

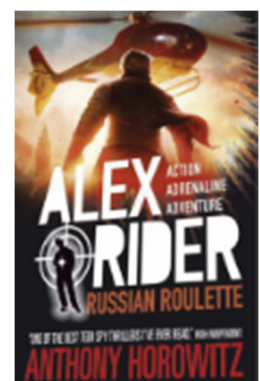
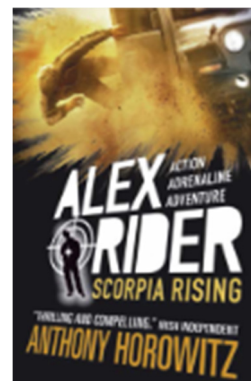
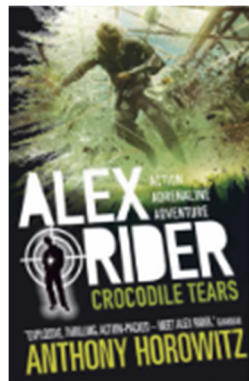
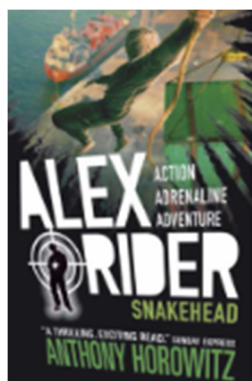
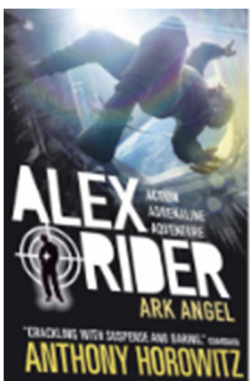
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WALKER
BOOKS

Reviews by children of
THE ALEX RIDER SERIES
by Anthony Horowitz

includes Series reviews and individual title reviews



OVERALL SERIES REVIEWS

Sam Harper, age 11

A normal 14 year old? No. A reluctant spy with really cool gadgets and mega exciting life or death missions? Yes! I defy anyone to stop at book 1.

Dylan Sweet, age 11

One of the best series I've read in my life. A privilege to read. Thrilling, cunning and most of all mysterious. It is unforgettable.

William Longlands, age 11

10/10. This was a brilliant series. Unlike some series this one has been amazing with different plots all the way through.

Books 1 to 9 have an ongoing plot so it is better to read them in order and book 10 has useful backstory. Throughout the series you learn more about Alex and his dad. These books are quite violent so if you don't like violence don't read them. I really liked this series as the books are action-packed all the way through (apart from book 10).

Jake Fletcher, age 14

A brilliant series of books, full of action, adventure, fights, blood, death, and chases. If you don't read this series, you have missed out on a big scale. It's amazing.

Alex Rider, an iconic character in children's fiction, has taken part in nine missions: five for MI6, two for the CIA, one for the Australian Secret Service and completed one mission without orders from any secret services. He has been used, cheated, and threatened on countless occasions. Anthony Horowitz has created the best version of a schoolboy spy. He has inspired other authors to write books with similar plots and characters. This is the original. The fights and chases are outstanding. The detail is great. I can always imagine myself in Alex's shoes.

Anthony Horowitz has written a set of books which should be read by every child. It's the perfect book to encourage reading. It's fun, exciting, witty, and written with such care that every words has been chosen for a reason. This isn't just literature – the series is a masterpiece.

<http://jakesbooks.wordpress.com/book-reviews/>

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

Absolutely incredible. 10/10.

This is the best series of books I have read ever. Anthony Horowitz kept me hooked book after book, I would recommend this series to many of my friends.

This series of books is fast-paced, full of action and was so well described I felt like I was living the adventures with Alex himself.

This has inspired me to want to write, read and become a spy.

Alice East, age 10

Do you like books that are full of danger, excitement and deadly adventures? If you do the Alex Rider series of books are for you!!!

Alex Rider gets recruited by MI6 as a spy when he is still at school. In each book Alex gets sent on missions, each one deadlier than the last.

I thought I might get bored with reading about the same person again and again but I didn't. The more I read the more exciting the books got and the more I wanted to read more about Alex Rider.

Imogen Fisher, age 14

*The 'Alex Rider' series is an action-packed series about a teenage boy, Alex Rider, who becomes a spy. The series is gripping and full of plot twists. I loved reading this series. The only bad thing that I could say about it is that in some cases the books become repetitive in a way, because the villain usually reveals their plan to Alex. However **I really enjoyed reading this series and would recommend it to almost anyone! Anthony Horowitz is an incredible author to have written these books.***

Chloe Mcilroy, age 14

A fantastic series of books which can be read individually or in order. They are full of adventure and escapism!!

*This series follows the adventures of Alex Rider, a 14 year old school boy who becomes an MI6 spy after the death of his uncle Ian Rider. He meets dangerous criminals like Herod Sayle, Damian Cray and General Sarov. He travels the world - Amsterdam, Australia - to defeat them armed with gadgets from Smithers. This is the one advantage he has - his enemies underestimate him. The series is full of dilemmas - should Alex be given a gun? Can he ever resume a normal life or is this his destiny? At times he hates being part of MI6 yet you get the impression that he needs them too. If you love bike chases, near death experiences and unanswered questions then this series is for you. It is suitable for both girls and boys though the issues raised throughout the series become more suited to ages 12 up. **I thoroughly loved every book and once I started them I had to read on. Absolute genius from Horowitz - I wish there were more!***

Chloe Shortall

The Alex Rider series is a fast-paced and action-packed set of books, ideal for lovers of spies and action. Teen readers will adore this unforgettable and enthralling series.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

This series of books is a must read for anyone over the age of 9 who likes spy stories, gadgets and danger. Best books ever!

*The Alex Rider series is an amazing set of books based on a 14 year old boy who accidentally becomes a spy like James Bond. He faces danger of a different kind in every book. No two books are the same, other than nearly every chapter ends on a cliffhanger and you just have to carry on reading! I wish I could have some of the gadgets Alex got to use as they were great. **This series of books is a must read for anyone over the age of 9 who likes spy stories, gadgets and danger. I am so glad I got the opportunity to read them all. Thank you! Best books ever!***

Emily and Joseph Kinder

Thrilling and action-packed, the hugely gripping plots coupled with Alex's last minute escapes make these teenage spy books a must read!

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

Criminal masterminds, exotic locations, gadgets, MI6 & CIA, murder, suspense, many missions, one outcome - teen spy Alex Rider always triumphs!

Mukunth wanted to convey his special thanks for this opportunity, he thoroughly enjoyed doing the reviews!

Alex Faulkner, age 10

An amazing series where each book got better. They were gripping and each word captivated me. I couldn't put them down. The books get more mature further in the series.

Russian Roulette – Prequel to the Alex Rider series

Beth Honeyman, age 11

‘Russian Roulette’ by Anthony Horowitz is outstanding, fast-paced and gripping from the first page. I loved it and was hooked instantly.

I have not read any of the ‘Stormbreaker’ / ‘Alex Rider’ series and this was to my advantage as I was able to immerse myself in this novel without any attachment to the forerunners. The book will however appeal to all ‘Alex Rider’ fans as it gives an insight into the evolution of the young agent's arch nemesis.

Yassen Grgorovich is a character beautifully crafted by Horowitz. Painstakingly created layer upon layer by events and actions beyond his control. It is a fascinating tale of a boy who goes from street urchin to an unstoppable assassin. The characters in this exciting thriller leap off the pages to draw you in. I stayed up late as I simply could not put this book down with all its twists and turns I was determined to discover the fate of Yassen.

I really enjoyed the story of Yassen Gregorovich especially when he begins his training as an assassin. The book transports you across the globe and I loved the descriptions of the different locations the charcter travelled.

This is a must read book for those who thrive on lightning paced thrillers and for those who love a good story with believable characters and events. I would higly recommend this to Horowitz fans and to newbies like myself. I can't wait to start the ‘Alex Rider’ series!

Alice East Age 10

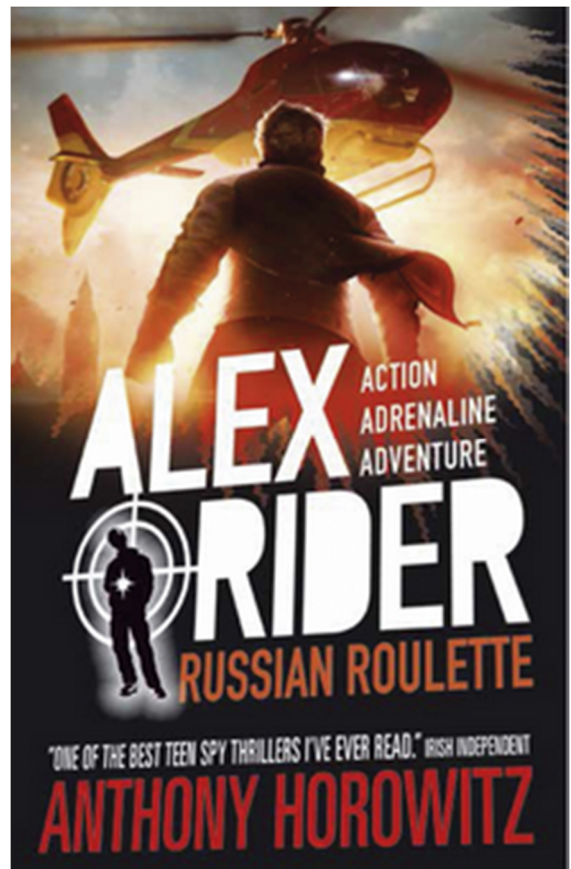
If you like ‘Alex Rider’ stories you must read this as it is the prequel to all the other stories. It tells you about the life of Yassen Gregorovich and how he became a deadly assassin!

It is like the other ‘Alex Rider’ books as it is full of non-stop adventure and excitement. It is so good you want to keep on reading - even when you have been told it's bedtime and lights out!

The book is written as Yassen's diary from when he was 10 and his parents had accidentally discovered a deadly virus. His parents were then forced to continue making this virus as a weapon for the Russians.

The book keeps you thinking about what is going to happen next and you can't wait to find out.

I would recommend this to anyone who loves ‘Alex Rider’ stories. If you haven't read any Alex



Rider stories yet start with 'Stormbreaker' as reading 'Russian Roulette' first could spoil the ending of 'Stormbreaker' a little bit.

William Longlands, age 11

8/10 - This is a really good book but not as exciting as the others in the series. It had action-packed bits but I like action all the way through. It gives a useful backstory to one of the bad guys.

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

Fast-paced, action-packed thriller.

Going back to when Alex Rider was 14 years old, after completing his first mission Stormbreaker, Yassen Gregorovich is sent a simple email to kill Alex Rider. Yassen can't hold back his temptation to read his diary from his youth. This amazing book shows a true side to Yassen that was hidden amongst the other books. Is he really a villain?

I greatly enjoyed reading this book, I have already recommended this book to many of my friends.

Joseph Kinder, age 11

Previously, in the Alex Rider series, Alex has met a contract killer called Yassen Gregorovich. Alex has a connection with this man which involves his father.

We are encouraged to see the links between Yassen and Alex, as we learn about how Yassen lost his own father, but we also learn that Yassen has been given new orders to kill Alex.

This is a crucial book in the series, as a lot of secrets are revealed and we begin to see both Alex and Yassen in different ways. It is important, therefore, not to read this one before the others, as you are given information that will affect how you read the previous books.

Eventhough this is re-treading old ground and gives the back story, it is told in part from the different perspective of Yassen, and this is fascinating in itself. The violence in the book, and the sad nature of this story would mean that it would be suitable for children aged ten or over.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

This book is where we get to find out all about Yassen Gregorovich and what turned him into a contract killer. Fantastic book about one of my favourite characters in the series.

*Having read all of the Alex Rider series, one of my favourite characters was Yassen Gregorovich. This book gives us the full story on why and how he became a contract killer, his relationship with John Rider, how things started to change for him when he too was 14 years old (the same age Alex was when it all began). Another fantastic book by Anthony Horowitz. I really enjoy his books and I am sad that I have come to the end of reviewing them. I can honestly say that this is without a doubt, **the best series of books I have ever read. Thank you!***

Imogen Fisher, age 14

This book was really interesting, as it was different to the other books in the series, because it revolved around Yassen Gregorovich. This was good, because it helped you understand more about him, as he plays an important role in the series. ***I liked how it was written, and it was fast-paced,*** and kept me wanting to read it all the way through, because I wanted to know what happened.

Dylan Sweet, age 11

'That night as I stood at the table watching him tear apart the salmon that I had just tasted in front of all the other guests, I swore that I would kill him. It was surely the reason why fate had brought me here and it no longer mattered if I lived or died. I would kill him. I swore it to myself. I would kill him. I would kill.'

It's one of the best adventure books I have ever read. I couldn't put the book down. It felt like it was bringing me into the story. ***Finally, I can get the villain's point of view.*** As I found out from the book sometimes, villains don't want to be the bad guys, they just don't have a choice.

I found this incredibly emotional and it is mildly violent. It is more psychologically scary than physical. It is very long but I finished in a matter of weeks. Following on from the brilliant Alex Rider series, I think this is going to be another great book in the series.

My favourite character is Hunter because he has advanced skills in being a spy and keeping under cover. My favourite scene is when Yassen and Hunter are about to kill the commander. However, a huge black widow appears on Yassen's shoulder. Hunter had a very clever idea.

*I would recommend this book for boys and tom girls 11 plus. This is one of the only books I would rate as a five star. **I have to say it, this is five star! I loved it and I hope you enjoy it too.***

Sam Harper, age 11

Yasha is in danger but is the life of an assassin the answer and does he have a choice when it comes to killing Alex Rider? An exciting story which is a must-read for any 'Alex Rider' fan.

When Yasha's village is destroyed he sets out to find a friend of his parents in Moscow. But this so called friend betrays Yasha and, unable to return to his family or his village, he is forced to create a new life for himself in the city. He is soon hungry, dirty and penniless and is forced to fit in with a gang of thieves in order to survive. He has nobody to trust and is in constant danger when Scorpio comes to his rescue but is the life of an assassin the answer and does Yasha have a choice when it comes to killing Alex Rider?

'Russian Roulette' is the fast-paced, thrilling prequel to the 'Alex Rider' series. It sets the scene for Alex's life and that of his enemy, Scorpio, and I particularly liked the way that it was written as a diary, from Yasha's point of view. It could be read either before the first 'Alex Rider' book, 'Stormbreaker', or at any point in the series. It's a very exciting story with lots of twists, turns and double crosses. A highly recommended must-read for any Alex Rider fan.

Chloe Shortall

'Russian Roulette' tells the story of Yassen Gregorovitch, the contractual assassin who had been friends with John Rider, Alex Rider's father. This novel describes the life of Gregorovitch, leading up to his assignment to kill Alex Rider.

I really enjoyed this novel because it gave an interesting insight into the life of a character who was pivotal to the story of Alex Rider.

I was surprised to feel sympathy and understanding for the character who had caused so much pain to Alex Rider in the main series.

This novel was brilliant, and I would recommend that anyone who has read the main Alex Rider series should also read this novel.

Jake Fletcher

Alex Rider has been the hero so many times. Yassen Gregorovich, a paid assassin for Scorpia, was a foe Alex faced twice. It's a biography for a villain.

This is the story of Yassen Gregorovich. Yassen Gregorovich, the contract killer, who worked for Scorpia, featured in many Alex Rider books. Horowitz has written the story of Yassen Gregorovich. It tells the reader about the disaster in Russia, and all the pressure that Yassen Gregorovich was put through. It all started at the end of 'Stormbreaker', when Yassen Gregorovich was given the order to kill Alex Rider. Yassen looks back on his life, and the biography tells the story of his life, from the danger, to the deaths. The path that turned him into an assassin started when he was just fourteen years old. The same age as Alex.

I enjoyed the style of the book. Normally, when you write a novel that includes an assassin, the author writes the assassin's plans. We know how the assassin will try to kill in some cases, or who he's trying to kill, and occasionally, his motive to kill. However, this book is different. It shows the heart of the assassin. The emotions and fears of an assassin come out in this book. We start to find out the truth about Yassen Gregorovich. When we reread the Alex Rider books, we can feel sorry for what became of Yassen, and how his life was taken away from him.

'Russian Roulette' is different, and I thought it works well with the Alex Rider series. Anthony Horowitz has written a series, in my opinion, will go down as one of the best for my generation.

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

A prequel to the Alex Rider series, this book narrates the story of contract assassin Yassen Gregorovich whose life has been much like Alex's. He lost his parents in a nuclear disaster at a young age. From then on, Yassen travelled across Europe until finding Scorpia. Yassen trained hard, never once forgetting the trouble he had had to go through, the obstacles he had to tackle. And yet, when he is given the task to kill Alex Rider, he hesitates and realises their similarities. Can he bring himself to murder Alex?

This was an unexpected book as the Alex Rider series had ended, even more unusual that this was a prequel. But it was just as good, maybe even better than some of the previous Alex Rider missions. It was very moving and also very adventurous. It is a must read after finishing the Alex Rider series.

Alex Rider Mission 1: Stormbreaker

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

A 14 year old boy recruited to MI6 as a spy like James Bond is utter genius. He is given gadgets which include a Nintendo DS and a Yo-yo. Highly recommend this book to anyone aged 9+.

This is one of the best books I have ever read.

Alex Rider is an amazing character and very daring. This book contained so much danger and adventure. I couldn't put it down. Alex has some great gadgets. I think my favourite was the Yo-yo which helps him to board a plane. The plot is about an evil man who was bullied as a child and wants to kill all the school children in the UK by releasing a deadly virus. Can Alex stop him in time? Read this book to find out!

Alice East, age 10

This brilliant book is the first book in the Alex Rider series. This is about a boy called Alex, who is a normal school boy until his uncle dies and he finds out about the secret world of spies.

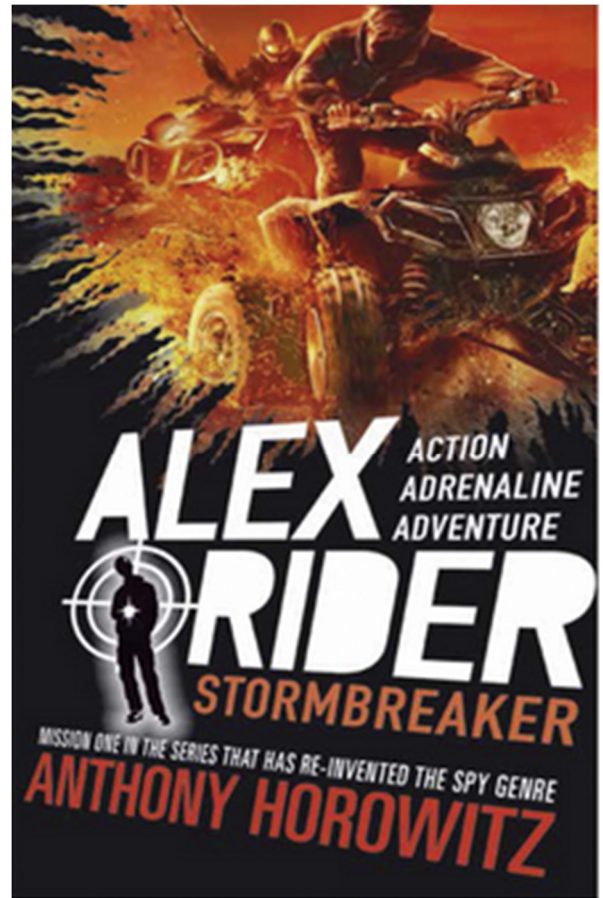
Alex goes on a thrilling mission to spy on a millionaire business man. Alex discovers something that the man is doing. Will he do something and stop it before its too late?

I thought this was a fantastic book as it was packed with action and adventure. I really liked this book because it was pretty different and it really hooked me in. The style of writing was easy to understand. I would recommend this book to boys and girls age 8-11.

Chloe McIlroy, age 14

I really enjoyed this book because of the intricate plot and the fast pace. This is a great story as you are held in suspense the whole way through the book until the truth unravels.

Alex Rider lives with his uncle Ian Rider. He receives news that his uncle was killed in a car crash because he was not wearing his seat belt. Alex is immediately suspicious and his curiosity leads him into the world of MI6. They are suspicious when Herod Sayle offers to give each school in Britain a state of the art Stormbreaker computer. He is blackmailed into accepting the mission and is sent to Port Tallon in Cornwall armed only with a few gadgets. Here he faces many dangers including a giant jellyfish! He must use his wits and the small clue which his uncle



left above the bed if he is to find out what Herod Sayle is really up to.

The book is filled with suspense, unanswered questions and action-packed scenes involving quad bikes and underground tunnels. Will Alex be able to outwit Mr Grin, Nadia Vole and Herod Sayle? Will he find out if Yassin Gregorovich is really the assassin behind his uncle's death?

If you enjoy mystery and adventure similar to James Bond then you will love this book.

Chloe Pickering, age 10

This is a brilliant book that I couldn't put down. It's the perfect book for children who like mystery or adventure books. It is very gripping.

I think this is a perfect book for thrill seekers. It's about a boy called Alex Rider. At first he has an ordinary life but when his Uncle(Alex's guardian) dies his life changes a lot.

He is asked to join a secret agency and finds himself on his first mission in no time at all. All sorts of dangerous things happen. Will he survive? Find out in this gripping adventure.

I will be recommending this book to all my friends and give it a five star rating because it was fantastic.

Alex Faulkner, age 10

'Stormbreaker' is an exciting book about a boy called Alex Rider who is supposed to become a spy but he doesn't really want to.

When my mum asked me to read 'Stormbreaker' again at first I didn't really want to as I read the book a few years ago and didn't really enjoy it.

However after being persuaded to try I found I really enjoyed it. I think I was too young for it before so I would recommend it for ages 10 and above.

The book was exciting and the story had a lot of tension. It made me want to turn the page to find out what happens next.

I liked the ending, it was exciting and had lots of twists in. Towards the end Alex is told not to do any more missions as he is only a child...

I can't wait to read the next book to find out if he does.

William Longlands, age 11

10/10 - a real page turner. I didn't want to stop.

This was a very exciting book where the action started very early and which ended dramatically. It was quite violent with dead people and fighting involving weapons. The story was slightly fantastical especially the gadgets. Alex is a nervous and reluctant hero but brave and determined to complete his task. He and the people he works for had to have faith in Alex and his ability to do the job. This is a page turner. I didn't want to stop.

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

'Stormbreaker' is about a spy who is part of the S.A.S. Alex Rider has a mission that sends him to Herod Sayle who is the antihero in this story. Many adventures between these two characters follow that will keep you gripped to your seat.

My favourite character was Alex Rider because he was clever and fast thinking under pressure.

I really enjoyed the part where Alex Rider was face to face with a Portugese man o' war.

'Stormbreaker' was a great start to the series and kept me gripped from beginning to end. I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Luke Bauer, age 12

I never dreamt of reading this book, just like Alex didn't know about being a spy! But I was tempted by the blurb and I sure did love reading about him!

I really enjoyed reading this book. I got lost immediately, as soon as I had finished the first page. Horowitz has described every detail in the book, all the machinery is very precise, you could imagine the setting instantly. I would love it if Anthony had made it longer (I'm a fan of long books) because the bigger the size, the more information has been put in.

'Alex Rider' will be one of the best series' ever read so I'd rate it 5 stars and I'd recommend it to readers age 9 and over.

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

'Stormbreaker' is the first in the Alex Rider series and is about the teenager Alex Rider and his brush-off with the world of spies. When his parents die in a crash, he moves in with his uncle. But then, his uncle mysteriously dies in a "car crash" and Alex discovers his uncle's true identity. Soon, he is pulled into the world of deadly spies and secret intelligence. However, his first mission might well be his last.

'James Bond' fans will love this nail biting series very much. I always anticipate the part which introduces gadgets, it is as thrilling as opening your Christmas presents! A must try series, definitely.

Sam Harper, age 11

When Alex Rider discovers bullet holes in the door of his uncle's car, he realises that he worked for MI6 and seems to have prepared Alex to follow in his footsteps. MI6 recruit Alex forcefully as they know about his exceptional skills and they need a young boy to go on an undercover mission as a computer genius. Alex is trained by the SAS and is sent to infiltrate Sayle Enterprises in Cornwall, where his uncle died in mysterious circumstances. Alex must try to establish what the seemingly generous Herod Sayle is hiding before the grand launch of his Stormbreaker computers at the Natural History Museum. Alex is a natural spy but he still has a lot to learn. Will following in his uncle's footsteps lead him to the same fate?

'Stormbreaker' is a fantastic start to an amazing series. Alex is a brilliant character. He's really brave and funny and he has cool spy skills. I defy anyone to stop at book one. Once you've read this you'll want to read the whole series as soon as possible. What's stopping you?

Chloe Shortall, age 18

Alex Rider has lived with his uncle, a banker, who spends very little time at home, since he was quite young. Alex is taken care of by Jack, an English nanny. That is, until Alex's uncle dies in a car accident. However, something feels wrong to Alex, his uncle was far too precautious for an accident like that to happen. This causes Alex to investigate the causes of his uncle's death. Was he even a banker...?

I really enjoyed the first instalment of the Alex Rider series. It was fast-paced and full of both action and humour. Fifteen years after his first appearance in the novel, Alex remains a relatable character for teens today.

I would recommend this novel to any teen lovers of spy and mystery novels.

Emily Kinder, age 14

This gripping and compelling book is the first in the series revolving around Alex Rider, the teenage spy. Full of thrills and excitement this is a brilliant book, and one you will quickly grow to love.

"When the doorbell rings at three in the morning it's never good news". This, the first line in this book, is one of the best openings I have ever seen. It is exciting, slightly dark and already stacking up the tension - and that basically sums up the whole book.

With a theme like like this Horowitz would have a hard time to write anything less than superb. A teenage spy has surely been done countless times before, but here Horowitz has made it, if not original, then at least spectacular. Alex is every teenagers perfect character - he is young, remarkably talented and relateable, and the adventure he gets into in this book will have you glued to the pages.

Would you ever suspect that the person you live with, your responsible guardian, was working for the countries secret service? It might come as a bit of a shock, no? For Alex this is exactly what happens - and he's been being prepared for this his whole life, without his knowledge or consent. Within a few weeks he is hurtled into a deadly world that he didn't even know existed, and there is no guarantee that he will come out alive.

I love this book - it is probably my favourite out of the series. It is gripping and compelling, and you grow to really love and fear for Alex. I want to be able to enter his world - to feel the danger and excitement. Somehow, though, I figured that the closest I will get to it is through these books; and that in itself is pretty much enough.

Jake Fletcher, age 14

Boom! Bang! Wallop! It's full of action, fights, and the most ridiculous, but equally brilliant plot ever!

'Stormbreaker', the first of the Alex Rider series, certainly strikes hard. Alex Rider is the world's first teenage spy, hired by the Special Operations Unit of MI6. After the death of his Uncle, Alex's life is turned upside down as he is sent to Cornwall, to deal with a man called Herod Sayle. According to the British Government, Herod Sayle is a hero. MI6 don't believe him, sending Alex in to discover the truth about this man.

When Anthony Horowitz wrote this book, it made him one of the best children's authors writing

today. Since the release of 'Stormbreaker', countless authors have attempted teenage spy stories, but none of them have reached the success of the Alex Rider series. 'Stormbreaker' was published in 2000, fifteen years ago, and it still stands strong. Since then, books such as Robert's Muchamore's 'The Recruit' (2004), Charlie Higson's 'Young Bond: Silverfin', (2005) and 'The Enemy' (2009), have been published. All these books have taken inspiration from 'Stormbreaker', and the Alex Rider series. Now Alex Rider is one of the biggest characters in the world of children's fiction.

This book is fun, energetic and exciting. You can easily imagine yourselves in the shoes of Alex Rider. The action sequences are really the highlights of this book. You get caught in the speed of the action, quickly going onto the next page, and before you know it, you've read another chapter. **Every child, boy or girl should read this. It really is a brilliant book.**

<http://jakesbooks.wordpress.com/book-reviews/>

Imogen Fisher, age 14

This is the first book in the series where you meet the main character Alex Rider, the book immediately makes you empathise with Alex, and quickly builds up a good plot and an exciting story. **The book was gripping and very entertaining, and I quickly found myself rooting for Alex and wanting him to do well on his mission.**

Dylan Sweet, age 11

This action-packed book starts off the brilliant spy series of Alex Rider and his missions. In this book, it consists of 17 chapters, each of them hook you in and never let you go until you've read the entire thing. My favourite scene is when Alex, the main character is tricked into falling into a tank with a Portuguese giant jellyfish inside. However, he uses his burning zit cream to break the glass and get out. Unfortunately, and fortunately, one of the unlucky evil assistant gets the jellyfish thrown at her face. My favourite character is Mr Grin because he has a massive scar on his face in the shape of a smile as he used to be a circus knife thrower. However, one of his acts went wrong and he cut off his tongue in the process. **I like this book because it's thrilling** and I generally like spy books but also, I think the best part of this book is that it's clever and it's not just good guys fighting bad guys, there is actually a meaning. I would recommend this book for boys and girls with a sense of reality and adventure, aged 10 plus.

Alex Rider Mission 2: Point Blanc

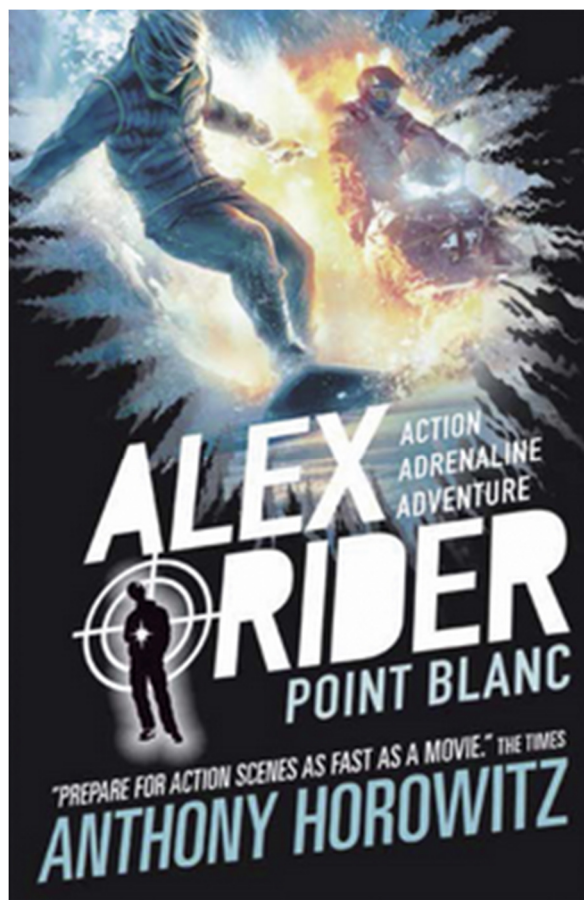
Alice East, age 10

This is another brilliant book from Anthony Horowitz about Alex Rider and his second mission point blank. Will Alex succeed in his latest mission or fail?

This is the second book in the awesome 'Alex Rider' series. Alex is sent to an expensive boarding school on an undercover mission. Alex soon discovers that the school headmaster is plotting something evil - can he report back to spy HQ before it's too late?

I liked this book as it was so interesting and packed full of action and adventure.

This was a great book as it was so exiting and I just wanted to keep reading it. The style of writing was easy to understand. I would recommend this to boys and girls age 8-11.



Rachel Galbraith, age 10

'Point Blanc' was better than I had imagined it to be. It kept me as gripped as 'Stormbreaker'.

'Point Blanc' is the second book in the Alex Rider collection and is an action-packed book about Alex Rider who is a spy for the British S.A.S. Alex Rider is taking a mission at Point Blanc which is a school for the sons of rich people. He is going undercover as Sir David's son.

His target is to find out if the teachers at the academy really are evil, however this time he takes a step too far.

Alex Rider was my favourite character because he is brave and courageous at all times.

My best part of this book was when Alex was noticed rescuing other sons from the academy.

I would highly recommend this book to my friends and parents.

Sam Harper, age 10

An elite finishing school in the Alps, suspicious deaths, action, excitement and really cool gadgets. Brilliant!

When Alex is recruited by MI6 for his second mission he finds himself undercover in an elite finishing school in the Alps. The boys are behaving very strangely, the school has armed guards and three floors are out of bounds. It's run by the vampire like Dr Grief, with the help of the chief inquisitor and body builder Mrs Stellenbosch. Dr Grief is evil. He has a plan to take over the

*world and Alex needs to find proof of this, and fast. Alex is a really cool spy. He's brave, funny and willing to sacrifice his life for others. His duel with the 16th clone was exhilarating and the ironing board snowboard was hilarious. I love his cool gadgets. 'Point Blanc' **gripped me from the first page and I romped through it in two days. A fantastic story.***

Alex Faulkner, age 10

A really good book with excitement on every page.

After reading 'Stormbreaker', the first book in the Alex Rider series I was looking forward to reading 'Point Blanc', the second book and it not only lived up to but went further than my expectations.

Despite being warned in the previous book not to take part in any more missions Alex is sent undercover by MI6, to Point Blanc, a school for rich children who have been thrown out of ordinary schools. MI6 think there is something fishy going on at the school.

I found this story really interesting with cloning and lots of evil goings on at the school. There was lots of fighting and action in the book. I liked the part when Alex was being chased down a ski slope, it was very exciting to read.

Luke Bauer, age 12

He's done it once, but will he do it again? Alex is on another adventurous mission this time high up in the Alps under a false name at Point Blanc Academy. Can he survive though?

I enjoyed this book as much as the last one! The action makes me lost in the book and the characters will never go out your mind, you will always remember them. Like 'Stormbreaker' every little detail is precise, from a bullet to a bomb. The book is a little bit short for my liking though (I am a fan of long books) but I know each book gets bigger as you go up the series.

I'd rate this book five stars and I would recommend this to any reader over 9 years because there are little bits of gore but most kids will get over it.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

*The second 'Alex Rider' book I have read and **it's just as good as the first one.** I would recommend this to mainly boys aged 10 and over.*

*This second 'Alex Rider' book picks up two weeks after the first mission. This time MI6 need Alex to go undercover at a school for problem children. The suspicious deaths of two men are somehow linked. Alex once again has some special gadgets to help him along the way but he ends up having to use one before the mission even gets going on his pretend sister Fiona (she really deserved it though)! This book **was really hard to put down as every time I got to the end of a chapter it ends with something exciting so I had to start the next one.** I can't wait to read book number three.*

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

*After nearly losing his life on his first mission for MI6, Alex Rider already wants out of it. However, once again they convince Alex to work for them, this time going undercover in a school for millionaires. Ever since wealthy fathers began sending their children to the school, the children have been acting strangely. Even more appalling is the fact that two of the fathers who sent their child to this school have died in "accidents". Can Alex find out what the school may be hiding or will he too face the same fate as the two fathers? **Science and sinister plot go hand-in-hand to make this a great read!***

William Longlands, age 11

10/10 Just as good as the first one.

Different plot, slightly more action, slightly more violence but just as good as the first book. If you liked number one you'll like this one to.

Chloe, age 10

Once you have started this exciting adventure book you will not be able to put it down. I would recommend it to anyone who likes mysteries or adventures.

This is a book about a child spy who goes on a mission. When he goes to Point Blanc to try to find out if two deaths are connected, someone thinks he has perhaps learnt a bit too much. Find out what happens in this exciting and action-packed story. Once you have started reading, you will not be able to put it down. I would recommend it to people who love mysteries or adventure series.

Chloe Mcilroy, age 14

A fabulous sequel, it's full of twists and brings back some of the best characters of 'Stormbreaker'. If you love adventures then this book is for you.

Alex goes to the Point Blanc Academy for rich children in the Alps. He has to investigate two suspicious deaths and pretend to be a normal teenager while trying to figure out what is really going on there so he can report back to MI6. He begins to think he is seeing double of the other boys but at first just dismisses it. He later realises that this is part of the Gemini Project. My favourite bit was when Alex thought he was stranded as MI6 weren't responding. Lots of danger and near-death situations - fabulous for both girls and boys of 11+ who love adventures!!

Chloe Shortall, age 18

'Point Blanc' is an exciting follow up to 'Stormbreaker'. Lovers of spy novels will enjoy this exhilarating and witty novel.

In the second instalment of the 'Alex Rider' series, Alex is recruited yet again by MI6 for a mission. A teenager is needed to investigate a boarding school in the Swiss Alps. Alex takes on the identity of the teen son of an owner of a large supermarket chain. I really enjoyed the story to this novel. I thought it was brilliantly thought out. Horowitz is a fantastic writer with an amazing ability to get into the heads of his characters and write them super realistically.

Joseph Kinder, age 11

Situated high in the Alps is a mountain fortress pretending to be a school. This is a promising setting for any book. It is a school that takes in children with rich parents after they have been expelled from other schools. MI6 have noticed something strange going on there and they send in their best agent who is fourteen at the time – Alex Rider. The school is run by a horrific man with red glasses who goes by the carefully chosen name of Dr Grief.

Alex's brief is to find out as much as he can, and he is given ingenious gadgets with which to do this.

The whole plot revolves around Alex finding out the truth – a truth that will shock the world!

This is a tense book, with a plot that twists and turns and falls into place right at the end. It is not a book for the faint-hearted, with scenes of violence and tension - but it is brilliant! Definitely a book to be read in broad daylight!

Jake Fletcher, age 14

At Point Blanc range, Alex Rider is fighting an enemy from the inside – in the middle of the French Alps.

Alex Rider is back in this fantastic sequel. This time, Alex Rider is in a boarding school for troubled students. It's a school for the super-rich. Alex must infiltrate it, and discover anything suspicious. Alex Rider's discoveries changes his mission and consequences come fighting back.

This book deals with real horrors in the world. While the plot at first seems implausible, many aspects of the book are true. The villains in this book are racist. It is an important and difficult issue to discuss in a children's book but I think that Horowitz has managed to get across the horror of racism. Horowitz associates the villains with racism and makes racism appear a criminal act.

This book is a new take on the classic "take over the world" scheme. It is clever, well-written, and I really enjoyed it. I particularly like the style of Horowitz's writing. It is easy going, and even when the plot thickens it is easy to follow. This allows many more readers to enjoy the series.

Some sequels for fantastic books can be disappointing. This certainly isn't the case for 'Point Blanc'.

<http://jakesbooks.wordpress.com/book-reviews/>

Dylan Sweet, age 11

This is a fantastic novel and an even better series. Alex Rider has been asked to go on another mission. He is not sure whether to go on the mission as his last mission put him in mortal danger every day. 'Point Blanc' is about how Alex dresses up and pretends to be a millionaire's son to enter a very expensive suspicious school. Inside the school, he discovers that something is wrong and there are some people not to be trusted. My favourite scene is when Alex is on a homemade snowboard made out of ironing board down a mountain with a few guards on snowmobiles with machineguns built on to the vehicles. However, this does end in disaster and Alex nearly gets killed by a train. My favourite character is Mrs Stellenbosch because she has incredible strength and is a very scary villain. I think this is a very clever book and well plotted. I rate it five stars.

Imogen Fisher, age 14

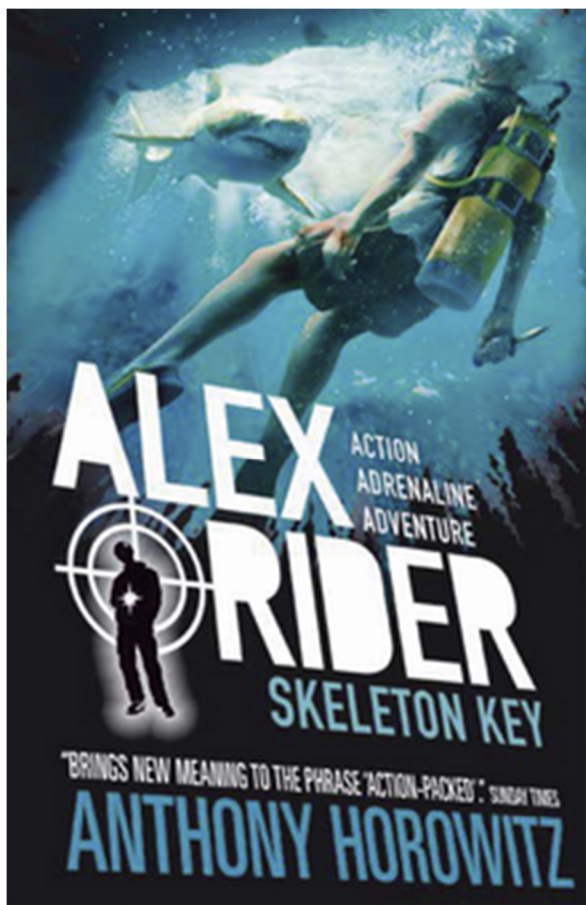
*A thrilling sequel to 'Stormbreaker'! In this book Alex goes undercover at a boarding school for teenage boys with very rich parents. **The plot quickly unfolds, and soon becomes action-packed, as Alex attempts to complete another seemingly impossible mission.***

Alex Rider Mission 3: Skeleton Key

Sam Harper, age 10

Great white sharks, underwater traps and nuclear bombs. Another brilliant, action-packed adventure.

Alex is really looking forward to being a Wimbledon ball boy but when he is attacked MI6 send him to Cuba for '2 weeks in the sun'. He knows he's playing the part of an American kid in a CIA operation but the last thing he expects is to be kidnapped by the mad General Sarov. Sarov commands his own army and has the lethal assassin Conrad working for him. Conrad is lethal in looks as well as by nature, one look at his face could turn medusa to stone! Alex gets drawn in to the investigation when CIA agents Turner and Troy disappear. He is sucked through an underwater trap and finds himself in an abandoned mill, seconds away from being slowly crushed by two gigantic grindstones. He is Sarov's prisoner and the only reason he is kept alive is because of Sarov's strange fondness for him. Alex, armed with only his gadgets, needs to stop Sarov from detonating the bomb, but can he do it?



*I enjoyed this just as much as the previous Alex Rider adventures. It was so exciting when he was about to be crushed in the old mill and also when he had to deactivate the bomb. Another brilliant, action-packed story. **I'm starting 'Eagle Strike' now!***

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

'Skeleton Key' is the third book in the 'Alex Rider' series and has me as hooked as the first.

In this crazy book the villain General Sarov intends to adopt Alex rider which then leads to death. Alex Rider finds new and intriguing ways to protect himself and Russia from imminent disaster.

I really enjoyed this book particularly when Alex Rider goes scuba diving to try and find the entrance to Sarov palace on the island of Skeleton Key however he encounters a shark instead.

I'm really looking forward to the next adventure. 'Alex Rider' is a wonderful spy series.

Alex Faulkner, age 10

This book was a thriller. It is the third book of the Alex Rider series.

Alex is playing football in the park when he is approached by MI6. They ask him to be a ball boy at Wimbledon. He is almost killed by a group of terrorists drugging the tennis players. When things are seeming to get bad for Alex, he is sent on holiday by MI6. While he is enjoying being in a foreign country of blazing sun and brilliant beaches, he stumbles upon a deadly secret. Can he warn MI6 before it is too late?

*I personally enjoyed this book. **There was action everywhere and I was reading it whenever I could. My eyes were glued to the pages.** I would recommend it for ages 10 to 13 but ages older or younger may enjoy it too.*

William Longlands, age 11

*5/5. **The 'Alex Rider' series continues to be very good. If you liked the previous two you'll like this one.***

Dylan Sweet, age 11

***This fantastic book is action-packed and filled with adventure.** Unlike the previous books, 'Stormbreaker' and 'Point Blanc', Alex travels across the world as an undercover spy for the CIA. It all started off when Alex was invited to be a ball boy in the Wimbledon Tennis Championships by Crawley. But there is one condition: he has to spy on the players. Something weird is going on at Wimbledon, and it is Alex's job to find out. My favourite part in the book is when he is scuba-diving and meets a ghost shark! Even so, I found every part interesting - two people were killed in the prologue so you can imagine what the total is at the end! **I think that Alex's character develops really well and you get to know him a lot more in this book.** I also really like Alex's new friend, Sabina; I have a feeling that she will come up again in one of the other books! The only thing that I felt was bad was that the start of the story didn't fit at all with the end of the story, but maybe that is just my opinion. I rate it a four star.*

Chloe Shortall, age 18

Alex Rider is 100% convinced that he will no longer work for MI6. After the events in 'Point Blanc', Alex has no desire to engage in spy work ever again. Then he's offered the chance to work at Wimbledon, as well as keeping an eye on someone while he's there. He ends up drawing the wrath of a Chinese gang in the process. In order to keep him safe, MI6 send him on a mission to an island called Skeleton Key to keep him out of England.

In 'Skeleton Key', the character of Alex is developed, showing the skill of Horowitz to accurately write teenage characters.

I really enjoyed this novel as it was exciting and intelligent, the two things that I look for in a novel.

Alice East, age 10

This is Alex Rider's third mission, Skeleton Key, where he faces his most dangerous mission to date. The story is set on a small private island near Cuba where Alex has been sent to spy on Sarov, a retired general.

In this intense book Alex is spying on the crazy Sarov. He finds out that Sarov is plotting something that will make the world start a war. Will Alex be able to stop it before it's too late?

The 'Alex Rider' books just get better and better as Alex continues to be sent on even more extreme and potentially deadly missions.

I think this book is fantastic because it just really hooks you in and you can never guess what is going to happen next. It is my favorite so far.

This amazing book has a fairly simple language style and it's very easy to read.

Do you like books that have lots of action in them??? Well if you do you should read 'Alex Rider: Skeleton Key'. I would recommend this action-packed book to anyone between the age 8-12.

Joseph Kinder, age 11

On a private island near Cuba lives an insane Russian general. You already know that you are in a Horowitz book – with isolation and a mad, deluded enemy. It is obviously this enemy that Alex Rider is pitted against, and he has to try to prevent the Russian general from taking over Russia.

This is not an easy plot to follow: one that involves nuclear bombs and duplicity, and a Russian General who is still mourning the death of his own son.

*It is unusual to see the human side of the enemy in a Horowitz book, but otherwise, this is exactly what I would expect from this writer. **It is a page-turner, and a book that you won't be able to put down.***

Luke Bauer, age 12

Alex is going all over the place and no-one can keep up with him! Now he's in Cuba to stop a Russian madman from blowing up the world. But can Alex save it in time?

Alex Rider will be a family favourite for decades to come. His books have very precise details like the make of a car and what engine it has, or the name of a gun and the capacity of bullets it holds. The characterisation is excellent, the backstories of the villains are quite cool and make the book more interesting. I also like seeing the books being larger than the last as (to my opinion) the bigger the better.

Like in the past A.R. reviews I will give it five stars and recommend it to ages 8+.

Jake Fletcher, age 14

Alex Rider is the key to success in every mission so far. Will this mission be Alex's last, or will the door of defeat finally open to Alex?

Alex Rider, teenage spy, has been successful in two missions so far. Alex Rider's latest assignment is his toughest yet. Alex is working for the American CIA, to infiltrate the island of Cayo

Esqueleto. Here lives the mysterious General Alexei Sarov. Alex's mission is to help senior American agents get onto the island – no one suspects a family of being spies. Suddenly, Alex becomes the last hope for the survival of Europe. Just Rider's luck.

In 'Skeleton Key', the villain comes across as a man with feelings. Sarov comes across as insane, but you can almost feel sorry for him at the same time. Alex develops as a character too. We know that Alex is a teenage spy, but while you read, you can occasionally forget. This book brings to light that Alex is still a teenager. We start to feel sorry for Alex, yet there is still a sense of admiration for him.

In this book, new characters are added such as Sabina Pleasure, Alex's best friend. While other readers may not like this introduction, I think it takes the series to another level. The teenage spy concept works well because of the split identity. Alex goes to school and has friends, but carries on doing missions. If Sabina Pleasure wasn't introduced, I feel the link between schoolboy Alex and spy Alex may be lost. Sabina holds a link to Alex's old life. It works well.

<http://jakesbooks.wordpress.com/book-reviews/>

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

Alex Rider at his best with more danger and more gadgets. This series just gets better and better. Highly recommend this especially to boys aged 9-14.

In this third Alex Rider book, he meets with yet more danger including sharks and nuclear bombs! He has more gadgets including a really cool mobile phone that works under water and does something extra special! He travels by plane to Cuba and has to stop a dangerous Russian from using the bombs. If it wasn't for the fact that I have also read the next few books, I would think that Alex had been killed off in this book as that's how it made me think in the penultimate chapter! The story writing is fantastic and these books make me want to keep on reading. I find it really hard to stop at the end of a chapter as they usually end on a cliffhanger. Highly recommend these stories. 10 out of 10!

Imogen Fisher, age 14

This is one of my favourite books in the series, it is full of action, and lots of exciting plot twists. *It is also quite interesting because you see Alex developing even more as a character, and begin to understand him even more. Alex also goes through a lot in this book, and it is good to see how he copes with this.*

Chloe Mcilroy, age 14

Packed with action from start to finish. It's like being in the middle of an action movie at the cinema - couldn't put it down!

Alex is sent on his third mission by MI6. This time he has to find out who is trying to ruin the Wimbledon tennis championships. He is targeted by a Chinese gang and has to take shelter on an island called Skeleton Key. The villain, General Sarov, plans to use a nuclear bomb to bring back communism and Alex has to stop him and Conrad with gadgets - a mobile phone that works underwater and an aerial.

Action scenes include Alex being faced with a shark and fighting for his life against various

Chinese triad gang members. He also meets a new friend Sabrina.

If you enjoyed the first two books then you will love this as you can see how Alex is maturing as a character.

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

'Skeleton Key' is the third book in the 'Alex Rider' series. Alex this time has to work for the CIA due to certain circumstances and events back home with MI6. This time, he's up against General Alexi Sarov, a retired general who is very much insane. Alex becomes tangled up in a plot involving nuclear submarines and world chaos. Can Alex stop Sarov before it's too late?

*This book was a great story which I really liked mainly due to the fact that this time, nuclear submarines were involved. This was **a totally adrenalin fuelled story and I also liked the fact that two secret services were involved. Ten out of ten.***

Alex Rider Mission 4: Eagle Strike

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

Action-packed adventure leading up to the big question.

'Eagle Strike' is the fourth in the 'Alex Rider' series and my personal favourite so far.

Alex Rider is determined to defeat Damian Cray. However, nobody believes Damian Cray is an evil mastermind. Alex Rider has to play the hardest video game for real.

Now I have read book four in this series I will certainly recommend this book to my fellow classmates.

Sam Harper, age 11

A relaxing holiday? No. Heat seeking missiles, bike chases and nuclear weapons? Yes!

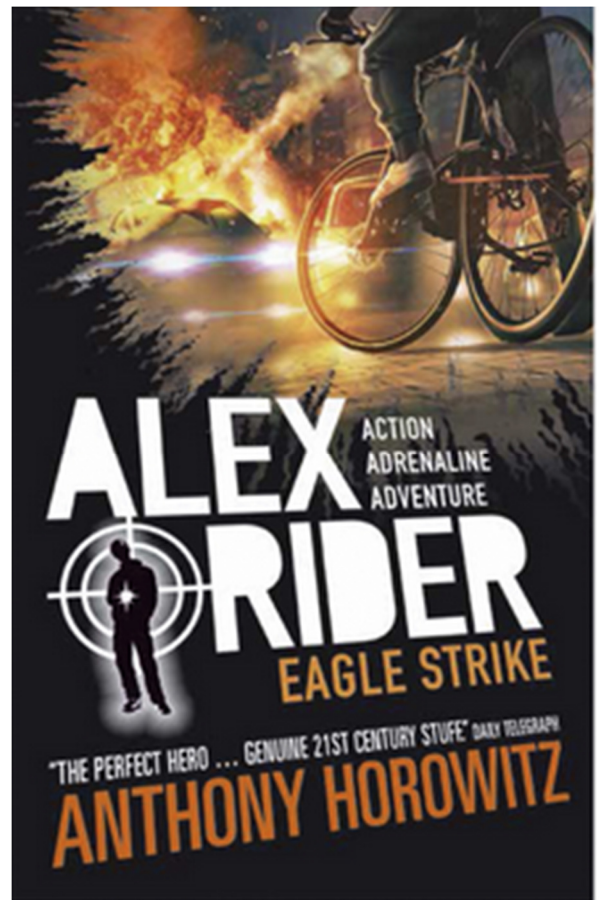
When Alex is with Sabina in the south of France all his plans for a relaxing holiday are destroyed when he spots Yassen, the assassin who killed his uncle. Yassen is working for Damian Cray, a famous pop star, environmentalist and computer games manufacturer. He's nearly killed when he follows Yassen to his base, is forced to take part in a bullfight and, although he manages to escape, this is only the start of his problems. A revolutionary new lifelike game, Gameslayer, is being launched and Damian doesn't like it when Alex nearly beats the game. There's an exhilarating bike chase with heat seeking missiles, ejector seats and smoke screens. Alex is sure that Damian is planning something. Will Alex be able to stop him and what does Yassen mean when he tells him that he must go to Venice to find Scorpia and discover his destiny?

A brilliant, fast-paced adventure which had me on the edge of my seat. *I didn't know what was coming next but it was always something exciting. The bike chase was exhilarating and the scene with the recreation of Gameslayer was fantastic. I loved it!*

Alex Faulkner, age 10

I enjoyed this book so much I could not stop reading it.

While on holiday with his friend, Sabina, Alex Rider sees his enemy, Yassen Gregorovich. He overhears him talking on the phone. Next thing he knows, his friend's father's hotel room explodes into pieces. He figures out that the person who hired Yassen could be Damian Cray, a famous



celebrity billionaire with the ambitions of stopping people from taking drugs. But how could a celebrity so rich hire a killer? Read the book and find out.

The book had tension spreading across every page. I felt like I was there, watching the action happen. My eyes were glued to the page.

William Longlands, age 11

5/5 - continues the winning formula of previous books. One of the baddies from book one returns.

Dylan Sweet, age 11

*Book four starts off with Alex Rider on holiday with his new friend, Sabina, in France. When her father is nearly killed it changes everything. He knows that his old enemy Yassen is involved and works to find out how. Damian Clay (who has hired Yassen) pretends to give money to charities and help people but he is really quite mad and evil. My favourite scene is when Alex realises he has just 90 minutes to save the world against Clay's evil plan to send bombs off. It is also interesting when Yassen says he doesn't kill children so saves Alex's life. We find out that Alex's father also worked with Yassen before he was killed. I would recommend this book to everyone who likes to read about action and adventure and danger. **The pace of the story is very fast and it is a real page turner.***

Imogen Fisher, age 14

*The book starts with Alex relaxing in France, and you begin to think that maybe he has escaped his life as a spy, however he soon discovers something dangerous that needs stopping, but **this time Alex is alone, with no help from the government, and he also has a limited amount of time, so save millions of people.** It is very fast-paced and I enjoyed reading about how Alex managed to save so many people, from someone who people thought was innocent.*

Chloe Shortall, age 18

Alex is furious that MI6 won't believe him. After all the work he's done for them, they still leave him out, and won't believe it when Alex informs them that Damien Cray, the most influential popstar in England, is planning something dangerous.

When MI6 refuses to help him, Alex embarks on this mission alone, with barely any help with regards to gadgets. At times he worries that he's wrong and that Cray is exactly what it looks like, but when he finds out the truth, it is up to Alex alone to save the world.

As with all previous Alex Rider novels, Eagle Strike is full of action and excitement. The storyline is brilliantly done and each chapter leaves you wanting more. It was very hard to put this novel down.

I would recommend this novel to any teenage readers who like spy novels, or novels full of action.

Alice East, age 10

Alex is peacefully relaxing on holiday in France, until one of his friends is suddenly attacked. THIS is Alex Rider's 4th and most deadly mission yet; will he succeed or will he fail?

Someone is threatening to destroy the world. Alex only has 90 minutes. Will he be able to save everyone before it's too late? Alex's missions just get better and better all the time. What I really like about these books is just that they are really different from other books.

This awesome book is packed with action and adventure so you never get bored of it. There is nothing that I don't like about these books.

The language is easy to understand and its only names that are hard to pronounce. The text is very detailed and it helps you picture the scene in your head. I would recommend this to boys and girls age 8-12.

Emily Kinder, age 14

As usual Horowitz spins a spectacular tale of action and tension, throwing Alex into another, darker, mission that threatens all he knows.

On holiday in the South of France with a perfectly normal friend and her family Alex can finally relax like a normal teenager. Sadly he is anything but, and it's not that easy to leave that past behind. He quickly finds himself sucked back into the ravings of another deluded villain, and just like that he has to save the world...again.

I loved this book almost as much as the previous books in the series - a lot. The world that is hidden away from us general public, the secrets and perils we never hear about have always fascinated me. I love (or hate) the idea that we could be all in mortal danger, and that a few undercover heroes are all that protect us. Of course, Alex (unlike practically everyone else in the world) makes it clear that he is NOT a hero. Every time danger appears he is forced into it in some way, which I think is a shame. Horowitz wanted to make Alex different to Bond - Alex isn't doing his bit out of patriotism, he's bullied and cajoled into it. I think I would prefer it if he just naturally wanted to be involved, which is more what happens in the book.

Alex is every teenagers perfect character - he is young, remarkably talented and easy to relate to. He's like a young James Bond - just as amazing and 'cool', but without Bonds vices and adult side. I hugely recommend this series, and this book. The only thing I would wish for is more of Smithers (the amiable MI6 gadget designer) and the cool gadgets and so on that come with him. Ah well, I suppose you can't have everything, and this adventure is technically not a mission. Even so, this is a brilliant read, with all the fun and adventure of the previous books.

Chloe McIlroy, age 14

This book will have you on the edge of your seat!

Alex is now 15 and is in the South of France on holiday with Sabina. He sees Yassen Gregorovich and follows him where he overhears him on the phone planning a murder. MI6 don't believe him so Alex goes it alone. Back in England Damian Cray is showing his new computer game, Gameslayer where the players feel the pain of their character. He wants a teenager to try out the game on stage and Alex gets chosen. Cray stops Alex mid way and Alex decides to break into his

house in Amsterdam to find out what is going on. Cray plans to launch missiles at targets across the world with help from Yassen Gregorovich. There is a fight on board a plane where Alex finds out something disturbing about his dad. **You will definitely want to read this thrilling adventure!**

Luke Bauer, age 12

After Alex's friend Sabina's holiday home blows up he has a mission on his hands without MI6 to help him. Can he stop a mad, power-hungry singer from taking over the world?

More and more action and effort gets put into each book. Every detail gets even more precision into it. I love the villain choices and their backstories because a book isn't a book without a villain. The events will have your eyes glued to the page, you'll never put it down.

Another five stars and the usual recommendation for ages 8+.

Jake Fletcher, age 14

Alex flies like an Eagle in this next book, as he crosses the globe to stop a mass-murder. The timer's on: 90 minutes to save the world. No Pressure.

You've read the first three books. Alex has been used, cheated, threatened and almost killed on countless occasions. Surely he deserves a break; then Alex's holiday is ruined. His host's home is blown up, he comes face-to-face with an old foe, his best friend thinks he's a liar, and then MI6 abandon him. Within a matter of days, Alex is chasing after pop singer Damian Cray. Damian Cray, the man who has given millions of pounds to countless charities, is considered by some to be the closest thing to a living saint. Alex is convinced he tried to kill his hosts. Without warning, Alex gets caught up in a battle like no other. There's only one difference to any of his previous missions – MI6 aren't there as back up this time. He's on his own.

This is one of my favourite Alex Rider books. It's full of action and fights. It is set across Europe, from Amsterdam, to England. It builds up tension. The fights and chases are really strong and full of drama. Sabina Pleasure also features a lot in this book. We start to see the friendship between Alex and Sabina stretched as they face the dangers the villains throw at them. As the book concludes, we as the reader, have gone through a series of emotions, from outrage to anger. Still Alex carries on. He becomes the person everyone wants to be – selfless, and brave.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

Another great Alex Rider story. This time with a lack of gadgets and a lack of MI6! Alex is on holiday just chilling with a friend when he spots an old enemy from a previous book in the series.

This is the fourth in the series and slightly different from the first ones due to the lack of gadgets and MI6!

Alex is on holiday with his friend Sabina when he spots Gregorovich the Russian assassin in the same resort. He suspects he is up to no good along with pop star Damien Cray but when he alerts the authorities, they don't want to know, so Alex goes it alone. Yet another exciting page turner by Anthony Horowitz. I couldn't put this book down. There is a sad moment at the end though.

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

Alex Rider has had enough of working for any secret service and is on a luxurious holiday in France with school friend Sabina Pleasure and her family. But Alex is not allowed a break, it seems, as he finds more trouble on a yacht, inside which is the Russian assassin Yassen Gregorovich, the very assassin who had cold heartedly murdered his uncle but on his first mission for MI6, had refused to kill Alex. Then when Sabina's father is injured by a bomb, Alex knows something is up. But when Alex seeks out MI6 for help, they turn him down. Soon, Alex uncovers a more sinister plot involving Air Force One, the president of the United States' plane, and a multi-millionaire pop star. Will Alex be able to get to the bottom of this plot?

A clever plot, master story-telling and vivid locations make it a must-read for any teenager with a sweet tooth for mystery and spy stories.

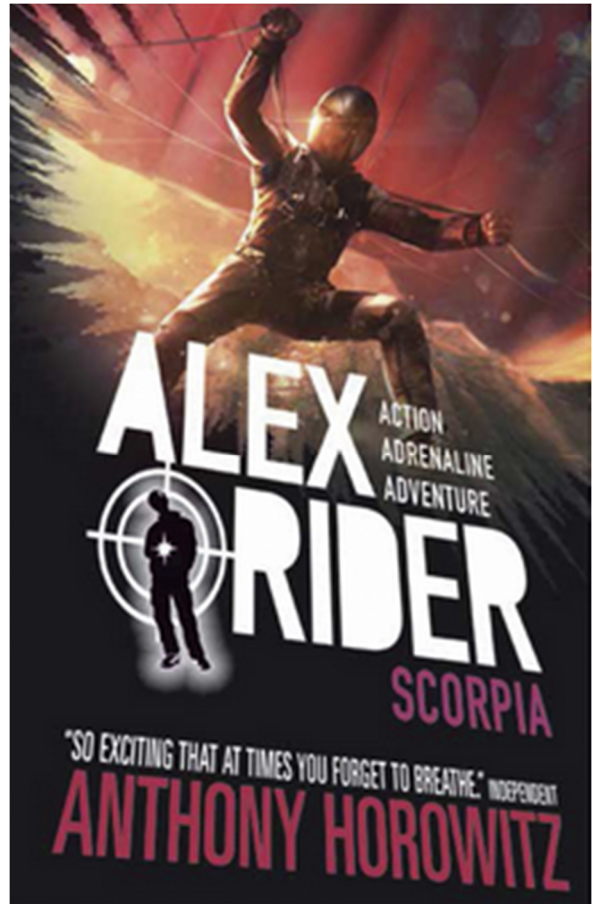
Alex Rider Mission 5: Scorpia

Sam Harper, age 11

Alex is on a mission to find Scorpia. He travels to Venice on a school trip and pretends to be sick in a mad attempt to uncover where and what Scorpia is. Alex joins Scorpia after Julia Rothman, one of the leaders, convinces him that MI6 are responsible for his father's death. They train him but Alex then learns about Scorpia's plans to kill thousands of children, with cleverly activated drugs in their bloodstream, unless America destroys its nuclear weapons and withdraws from all other countries. Will Alex be able to stop them? He starts to piece the clues together but doesn't know who to believe. Was his father really a ruthless assassin? Should he follow in his footsteps working for Scorpia or stick with MI6 and who are the real good guys?

Alex moves over to the dark side in this adventure but there are enough clues to make him doubt which side he should be on. It doesn't matter whether he's fighting for good or evil, it's still mega exciting.

This is one of the best Alex Rider's yet.



Rachel Galbraith, age 10

This amazing book sums up the first half of the series.

Yassen Gregrovitch is dead. Now Alex has to find Scorpia! But Alex has no idea what is waiting for him as he starts his new adventure in Venice.

This book made me laugh when Alex Rider abandoned his school trip in favour of his next adventure. **The 'Alex Rider' series is still keeping me page turning long after bedtime.**

Highly recommend.

Chloe Shortall, age 18

In the fifth instalment of the thrilling Alex Rider series, Alex has decided to go against MI6 in order to find out more about his past and his parents. He travels to Venice where he meets the notorious Scorpia. Here Alex makes a discovery that leads him to believe his past was a lie.

The novel was interesting to read because of the character development of Alex. It's fascinating to see how all the action of life as a spy has affected Alex and his actions.

I really enjoyed this novel, as I have with all previous novels in this series. The fast-paced and tension filled story will appeal to teenagers and any lovers of spy novels.

Imogen Fisher, age 14

*This time Alex is in enemy territory, and he finds out about his family's past. He also learns more about MI6's enemies, Scorpia, and has to make a big choice that could change his life forever. **It is quite different to the previous books in the series, and starts to get darker as you learn more about Alex and his parents.***

Dylan Sweet, age 11

*This Alex Rider book is very calm compared to the other books. He is skipping between the two – MI6 and Scorpia. He was set on his first assignment to kill an old friend, Mrs Jones. This is an amazing book and is very complicated at times when using gadgets. My favourite character in this book would have to be Nile, a very cunning contract killer with a curious skin disease. He was second best in killer school as a mysterious weakness prevented him from being number one. My favourite scene is when Alex Rider was about to shoot Mrs Jones. Something surprising happens when the bullet leaves the gun. **'Scorpia' is by far one of the best books in the series.** I rate this book four stars.*

Alice East, age 10

This is Alex Rider's 5th mission Scorpia. In this book Alex discovers some secrets about his family's past and Scorpia. Will Alex work with Scorpia or will he stay loyal to MI6?

Alex has to travel to Venice to find Scorpia. Scorpia is a criminal organisation and also one of the deadliest. Alex Rider soon finds his training to be much harder than MI6 training. Alex discovers a plot to kill thousands of 12 year olds. Will Alex be able stop them or not?

I really enjoy the Alex Rider books because they are exiting and they are really thrilling. These books just get better and better, I can't wait to read the next one.

This book has a simple language style and is easy to read.

If you enjoy action-packed books that are extremely exiting, you should read the Alex Rider series. I would recommend this wonderful book to girls and boys age 8-12.

Chloe McIlroy, age 14

Exciting, fast-paced and keeps you on the edge of your seat! You won't be able to put it down!

This follows on from the last book in the series where Alex wants to find out about the death of his parents. Alex travels to Italy to find out about an international organisation called Scorpia. Alex thinks his father was connected with it. He is offered a job with Scorpia and his first mission is to kill a member of MI6. Scorpia want to ruin relations between America and Britain and Alex ends up firing a gun at Mrs Jones! There are new villains in this book - Mrs Rothman - and we get to see another side to Alex's character - we find out whether Alex can really be a ruthless cold-blooded killer. There is a shock at the end of the book which will make you want to read on to the end of the series.

Joseph Kinder, age 11

Scorpia (standing for sabotage, corruption, intelligence and assassination) is a horrible, merciless group. It is feared by officials and police across the globe. Could this be the evil force that finally overpowers Alex Rider? Obviously, the answer is no.

While they try to get him to join them, he discovers more about his parents. Alex is shocked and guilty because he now knows his own connection with the group.

He does, in the end, join the group, but finds out that he is just not able to do what they ask of him. He can't, he discovers, kill another human being. And yet, of course, the world needs to be saved, and it is up to Alex to do so.

*So far, **this is the best book in the Alex Rider series.** While the intricate plot might confuse younger children, **children over the age of ten will be intrigued by the idea of Alex being tempted by the enemy – it is a book that forces you to read on.***

Jake Fletcher, age 14

Sabotage. Corruption. Intelligence. Assassination. Did Alex Rider's father really work for Scorpia? Alex needs to decide whether he's a spy, or a criminal – just like his father?

"Look for Scorpia". Alex Rider has suffered lots. When Assassin, and killer of Ian Rider (Alex's Uncle) Yassen Gregorovich, tells Alex that his father worked for Scorpia, a criminal organisation, Alex doesn't want to believe it. On a school trip to Venice, the apparent location of Scorpia, Alex meets the mysterious Mrs Rothman. He discovers the truth about his father. He joins Scorpia. Meanwhile, the lives of millions of schoolchildren are in danger. Is Alex the good guy anymore?

This book is a brilliant book. *Alex is in the biggest dilemma of his life. He has been told some horrific things about his father. He wants to help Scorpia, to get his revenge. Yet the author gets across Alex's fear of killing. Alex doesn't want to kill. In this book, Alex's beliefs are tested to the limit. I think this book is well written, especially the way they flick from MI6 to Scorpia. We get the whole story by piecing together each character's knowledge. Horowitz has been clever in the way he has written the book. The reader picks up clues along the way, piecing together the plot before the actual characters.*

I really enjoyed this book. It was exciting, full of energy, and I thought that the concept of Alex working for the criminals was clever. The fear with writing lots of books in a series is that the concept grows old. This shift in the storyline works to Horowitz's advantage, offering a new direction for the books.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

The fifth book in the series and I think the best yet! There are certainly some shocks in this one. He questions who his father was. He goes in search of Scorpia to find out his destiny.

I will start by saying that there is a HUGE shock in this book. I recommend you read it to find out what it is. This is THE best Alex Rider book so far and I have read the previous four titles. This

book is filled with lies, betrayal and so much danger. Alex gets to question who his Father was and who he worked for. Alex is asked to do something that he really doesn't want to do. Will he? Won't he? He has a choice to make! **Anthony Horowitz is an AMAZING writer. 10 out of 10 once again!**

William Longlands, age 11

5/5. Revelations about his father and a change of scene for Alex. Excellent as normal.

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

Alex is in a state of confusion and a mix of different feelings. With the haunting memories of his previous mission and the last words of the Russian assassin Yassen Gregorovich; "find Scorpia and you will find your destiny", Alex has to make a choice and decides to find Scorpia. But he will have to brace himself for the ultimate truth, or the ultimate lie. Another mission, another chance of death. **Alex Rider in his most dangerous mission, venturing through the streets of Venice, hunting for the missing link to his past and his future.**

This book was extremely suspenseful with a very powerful storyline that was full of action and drama.

Alex Faulkner, age 10

The Alex Rider books just get better and better each time. I thoroughly enjoyed it all the way through.

All of the Alex Rider books are very good but 'Scorpia' is better than the others. I especially enjoyed the part when the Head of Scorpia retires and is given a present for Happy Retirement. (Read the book to find out what it is!)

This book has lots of tension and action on every page. I read it over and over again. A good read which I recommend for ages 10 and above.

Luke Bauer, age 12

Taking the advantage of going on a school summer trip to Venice, the last words of Yassen Gregorovitich echo in Alex's head. He is now betraying his friends by walking into the hands of the enemy...

This book is very enjoyable and it has lots of detail to it. Anthony has this eye for detail. He names every gun, engine, car make and bullet (not criticising!). I like the way he manages to write the book as Alex, I'd find it hard to do as well.

I would rate this 5 stars and recommend it for 8yrs+.

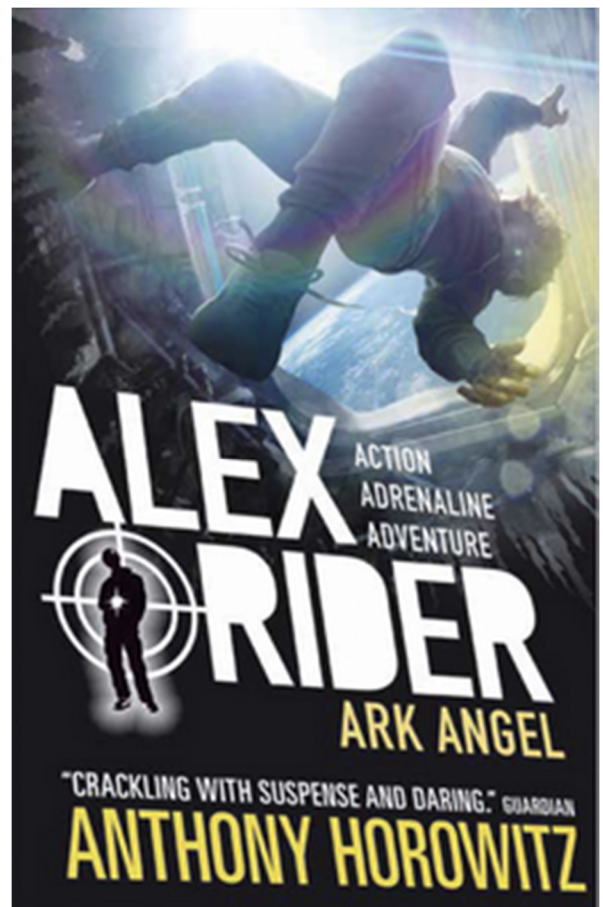
Alex Rider Mission 6: Ark Angel

Sam Harper, age 11

Alex is becoming a skilled MI6 agent whether he wants to or not and this adventure is as action-packed and exciting as ever.

When Alex is accidentally kidnapped by a group of ruthless terrorists, he finds himself mixed up in the world of Russian multibillionaire, Nikolei Drevin. Alex is invited to stay with him and his son, Paul, on their own private island but Nikolei is not without his secrets. He has his own private army and the CIA are worried about his possible mafia connections. Drevin is building Ark Angel, a unique space hotel, and he will be launching the final sections, and an ape to test the finished hotel, in the next few days. Drevin doesn't seem to be the nicest man but is he really a global criminal as the CIA suspect? Alex needs to find out what is really happening on the island, and fast.

'Ark Angel' is another thrilling Alex Rider adventure. He's becoming a skilled MI6 agent whether he wants to or not and this adventure is as action-packed and exciting as ever.



Rachel Galbraith, age 10

Another intriguing Alex Rider.

I found 'Ark Angel' less thrilling than the other books in this series. It took me a while to finish because the book felt very similar to 'Eagle Strike'.

'Ark Angel' starts slowly but by the middle I couldn't put it down. Alex Rider finds himself in another dangerous situation, where his quick thinking and experience help him conquer this new challenge.

Dylan Sweet, age 11

This is a really dramatic book and I thought it was one of the best so far. *Alex meets the son of billionaire Nikolei Drevin in hospital and saves his life by pretending to be him. Later he is invited to stay at Paul (Drevin's son) and Drevin's house and to holiday with them. Soon Alex realises that not everything is what it seems. Drevin is planning to send a bomb into space and then to drop it on Washington. The only way to stop it is for Alex to go up in a rocket to space and change Drevin's evil plans. My favourite scenes are firstly, when Alex dives into a ship wreck*

and is trapped in a room in the ship and secondly, when he discovers Kasper is also on the space ship, Ark Angel and has to fight him. I'm really looking forward to reading the next book.

Imogen Fisher, age 14

In this book Alex ends up once again stopping criminal organisations, but this time he is in space! The fact that he is in space, in my opinion makes the book even more thrilling. It is very well written and keeps you wanting to read on all the way through the book.

Chloe Shortall, age 18

I really enjoyed this high-action and fast-paced novel. Teen readers will love this novel.

After an almost fatal injury, Alex Rider is ordered by his doctor to spend two weeks resting and recovering. Instead, he gets tied up in a plot by an extreme conservationist group in order to save the boy in the room next to him, who he has only spoken to two or three times.

To thank Alex, the boys father invites him to stay with them for a few days. Alex agrees to this because the father is a rich man, and he's sure that he'll be kept in comfort, which is exactly what his doctor had ordered.

But again, Alex is mistaken. This time he gets tangled in a situation involving a new space hotel and the conservationist group, who end up to be not what he expected.

I really enjoyed this high-action and fast-paced novel. Teen readers will love this novel.

Alice East, age 10

This is Alex Rider's 6th mission: Ark Angel. This mission is deadlier than ever before. Alex meets a multi-billionaire's son then his father - Nikolei Drevin invites Alex round.

Alex soon discovers a secret about an evil plot Nikolei is planning. Can Alex stop him before it's too late? This is a deadly mission - will he succeed or will he fail?

This is another Alex Rider book that is jam-packed with twists and turns and keeps you wanting to read more. I always enjoy these books as they are full of action and excitement.

If you enjoy action-packed books that are extremely exiting, you should read the Alex Rider series. I would recommend this wonderful book to girls and boys age 8-12.

Emily Kinder, age 14

Teen spy Alex is once again thrown into the thrilling world of death and danger that normal people never see. Full of thrilling fight scenes and last minute escapes this is a book not to be missed.

Exciting, thrilling and unusual, the return of Alex is something everyone has been waiting for. Like the five Alex books before it 'Ark Angel' won't be a disappointment. Packed as usual with plenty of edge-of-your-seat action and a ton of cool gadgets and stunts this is a gripping and fun read, with an interesting plot line and lots of new places.

A new character, and a possible friend is introduced in the form of the billionaire's son; Paul Drevin. With him comes the classic look in into how the very richest live, which is fun if not very original. Again, the feeding in of new places (countries, establishments and groups of people) help to keep it from feeling stale and repetitive. I felt especially that the fact that the CIA are involved help to give it a more global feeling somehow - like the whole world really is in danger - and makes it seem more real. It gives a broader perspective on both Alex, and the missions that he's undergoing.

Alex is, if it's even possible, cooler than before, with more last minute escapes and inventive fight scenes. He's still a great character, and seems even more real with his development that takes place throughout the course of the books. As per usual his many against-the-odds victories are spectacular, and just about plausible, although the plot is once more slightly repetitive. Its overall idea is just the same as all of the books that have gone before, although it has some really cool moments that distinguish it somewhat.

Overall, cool is how I'd describe it. It is adventurous, and a fun read with inventive plot twists, and gripping fight scenes. I enjoyed this book a lot, and would definitely recommend it.

William Longlands, age 11

5/5 - This series continues it's excellent form.

Another change of scene for Alex when he tries to go on holiday after the activities of book five.

Jake Fletcher, age 14

Alex Rider is back for his sixth mission. Five successes. This next mission will be out of this world! Will Alex come back down though?

Alex Rider is recuperating in hospital from a chest wound. Just Alex's luck, he ends up being mistaken for another boy, a son of a multi-billionaire, and is chased throughout the hospital by kidnappers. Alex is offered a two week luxury holiday, to recuperate by the multi-billionaire. However, suddenly, the CIA are contacting him. He's needed again, and this time, the future of Washington is at stake.

The fight carries on for Alex. However, one aspect of this book which I particularly liked was the friendship Alex started to develop with the billionaire's son, Paul Drevin. All Alex wants to be is a normal schoolboy, having fun with friends. It's just Alex's luck that the CIA have another idea for Alex. Alex has five missions under his belt, making him a spy veteran, an expert. However, we as the reader, forget that when Alex takes on missions, he loses the link with his schoolboy self. In this book, we see how Alex's life is really controlled by the secret services, whether American or British.

*This book is another well written book. Anthony Horowitz has managed to create another Alex Rider book that you will struggle to put down. In this book, it isn't all action. The plot really develops. On the other hand, the action in this book is still big and bold. **In 'Ark Angel', you won't be disappointed.***

<http://jakesbooks.wordpress.com/book-reviews/>

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

Another great teenage spy adventure featuring Alex Rider. Who is the boy in room nine and how did he survive? I was really happy to find out that Alex hadn't been killed at the end of the last book!

This starts with Alex recovering in hospital. Here he meets a boy called Paul. Paul turns out to be the son of one of the world's richest men and he ends up saving him from being kidnapped. Paul's Dad offers his home for Alex to recover only for Alex to find that the family and the world are under threat. A hotel up in space? Well I guess it will happen one day! Yet another excellent story written by Anthony Horowitz. As with the other five previous stories, this is well written and I couldn't put it down. Highly recommend especially to boys aged 9 to 14 years old.

Chloe Mcilroy, age 14

Action-packed as usual - you won't be able to stop reading it!

This book starts where 'Scorpia' stopped. Alex is recovering from being shot at by a sniper. While he is in hospital he meets a boy called Paul who turns out to be the son of Nikolai Drevin. Alex saves Paul from being kidnapped by Force 3 - a group of Eco terrorists and Nikolai rewards him by inviting him to recover at his estate. Alex soon finds himself drawn into an adventure when Drevin turns out to be more than meets the eye. He is locked in a burning building and trapped in an underwater wreck gasping for breath! Ultimately he has to visit Ark Angel, a space hotel where he ends up fighting for his life. You won't be able to put this book down!

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

*Alex is recovering from the bullet wound he acquired during his last mission, but can't stay out of trouble. After saving a billionaire's son and escaping a terrorist group, Alex Rider is invited to stay with the billionaire to keep his son company. Alex is treated to all the luxury in his life. But when he is taken to New York, Alex realises his passport has expired and is kept back at the airport. However, Alex should have guessed that this was a set up to distract the billionaire while the CIA request Alex's services to spy on the billionaire. Alex is forced to agree, but soon he regrets this as he uncovers a plot that could lead to utter chaos. **How will Alex get out of this mess? Excellent read!***

Alex Faulkner, age 10

Exciting, Thrilling, Amazing. Three words to describe 'Ark Angel'.

I can't tell you how good this book is. The book had so much action, it is crazy how much happens to 14 year old Alex Rider. Whenever the action dies down, something else starts. It never stops. Compared to the earlier books in the series, this one had a much faster pace. I couldn't find a point to stop.

Alex Rider Mission 7: Snakehead

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

Another great book by Anthony Horowitz. Not to be missed.

Alex Rider is in deep water. He has been assigned for two missions but can he complete both in the time allowed? Major Yu has unstoppable plans, maybe this teenage boy is the only one that can put a stop to them. The Royal Blue has only minutes left until it detonates causing a tsunami, this will cause the death of eight world celebrities.

I enjoyed this book especially when it came to Alex Rider's near death.

Imogen Fisher, age 14

I think that the plot and the idea of the book was interesting and in some places exciting, however, I didn't enjoy this book as much as I enjoyed other books in the series. It was still a very good book, and I liked that I learnt even more about Alex. I also like that Alex was working for someone different this time, the Australian Government. I think this made the book more exciting.

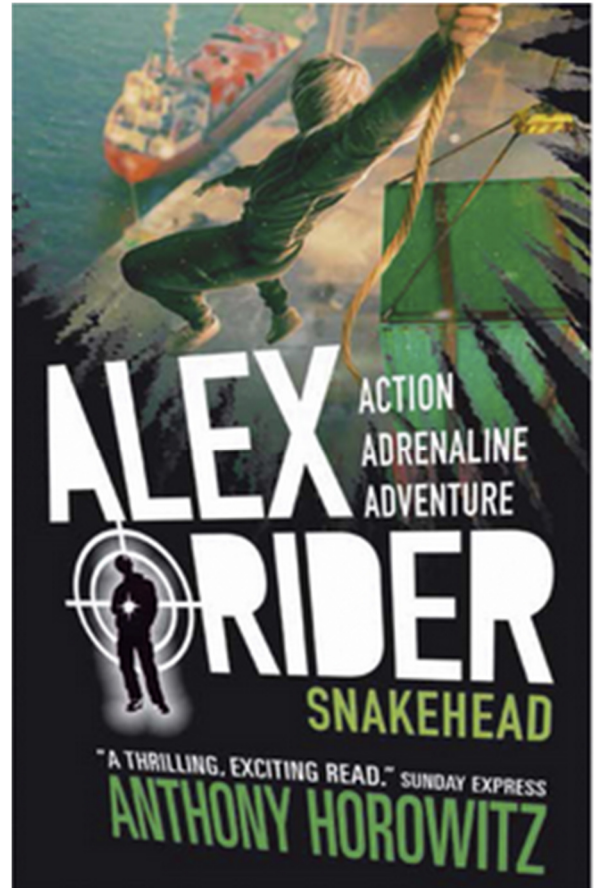
Dylan Sweet, age 11

I really enjoyed this book set in Australia. Alex Rider must discover the criminal group called Snakehead who is planning to set off a bomb. The bomb would result in a tsunami which might kill thousands of Australians. The evil man at the centre of the group is called Winston Yu. Alex discovers that his godfather, Ash, is actually working as Yu's assistant. Things are not what they seem. Alex also finds out more about his parents. My favourite scene is when Alex is escaping Snakehead on a kayak down a river and then has to drop down a huge waterfall. It was very dramatic. This is the seventh book in the series and I'm really looking forward to what happens in Book 8.

Sam Harper, age 11

A sinister plot to wipe out an entire island for profit but, with his godfather to help him, Alex isn't facing this mission alone.

In this adventure, Alex finds himself caught up in a sinister plot to wipe out an entire island off



the north-west coast of Australia. As soon as he re-enters the atmosphere from Ark Angel, he is picked up by ASIS Covert Action, the Australian version of MI6's Special Operations. They send him on a mission with his godfather, Ash, to spy on Major Yu, a powerful Snakehead boss who they think might be involved in Scorpia. Yu is thoroughly evil but he has a weakness which could be the death of him. As the time to the detonation ticks away, Alex is forced to parachute onto the oil rig which Yu is using to sink the bomb into the seabed. His gadgets come in handy as usual but it's not certain whether they'll be enough to save him this time. There are people who can help Alex but can he trust them?

'Snakehead' is another action-packed Alex Rider adventure. It follows on immediately from 'Ark Angel' and Alex is pulled straight into the action. The oil rig scene was really exciting and I didn't know what was going to happen next. Alex is discovering more and more about his father in each book but can he trust the information he's being given? I can't wait to find out.

Alice East, age 10

I thought I might get bored reading Alex Rider books as how can someone come up with even more deadlier missions again and again?

I read book seven wondering if it was possible to have an even more exciting mission than before. It was. Alex puts himself in extreme danger again so that he can continue to work for MI6.

*Like all the other Alex Rider books this was full of excitement and danger and **I didn't want to put it down and go to bed.***

If you are an Alex Rider fan you will not be disappointed with Snakehead – it is brilliant!

If you enjoy action-packed books that are extremely exciting, you should read the Alex Rider series. I would recommend this wonderful book to girls and boys age 8-12.

Joseph Kinder, age 11

This is another powerful group of people who are motivated solely by money, and who don't care about anybody else. Alex Rider is brought in by the Australian Secret Service to try and stop them. The only problem is that they have in-depth knowledge of a geographical phenomenon that has the potential to wipe out whole countries.

Alex agrees to take on the mission, as he thinks that he might be able to find more out about his father. Obviously, typical of a Horowitz book, this turns out to not be as straight forward as he first thought.

This seventh book in the Alex Rider series is truly spectacular, with boats, bombs and temples – and with a lot of suspense thrown in on the way. Horowitz at his best!

William Longlands, age 11

5/5. As normal this book doesn't let you down in the excitement stakes.

Due to the action at the end of book six Alex heads off to Australia and as normal ends up in danger. The return of an MI6 character from book one. As normal this book doesn't let you down in the excitement stakes.

Jake Fletcher, age 14

Seven Missions. Death. Torture. Alex has blood on his hand. No sooner after landing back on Earth does the poison of the secret services strike back.

Meet the Snakehead. The biggest criminal organisation on the planet. Alex has only just completed his sixth mission. Now, he's working for the Australian Secret Service for a mission that will test his mental and physical strength to the limit. It's not just that. Snakehead holds the truth to one of the biggest secrets of Alex's past. Alex's biggest foe is back, and this time, they want revenge. Alex is in more danger than ever before and he doesn't know it yet!

In this book, we learn more about Alex's past, his personality and his beliefs. Horowitz has tried to develop Alex more as a character. In some ways, this worked well. Our lack of knowledge about Alex made him perfect for the role of a spy. He already had an air of mystery around him. The majority of the readers have read the previous six books. Now they are finally ready to find out the truth about Alex's past.

*This is an interesting book. It's **full of drama, death, fights and action. Again, it's a mission that is dangerous.** However, the price is higher than ever. The truth about Alex and his family comes out. This could be Alex's biggest mission, or his last?*

<http://jakesbooks.wordpress.com/book-reviews/>

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

Another great adventure for the teenage super spy Alex Rider. This series is the best I have ever read. I would highly recommend this book and the previous six in the series.

This book starts where the last one left off with Alex returning to Earth with his parachute (but landing in Australia instead of the UK). This time he is up against an organisation called "Snakehead" and he goes undercover for the Australian secret service. Alex is still only 14 years old (he has packed a lot of danger and adventure into the last year)! This is yet another great story by Anthony Horowitz. He writes the best books! I would recommend this book and all the others in the series, especially to boys aged 9 - 14 years old.

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

This book is the 7th instalment of the Alex Rider series and is shortly after the events of 'Ark Angel'. Alex has just crashed back down to Earth from space, following his previous assignment and is given no rest as he is dragged back into the world of spying and criminals, this time working for the Australian Secret Service. He is also now working with his godfather, someone who he thought never existed until now. But this time, Alex is also up against one of the most formidable organisations in the world: the Snakehead. Will Alex pull through this mission or will he be poisoned by the fangs of the Snakehead?

*This book provided the usual great storyline of an Alex Rider book with some surprising dilemmas. The book provided more of an insight into Alex's past as well. **Very suspenseful, dramatic and a compelling storyline with interesting new characters. Ten out of ten for the sheer suspense build-up!***

Chloe Mcilroy, age 14

Another fantastic adventure with twists and evil villains!

Alex's adventure starts as he returns from space. Alex is asked to infiltrate Snakehead, an organisation similar to Scorpia. They plan to murder eight people within a month but are aware that Alex has stopped them in the past. Alex is now in Australia and is persuaded to take part because he is working alongside Ash, his godfather. This allows us to find out more about Alex's background. They pose as immigrants looking for a better life but their plan is known to Snakehead because of a mole. The head of Snakehead is also involved in Scorpia. Major Yu is intent upon destroying Alex but 'plays' with him first. The book is full of the usual action and plot twists with us finding out some shocking information at the end.

Chloe Shortall

In Alex's next adventure, he ends up getting tied up in the dealing of the notorious Snakehead, headed by Major Yu, a member of Scorpia. Alex agrees to help the Australian Secret Service in order to get information from the last person who saw his parents before they died, his father's best friend.

Snakehead sees Alex deal with his past. As readers, we get more information about Alex's parents and life. It's interesting to see how Alex deals with all this information.

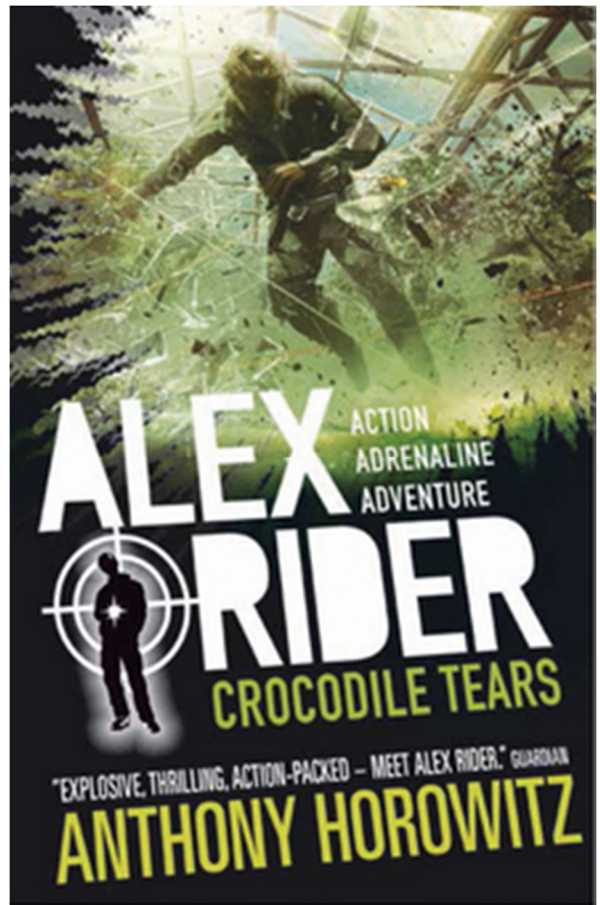
I enjoyed this novel, full of action and tension. I especially liked the plot twist in this book.

Teen lovers of spy novels should read this series.

Alex Rider Mission 8: Crocodile Tears

Dylan Sweet, age 11

*I find that this book is slightly different to the ones before. Although the other books set the reader on edge, Alex now has to cope with things near his heart. He puts his life on edge nearly a zillion times, for instance almost sets himself on fire when he finds himself in a burning building! My favourite scene is when he nearly drowns in Loch Ness in Scotland! I find that, in this book, Alex matures a lot as he has to make a lot of decisions by himself and investigate on his own. **This is the eighth book in the near ending series, and it is amazing.** The best bit about it is that the idea is so original.*



Imogen Fisher, age 14

I felt that this book had a slightly slower beginning, but this built up tension and made the book seem more mysterious. I did find that the book got a bit tedious and similar to other books in the series, because once again the villain revealed their plans and this helped Alex to save everyone and complete his mission. Apart from that it was, once again a very good book.

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

Unstoppable, fast-paced thriller.

*Alex Rider wants to do just one thing - get Mr Bullman off his case. However, on this journey he gets assigned for another mission so Mr Bullman has to get put on hold. This mission is set all the way in Kenya, Desmond McCain plans to spread a virus into all the plants in Kenya. Alex needs to put a stop to this in his usual active ways. **Anthony Horowitz is continuing to surprise and delight me.***

Sam Harper, age 11

Alex gets better and better with each mission. The excitement is building up to the series climax and I can't wait to find out what happens.

Alex is trying to put his spying days behind him and enjoy a nice relaxing New Year with Sabina in Scotland but things don't quite go to plan. When he beats First Aid charity boss Desmond McCain in a game of cards he nearly ends up dead at the bottom of a loch. Alex is sent

undercover to Greenfields but finds nothing except some strange 'mushroom soup'. McCain can't allow Alex to ruin his plan so he is kidnapped, transported to East Africa and tortured. How can a 14 year old possibly survive this?

Alex gets better and better with each mission and is almost the perfect spy but could his kindness cost him his life? The fight and rescue at the dam was exhilarating and Alex's gadget-filled pencil case was really cool, I wish I had one! The excitement is building up to the series climax and I can't wait to find out what happens in the final book, 'Scorpia Rising'. I'm starting it now!

William Longlands, age 11

10/10 - off to Kenya this time for Alex. *From the very beginning lots of action keeps you reading so you never want to stop.*

Alice East, age 10

This is Alex Rider's 8th mission. In this book Alex meets Desmond McCain, who runs a charity. Alex visits Desmond's charity on his school trip and he realises that he is planning more than just setting up a charity.

In this book Alex once again finds himself on a deadly mission. He will have to find out what Desmond is really planning and try and save the day again.

I am really enjoying these exiting books because they are so action-packed. These books are just getting better and better. As I was reading these books I was sitting on the edge my chair, wanting to read more because it was so exiting. I didn't think this mission would be as exciting, dangerous and action-packed as it was.

The style of writing was easy to read. If you enjoy extreme action-packed books then you should read the Alex Rider series. I would recommend this book to girls and boys age 8-12.

Emily Kinder, age 14

Another rip roaring adventure from Alex, toying with death and performing miraculous last minute escapes. Highly original and with a clever plot, this is guarenteed to have you glued to the pages.

Like its predecessors this Alex Rider book is gripping, exciting and thrilling, but I feel that it's cleverer than the previous books. Plot threads that are started at the beginning are lost for a while, and then reappear without warning, binding the story together. Earlier ideas are discovered again, and MI6 is once again involved (hurrah!). This is my favourite book involving MI6, because Alex's involvement is almost voluntary this time – more like Bond than his traditional angry refusal to get involved.

It's very gripping, with an unusual and inventive plot. The new villain is different in a way from the others, which I like because they tend to all be megalomaniacs who want to change the world in a way they think will be better. This is actually the first villain that I haven't slightly sympathised, slightly wanted to see what would happen if Alex didn't manage his usual dramatic last minute rescue. In a way I think that's a good thing – this time I was fully behind Alex, which made it even more tense.

It was, as always, quite similar to all the other books, but less so than usual, and only in a slightly reassuring way – it felt like you were dipping into a favourite book you hadn't read for a long time and were only now rediscovering. The inventive plot and fast pace give an extra boost of life to the idea of the teenage spy, and make for a very enjoyable read.

Jake Fletcher, age 14

New Year's Day, and Alex has already broken his New Year's Resolution. He's back as a spy, and things are going from bad to worse.

Alex is back from Australia and on holiday with his best friend Sabina Pleasure in Scotland, just in time for New Year. Suddenly, he gets involved in a late night road accident, cutting his holiday short. Upon arrival back in London, he gets approached by a mystery man. MI6 are alerted and before you know, Alex is spying for MI6 once more. This time, he's spying on a genetically modified plants laboratory, Greenfields. Suddenly, Alex is on his way across the world on a mission to save millions.

This book is really good. It's the penultimate book in the series. We meet new agents, we see more action. Sections of this book are full of violence but it's not just endless violence. There is a plot. The plot is both ridiculous and exciting. It seems implausible, yet we know as a reader that Horowitz can turn the implausible into the plausible through well researched detail. It's both scary and fun.

*If you have read all the previous books, this isn't a disappointment. The plot's good, the characters are excellent, and you can easily enjoy reading it. The use of the cliff-hangers are excellent. In other respects though, this is just an average Alex Rider book. I wouldn't call it the best book, I wouldn't call it the worst. It's still **an excellent book though, full of fights and action scenes.***

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

Book number eight is the one where Alex eventually turns 15. This story was once again filled with danger for the teenage "James Bond" (although he hates being compared to him)!

Alex is about to turn 15. So much has happened to this reluctant spy in the last year. This book is quite a bit more violent than the last I think. I still enjoyed reading it as it was packed with loads of danger (and quite a lot of violence). I think this would be aimed at boys age 11 up to the age of 16. Really pleased to see Sabina back again and set in Scotland at New Year at the start of the book. There was a lot of danger in this story which obviously included Alex dangling over hungry crocodiles! He also gets trapped inside a car in a lake, drugged and put in a wheelchair due to the drug paralyzing him, and he gets a really bad haircut!

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

Alex Rider is on a vacation with friend Sabina Pleasure after his previous mission and is invited to a party in Scotland by a multi-millionaire who owns a charity. However, owning a charity does not make anyone nice. Alex later becomes involved in a scheme involving destroying a whole village in Africa by means of deadly crops. Alex must stop the plot before lives are lost.

The sinister plot and the suspense makes this book a compelling read. The more you read, the more you want to read! You simply can't put down an Alex Rider book until you read every single word of it!!

Chloe Mcilroy, age 14

Fast-paced and gripping - a little more gritty than past books but you won't be able to put it down!

Alex is at a New Year's Eve party with Sabina and her family in Scotland. He meets Desmond McCain, a rich philanthropist who runs First Aid, an international charity. When he is leaving the party with Sabina and her dad the car gets shot at and they end up crashing in a Loch. They narrowly escape with their lives after being helped by a mysterious Indian man. Later on a journalist called Harry Bulman threatens to expose Alex to the public so he has to go to MI6 for help. They protect him on the condition he completes another mission for them. He has to research a place called Greenfield which specialises in genetically modified foods. Alex tries to get information for MI6 but gets kidnapped by McCain in the process. He ends up getting tortured and has to escape from McCain's grasp. A little more adult than past books - more suitable for young adult readers.

Chloe Shortall

What started out as a trip to Scotland with Sabina and her family ends up with a flight to Kenya, where Alex has to save the world, again. Despite not wanting to get tangled up with the spy business again, Alex gets drawn back in by accident. A series of events happen to Alex with force him into action. Will he ever get back to school?

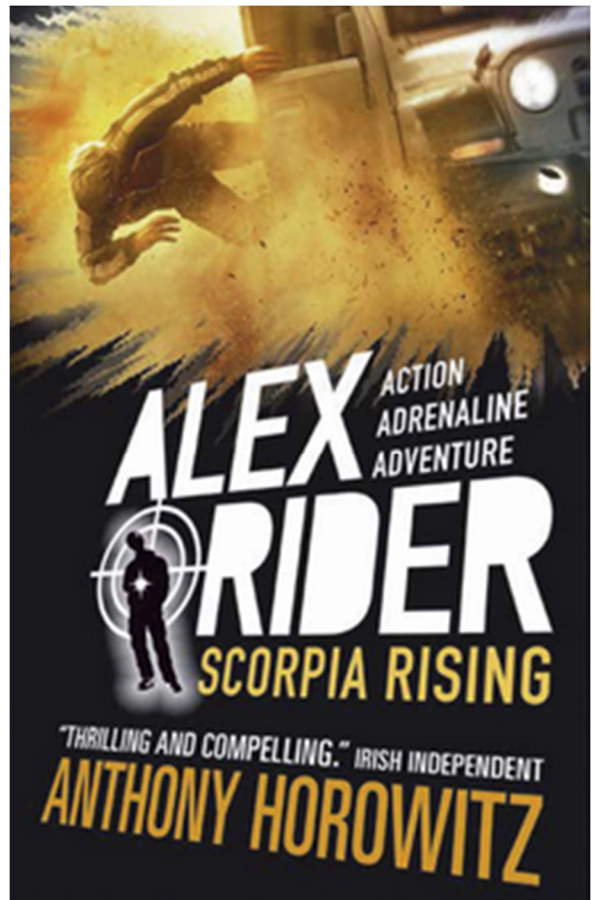
I really enjoyed this novel. It was fast-paced and I couldn't put it down. As with previous novels in the series, Crocodile Tears was full of action.

Any readers of spy novels or action novels will love this novel.

Alex Rider Mission 9: Scorpia Rising

Dylan Sweet, age 11

*This is Alex Rider's biggest test yet. 'Explosive, thrilling, action-packed' (Guardian). **I loved it and just couldn't stop reading it.** Alex Rider is now 15 and has been at a normal school for six months and has not worked for MI6 since the last mission. He is enjoying his life until he spots a sniper on a rooftop during one of his lessons. One of his friends is shot and he is once more chasing the Scorpia group on another mission. Jack decides to go with him and so puts her life at risk – will she survive? Alex will be challenged physically and emotionally. There is a plot to steal the Elgin Marbles, kill the US secretary and even kill Alex. My favourite scene involves a matchbox and a scorpion but I'm not going to tell you anything more!*



Imogen Fisher, age 14

*This is unfortunately the last book in the series, which I find quite sad since I really like reading about Alex and his adventures. I think this book was incredible, and I found the ending, and the book as a whole quite sad, because I became attached to many of the characters. It is another book that I could say is my favourite in the series, it is **action-packed, well written and it was full of plot twists and exciting new things.** A brilliant book to end an amazing series!*

William Longlands, age 11

10/10 Alex tries to quit but returns to MI6

This is the last Alex Rider novel and is the longest book in the series at 430 pages. Like all the other books you never get bored.

Alice East, age 10

This is Alex Rider's ninth mission Scorpia Rising. Alex wants to stop working for MI6 when he has finished this mission. Alex has all ready dealt with Scorpia once and now they want serious revenge.

Alex goes to track down Scorpia and see what he is planning. This will be a deadly mission. Scorpia is the most deadly criminal organisation and if anybody messes with them they want

revenge.

'Scorpia Rising' is a fantastic book that really hooks you in. This book is the last book in the series but still it's action-packed and exciting like the rest of the series. These books are brilliant books that are different from other books.

The language is simple and easy to read. If you like thrilling books that you just want to read then you should read the Alex Rider series. I would recommend this action-packed book to girls and boys age 8-12.

Rachel Galbraith, age 10

No one does covert operations like Alex Rider.

*Alex Rider has been set in many different places but none as unusual as Egypt. Like 'Skeleton Key' Alex Rider has been told it will be just like a holiday, however, he has learnt from the past that MI6 doesn't always tell the truth. **This book was excellent, I really enjoyed having a deeper understanding of all the other books in this series.***

Sam Harper, age 11

Alex's final mission sends him to Cairo where he plays the role of Alex Brenner, a student at an international school for rich kids. His job is to keep the school, and its new security chief Erik Gunter, under surveillance. Alex is living with Jack and being watched over by Smithers and his house full of gadgets. He follows the trail left by Gunter but it only leads him to a dead man and nearly to his own grave at the bottom of the Nile. He escapes, only to be interrogated by the CIA who suspect he's planning to kill the Secretary of State. Alex has had enough and tries to leave with Jack but, just as he's turning his back on the spying life, he needs to step in and save Smithers as Scorpia try to capture them both. Alex is a brilliant spy but will he be good enough to escape the horror of Scorpia Rising?

*In this series climax Alex is double crossed, comes closer to death than ever before and his spying skills are put to the absolute test. Alex, and those close to him, are in grave danger and only he can save them. **An exhilarating, emotional and absolutely fantastic ending to a brilliant series. I can't help hoping we'll meet Alex again.***

Jake Fletcher, age 14

The Finale. Schoolboy Alex. Spy Alex. Only the best can survive. Who will live? Who is the winner? It's the beginning of the End; the stakes have never been higher.

Alex Rider has fought continuously for the past year. In the last book, MI6 promised to leave him alone for good. It's amazing how quickly they forget their promises. Alex is sent to an international school. His most deadly enemy is back, and they want revenge. Secret Services return, friends die, old and new foes fight back. MI6's most successful spy has only one way out. Spy or die.

This finale is amazing. It's bigger, stronger, and includes more violence than any other book. Emotions are high in this last book. If you have read the previous eight books, you won't be able to contain your anger, and sadness. After eight books, you develop an attachment to certain characters, even if you don't realise it. Suddenly, people start to die, and you start to

feel upset. You're angry at the author. It just proves the success of the series. Anthony Horowitz has pulled out all the stops in this last book and he hasn't disappointed.

*The Alex Rider series has finally ended. This book was written differently to any other book in the series. We see a lot more of the villains. The plot has been really thought through and developed in this book. While others consider this a fault, I congratulate Horowitz. **This is a spy story. A good plot, great characters, and a fantastic ending. Well done Anthony Horowitz. These books are the best teenage spy stories out there.***

<http://jakesbooks.wordpress.com/book-reviews/>

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 9

Alex's final mission, or is it? Alex is now 15 and wants out of MI6. He wants a normal life. Will he get his wish? Not before yet another mission and more danger!

*Alex hasn't heard from MI6 for months, life is getting back to normal, he is studying for his exams, playing football and acting in a play (all things that normal teenagers would do). Something really good happens at the end of the book though and I have to say it was a great ending. I was quite sad to find out that this was Alex's last mission. **I have really enjoyed reading all the stories. This one is one of the best in the whole series.** Highly recommend to boys mainly between 10 and 16 years old.*

Mukunth Kowsik, age 13

This is the blockbuster ending to the Alex Rider series. Alex is now 15 and has fallen behind on a lot of school work. MI6 have used him so many countless times and Alex decides that it's enough, it's time to get a grip on his normal life. Of course MI6 manage to persuade him one last time to go under cover in a school in Cairo. Alex knows that he will need the education support from MI6 and decides to go. But how would MI6 know that the whole mission was a trap set up by Scorpia, the intelligence service that had once taken in Alex's father! Alex had mocked Scorpia twice, but now it was their turn. Scorpia was rising again.

*I have to say I'm quite sad that the whole series has now come to an end, but **this book was the best possible ending to the series. Anthony Horowitz has made me ride every book with Alex, and I guess I have never had an adventure as thrilling as this series!***

Chloe Mcilroy, age 14

Probably the best book in the series so far - I literally couldn't put it down!

In this book we meet Zeljan Kurst who is the leader of Scorpia. He is asked by a Greek billionaire to return the Elgin Marbles to him. The billionaire promises Kurst €40 million (half in advance). Someone has informed MI6 of this and they try to catch him but they fail as Scorpia have agents pretending to be members of the public. Kurst gives this mission to a new agent called Abdul-Aziz Al-Razim. During the novel we learn that Razim studies the issue of pain; he wants to name a unit of pain after himself; he does this by torturing various people. Razim plans to complete the project by blackmailing the British. His plan consists of Scorpia building up a file - called Horseman. This file would tell the public of Alex's role in MI6 and would trick them into believing that he had been killed while working for MI6. Scorpia would threaten the British with

this file unless they returned the marbles. Meanwhile, Scorpia releases Julius Grief from a prison in Gibraltar (he is one of Dr.Grief's clones, from Point Blanc). Scorpia uses Julius to work against Alex as Julius is still livid for Alex's actions at Point Blanc. Alex has to make many tough decisions in this story and is pushed to his limits. This is my favourite book in the series as it is so intricate and riddled with many surprises that are very shocking.

Chloe Shortall

I would recommend this book for teen readers looking for a novel full of action and tension.

In Alex's final mission, he is unknowingly put against Scorpia again. Alex travels to Cairo with his friend and caretaker, Jack, believing that he is simply checking out the security of a school. Instead, Alex faces Scorpia for the fourth time, this time getting closer to failing than he has ever been before.

I really enjoyed the ninth and final instalment of the Alex Rider series. It was interesting to see the development and maturing of Alex throughout the series.

Alex is a relatable teen character, despite his talents of fighting and spying, he is a teenager who goes through things that normal teenagers have to deal with.

I would recommend this book for teen readers looking for a novel full of action and tension.

Emily Kinder, age 14

Darker and more serious than the previous books in this series 'Scorpia Rising' is nevertheless an action-packed thrill ride featuring everyone's favourite character - Alex Rider, the teenage spy.

This is, in my opinion, the last proper Alex Rider book, as the last one written by Horowitz is Russian Roulette, a 'prequel' as it doesn't feature him as the main narrator. As such it needs a dramatic ending, even more tension and to be a little darker; and it had all that in spades. Alex, the amazingly talented spy we've all come to love, is truly broken in this book. He has gone through things you'd never want to go through, and seen things you never need to see.

Everything throughout the series so far has had its effect on him in one way or another, but the final events in this book are something else.

It's far sadder than the other books, and more serious. It still has the awesome fight scenes, the vivid descriptions and a twisted villain, but everything is tenser, more climactic. The plot is deeply mysterious and quite complicated, but the book is fast-moving and pacy so you never get bored. Hooking and original, Alex is still the character we all know and love, and is so real that you can empathise with anything he goes through, and as I've already said, he's been through a lot.

Most of this book is set in Egypt, which is a place that Alex (in the books) has never been. The descriptions are colourful and intricate, so you feel you are really there, from the hustle and bustle of the markets, to lounging in the luxurious rooms and pools. This makes everything that goes on seem much more real, and the devastating resolution much more painful.

Overall, this is exciting, gripping and action-packed. I loved this book – I couldn't put it down - and would recommend it to anyone who has read the previous books.

<http://teenreadage.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/scorpio-rising-by-anthony-horowitz.html>