

THE BOOK REVIEW— April 2012

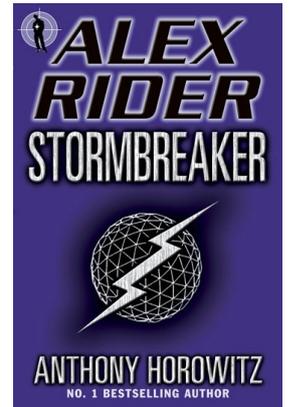
"Stormbreaker" is the first book in the Alex Ryder series. The central character is a strong, intelligent and gifted fourteen year old who is being brought up by his Uncle following the death of his parents.

Alex's Uncle dies in a car accident but pretty soon Alex realises that his Uncle's life was as he believed it to be. Very quickly Alex has discovered that his Uncle was working for MI6 and so impressed are they by him that he becomes their youngest spy.

After fast track SAS style training, Alex is sent to finish the mission on which his Uncle died. He has to find out what the mysterious and apparently ultra philanthropic Herod Sayle is really up to.

It's an enjoyable fast paced read and I can't wait to start "Point Blanc", the next in the series.

Russell rating: ****



This book by Ruth Rendell is an absolute load of "tosh" and totally unreadable. Style, subject, descriptive passage: they are all missing.

Over the years, I have really enjoyed Ruth Rendell's books particularly those written under the name Barbara Vine, but "Talking To Strange Men" is truly awful.

Russell rating: *

This is another super collection of creepy stories from Anthony Horowitz. In fact, the tales are probably better than those in Horowitz Horror. I particularly liked the "Hitchhiker" and "Burnt". If I have a criticism the excellent "The Sound of Murder" was such a good story with such an interesting concept that having a further twist at the end somehow trivialised it.



There is a bonus in this collection and I won't ruin it for you, but "The Shortest Horror Ever Written" is a lovely extra.

Once again, the short stories make ideal light bedtime reading and as you would expect from Anthony Horowitz every story has great credibility and a twist that comes from deep in the great man's imagination.

Russell rating: ****