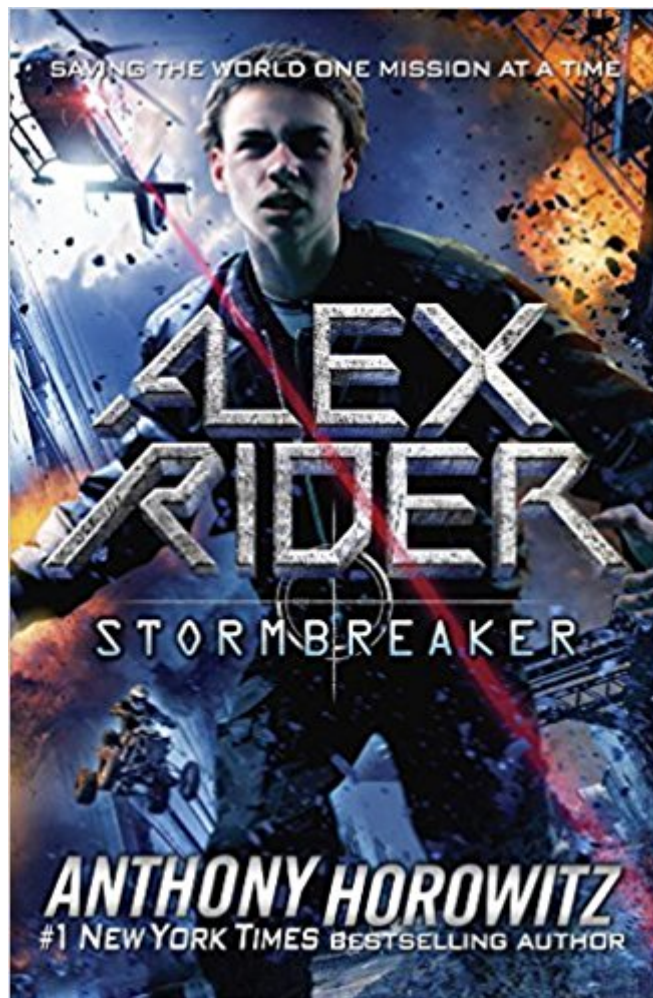


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Stormbreaker (Alex Rider)



Synopsis

Meet the orphan turned teen superspy who's saving the world one mission at a time "from #1 New York Times bestselling author! They said his uncle Ian died in a car accident. But Alex Rider knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in the windshield prove it. Yet he never suspected the truth: his uncle was really a spy for Britain's top secret intelligence agency. And now Alex has been recruited to find his uncle's killers . . . Alex Rider's debut mission is packed with bonus material - including an extra Alex Rider short story, a letter from Anthony Horowitz, and much more! From the author of *Magpie Murders* and *Moriarty*. Slam-bang action, spying and high-tech gadgets . . . a non-stop thriller! "Kirkus Reviews

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Readers will cheer for Alex Rider, the 14-year-old hero of British author Horowitz's spy thriller (the first in a projected series). When his guardian and uncle, Ian, is mysteriously killed, Alex discovers that his uncle was not the bank vice-president he purported to be, but rather a spy for the British government. Now the government wants Alex to take over his uncle's mission: investigating Sayle Enterprises, the makers of a revolutionary computer called Stormbreaker. The company's head plans to donate one to every secondary school in England, but his dealings with unfriendly countries and Ian Rider's murder have brought him under suspicion. Posing as a teenage computer whiz who's won a Stormbreaker promotional contest, Alex enters the factory and immediately finds clues from his uncle. Satirical names abound (e.g., Mr. Grin, Mr. Sayle's brutish butler, is so named for the

scars he received from a circus knife-throwing act gone wrong) and the hard-boiled language is equally outrageous ("It was a soft gray night with a half-moon forming a perfect D in the sky. D for what, Alex wondered. Danger? Discovery? Or disaster?"). These exaggerations only add to the fun, as do the creative gadgets that Alex uses, including a metal-munching cream described as "Zit-Clean. For Healthier Skin." The ultimate mystery may be a bit of a letdown, but that won't stop readers from racing through Alex's adventures, from a high-speed bike chase to a death-defying dance with a Portuguese man-of-war. The audience will stay tuned for his next assignment, Point Blanc, due out spring 2002. Ages 10-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr 5-9-Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his uncle and guardian has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. The Special Operations Division of M16, his uncle's real employer, blackmails the teen into serving England. After two short weeks of training, Alex is equipped with several special toys like a Game Boy with unique cartridges that allow it to scan, fax, and emit smoke bombs. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment, to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country. When Alex enters Sayle's compound in Port Tallon, he discovers a strange world of secrets and villains including Mr. Grin, an ex-circus knife catcher, and Yassen Gregorovich, professional hit man. The novel provides bang after bang as Alex experiences and survives unbelievably dangerous episodes and eventually crashes through the roof of the Science Museum to save the day. Alex is a strong, smart hero. If readers consider luck the ruling factor in his universe, they will love this James Bond-style adventure. With short cliff-hanger chapters and its breathless pace, it is an excellent choice for reluctant readers. Warning: Suspend reality. Lynn Bryant, formerly at Navarre High School, FL Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA novel that's well written and absorbing. I was reading this on the bus one day and missed my stop because I was engrossed in the book. I'm an adult who likes to read YA from time to time and found this one a fun read. Good, tight writing, that keeps the plot going in a steady pace. It makes the idea of a 14-year-old MI-6 spy very believable along with the impossible scrapes he gets into. He's a normal teenager but with a good head on his shoulders. It's a nice break from the usual teenage girl assassin/vampire hunter/whiny-romance YA novels out there. My only quibble is I wish

Alex's character was a tad more developed. I'm hoping it will get better as I read the other books in the series.

The characters are all woefully underdeveloped, even the hero of the book. The action scenes are passable, but the plot is sloppy. Who decided to publish this amateurish attempt? Here's hoping the author gets better as the books continue. Not that I will be reading them (to my kid). Even for children, life's too short to read bad books; there are too many better ones to switch to.

This was a great way for my son to do his summer reading. The story was one he enjoyed very much.

When fourteen year-old Alex Rider hears of his uncle's tragic death in an auto accident, he becomes immediately suspicious. Ian Rider had been a banker, a very careful man. He was also Alex's only living relative. Following up on his uncle's car, Alex discovers that the car is at a junkyard and is sporting dozens of bullet holes and blood on the seats that proves his uncle was murdered. So who killed Ian Rider and covered the act up? And why? Alex's quest for the truth introduces him to Alan Blunt, a spymaster for Great Britain's MI6 espionage agency. Caught while seeking further information, Alex is blackmailed by Blunt into becoming the youngest spy to ever work for MI6. Herod Sayles, a multi-millionaire, is giving away thousands of his newest computer, Stormbreaker, to the children of London's schools. Ian Rider was investigating the man and those machines when he was killed. If Alex doesn't agree to undertake the mission, Blunt promises that he will be sent off to an orphan's home, and that his housekeeper, Jack Starbright, will be deported back to America. Before he can adjust to getting blackmailed, Alex is sent on a three-week crash course training with SAS commandos. Yanked out of training, Alex is thrown headlong into the grinning jaws of death where he will meet a spectacular array of villains, including Mr. Grin who has had his face disfigured during a throwing knife accident in a circus, and a huge jellyfish. Anthony Horowitz is a successful writer of novels and television shows. His second Alex Rider novel, POINT BLANK, is out this year. In addition, he's written historical thrillers, THE SINISTER SECRET OF FREDERICK K. BOWER and THE DEVIL AND HIS BOY. He's also written a series of books involving the FIVE including THE DEVIL'S DOOR-KNOB, NIGHT OF THE SCORPION, and THE SILVER CITADEL. His work for television lists scripts for POIROT and MIDSOMER NIGHTS, and he has created his own television show, MURDER IN MIND. STORMBREAKER is an exciting, easy to read, and hard to put down novel. The breakneck pace of the story draws the reader on, and the simple use of the

language to convey the story make it that much easier to read just one more page, and another, and another. However, the simple writing evokes full images, cast and settings. And there are twists and turns aplenty in the story. Alex is very likeable, and he's very much like James Bond must have been at that age. Not only is he quick and mildly sardonic, but he gets equipped with a cutting-edge tech GameBoy equipped with spygear, zit cream that eats through metal, and a yo-yo that doubles as a winch, serving him as well as Spider-Man's weblines. Even though the pace is driving and the descriptions are wonderful, the book could have used a little more dialogue. The dialogue that the author uses is pretty much spot-on, but more of it was needed. *STORMBREAKER* is an excellent read for anyone interested in action adventure novels and spy stories.

My son read this book on his last day of spring break. He started reading it at noon on his iTouch and finished it at 6:30 tonight. It must have been a great book for him to sit still non-stop to read a book on his last day of freedom before he goes back to school tomorrow. In the first chapter, he informed me that the author already had written "the climax" of the story. I kept my thoughts to myself, smiling, thinking this must be a great book to already have risen to such exciting heights in the first chapter. And the book kept getting better. He has already downloaded the second book onto his iTouch to read later tonight. He heard about the Alex Rider books from the same friends who recommended James Patterson's *Maximum Ride* series to him. He loved the *Maximum Ride* books and was sad when his finished the last book in the series.

I'm going to be honest. I was a little bored of this boon at the beginning, but when it got to the middle of it and hit the climax, it will have you shaking. Five star book for sure. I'd recommend this book to a few of my friends who read a lot like me, as it might be a little hard to understand at times.

Received before expected :) and quality as expected to. No complaints at all

My younger 6th grade son hates to read but is required to read for his English class - no trouble finishing this one and wants to read the next ones!

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