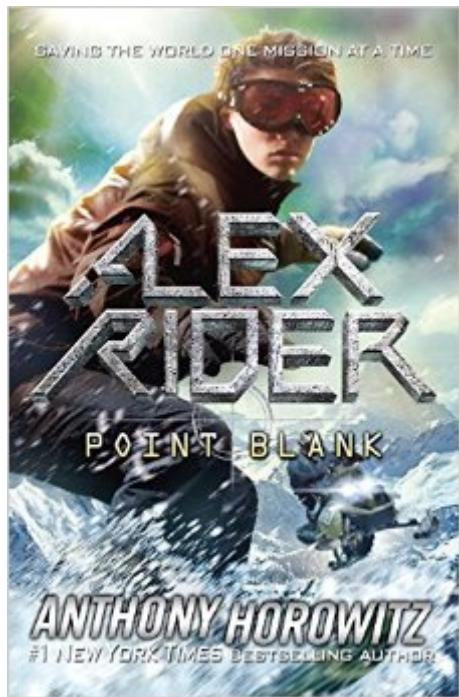


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Point Blank (Alex Rider Adventure)



Synopsis

When an investigation into a series of mysterious deaths leads agents to an elite prep school for rebellious kids, MI6 assigns Alex Rider to the case. Before he knows it, Alex is hanging out with the sons of the rich and powerful, and something feels wrong. These former juvenile delinquents have turned well-behaved, studiousâ "and identicalâ "overnight. It's up to Alex to find out who is masterminding this nefarious plot, before they find him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Point Blank is one of the best books I have ever read. Some of the other books I have enjoyed are Stormbreaker also by Anthony Horowitz and the animorphs series by K.A. Applegate. Point Blank starts like any other book with a child as the main character. The catch is that Alex Rider is no ordinary kid, he works for MI6. Yeah that's right, the same organization James Bond works for.

Anyway, you know how Bond films always have a little "mission" at the beginning and Point Blank is no exception. I'm not going to tell you what it is but it is really cool. After he receives a call from MI6, he has a new mission. Something is going on at a private correctional school in France called Point Blanc, they want Alex to find out what. However, Point Blanc only takes the sons of the super-rich or ultra-powerful. Because of that, Alex must disguise himself as a billionaire's delinquent son. While he is doing that he receives all of his gadgets for the upcoming mission. A CD player that turns into a saw and a book that shoots poison darts, to name a few. Once at Point Blanc Alex discovers that there is a mysterious "project Gemini" happening. He also makes a friend named James. Then one

night he hears screaming in the hallways, but when he goes to see what happened there is nobody there. This is not the end of the book but I am not going to tell you any more. If you want to find out read the book. This is a hair-raising spine- tingling adventure with a great ending. I really liked this book because it kept me guessing right up until the end where everything is neatly sorted out. Watch out James Bond. Alex Rider is the new star.

Alex Rider, the youngest spy ever recruited and forced into service by MI6--Great Britain's premiere espionage agency, returns in POINT BLANK with a vengeance. Only a few days have passed since Alex's last adventure when he helped catch the man responsible for murdering his uncle, Ian Rider, who had also been a spy. His excuses, a doctor's note no one quite believes, have barely been made before he's spirited off by Alan Blunt and Mrs. Jones, the head of Special Operations. Two deaths of rich and powerful men, one of them a personal friend of Blunt's, have triggered an investigation into the matter of those deaths. One man was killed violently while the other, a VERY careful man, apparently died by an unfortunate accident. The common denominator: both men had problem children, sons that were sent to a new school in France called Point Blanc. Blunt assigns Alex to infiltrate the school on a Search and Report mission. Once there, Alex discovers that the boys attending the school are all eerie, all acting like little puppets who answer every command of the creepy Dr. Hugo Grief and Mrs. Stellenbosch. In no time at all, Alex Rider fourteen year old spy extraordinaire is once more facing a grim and certain death if he doesn't use every ounce of cunning and intelligence he possesses. Anthony Horowitz is a novelist and TV writer. In addition to the two Alex Rider novels he's written (STORMBREAKER and POINT BLANK), he's also penned THE DEVIL AND HIS BOY, a historical thriller, THE DEVIL'S DOOR-BELL, NIGHT OF THE SCORPION, THE SILVER CITADEL, and short story collections, DEATH WALKS TONIGHT and MYTHS AND LEGENDS. He's written television scripts for POIROT and MIDSUMMER MURDERS, and recently created two television series for the BBC. The pacing in POINT BLANK rivals the breakneck speed shown in STORMBREAKER. The story yanks the reader along, as if daring him or her to keep up. Although the book is written about a fourteen year old spy, the prose is keen and precise, rivaling any of that in today's thrillers. The book can be enjoyed by young readers as well as adults, and for the very same reasons. The action sequences are some of the best, tight and intricately planned. Horowitz stays just this side of SF and blends the effect neatly into the spy story. His villains are definitely of James Bond caliber, unique and attention-getting while at the same time vile and loathsome. Alex's tools of the spy trade, delivered by his very own Q-type spy inventor, are neat and plausible. Getting to see SAS soldier Wolf (from the first novel, STORMBREAKER) again was great.

It seems Horowitz is going to create a world for his young spy and keep it interactive, weaving threads in one book that will come to fruition in successive novels. There could be, perhaps, a little more dialogue in the book. Reading narration can be fun, but a reader's ears stay pricked for the conversations a character has. Of course, Alex isn't exactly overly verbose, but other characters could talk to him as well. And there needs to be a little more about Jack Starbright, Alex's housekeeper. So far, all the reader knows is that she is from America. What brought her to Great Britain and why does she continue to stay? Maybe the author has even more secrets to unveil. *POINT BLANK* is a wonderful novel of action and suspense. Any reader waiting anxiously for the release of Vin Diesel's new movie, *XXX*, or the new James Bond film will definitely find a story in this book to meet the driving excitement in those properties.

Alex Rider is a fourteen year old M-16 agent that must save the world for the second time. At the academy for rich teenagers that attend at the age of fourteen there is something going on. To very rich men were mysteriously murdered. Both of them men sent the kids to the academy. There is something linking the two. Alex is sent in to figure it out. He is sent in as a student at the academy. He must act as normal as he can and be just like the others. Right when Alex gets to the school he notices that there is something fishy is going on. The kids are acting really weird. They are acting as if they were some sort of slaves, or under a spell. Alex knows he must figure out what is going on. He starts investigating. As he does the mystery reveals itself more and more. What he figures out is that the man that runs the school (Dr. Grief) is trying to take over the world. His plan is to switch out the wealthiest and most powerful men's kids with the clones he made fourteen years ago. He has a plastic surgeon to make them look just like the kids that he is replacing them with. He has made sixteen clones, this way he can have sixteen of the most powerful families at his command making him the most powerful man in the world. After Alex is figuring this all out, his cover is blown. Dr. Grief figures out who he is and takes him hostage. Alex must escape even though it is very dangerous. In the end when Dr. Grief is in a helicopter getting ready to perform his plan, Alex drives a snow mobile after running from Grief's men, he jumps off at the last second so that the snow mobile goes off the jump and is like a makeshift missile and flies right into Dr. Grief's helicopter. I really liked this book. There was tons of action in it. I also really liked the mystery in the book. The character of Alex Rider was really well made. The action in this book was great. It never stopped, and when it was happening, it got you pumped up to read more. It was as good as watching a movie with fight scenes in it. The book made you feel like you were really there. Such as when Alex is drugged, and then thrown around by three men while he was unconscious but still awake in some

odd way. The best action seen is when Alex has to run from Grief's men on the snowmobile while getting shot at and then miraculously kills Dr. Grief. This book had great mystery too it. It always had you wondering and thinking. What was going to happen? What's going on? You were always on your toes. The whole beginning of the book is a mystery, starting off from the two mysterious deaths of the wealthy men. But then as Alex was at the academy it got more and more suspenseful. Such as when Alex was upstairs searching for clues or answers to the riddle he was trying to figure out and he set off an alarm to the door. Two guards came with guns ready to shoot and one of the head ladies. They didn't want Alex going in there for some reason and you didn't know what. Another big mystery was how Alex was going to stop Dr. Grief even when he was being held captive. The character of Alex Rider was well thought up. Most books write and present teenagers as if they are little kids. It is hard for an author to write a teenager the way they really are because they are not that age, and it was different when they were that age. Alex is very mature and acts almost as an adult. He is quick on his feet and knows what to do, just like when Mrs. Stellenbosch asks him why he was in the place he wasn't supposed to, but Alex looks her straight in the eye and tells her he forgot and he was on his way to the dining hall. This was an all around great book. It was a good way to make a sequel to the first book *Stormbreaker*. I never wanted to put down the book when I was reading it. It keeps your mind thinking but also entertained. It has a well written ending to tie it all up. I would recommend this book to anyone that likes reading.-J. Hamilton

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