cupcake recipe or a dog show ribbon. In all, it's a fun series to read, consistently better than average for a small town cozy. Don't take it too seriously. Sit back and enjoy.

Easy, cozy mystery about a small-town cop. I liked it better than my husband ... he felt the author was a woman pretending to be a man. At times I had to agree, the main character's thoughts,

reactions and dialogue seemed a little off (manufactured). Kinda fluffy, lacks grit. Again a quick, cozy read if you have a couple hours to kill in a waiting room ... I finished the book. He didn't.

It did need me to go back a couple of times to pick up the very early parts of the story to ensure that how I remembered my first reading of an event matched what later transpired, but I have to admit that I did not see the ending coming, so kudo's to the author. A great read and I do look forward to some more in the series. Worth the price for some enjoyable escapism.

Although I had some problems with the book, the story line was interesting. I found the characters to be rather unbelievable, especially the law enforcement characters. (I really think they behave more professionally in real life.) The characters mostly seemed to be stereotypes. I also had some problems with the grammar, but as an old retired English teacher, I am probably more critical than most. ;-)) What really pushed my button in this book was the misuse of "it's" and "its". So many (new?) writers think "it's" is the possessive form, when it actually is the contraction for "it is" -- and that's ALL that it is. "Its" is the possessive (and yes, it's an exception to the rule). If you're going to be a professional writer, you have to use proper grammar. (I also hate the widespread misuse of the pronoun "I" -- but that's another story.) ;-)) All in all, the book was worth my time, although the end was really abrupt. It felt like -- okay, I'm done, here's the answer, the end. I like more satisfying endings, maybe with an epilogue. This ending was disappointing (not the revelation of the killer (who else could it have been?) but the rapidness of it all.

Really enjoy the story associated with Arizona high country. Good characters and very factual details of life in our summer place. Would buy more of this series

Yes, it's truly very difficult to discern the "who" that done it in this engaging mystery. The residents of the town are very real characters and the "clues" point in many directions. Only one of the FBI characters seem slightly unreal and prejudiced and the conflict with the mountain family seems forced to add more "red herrings" to the plot. Very enjoyable reading regardless.

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