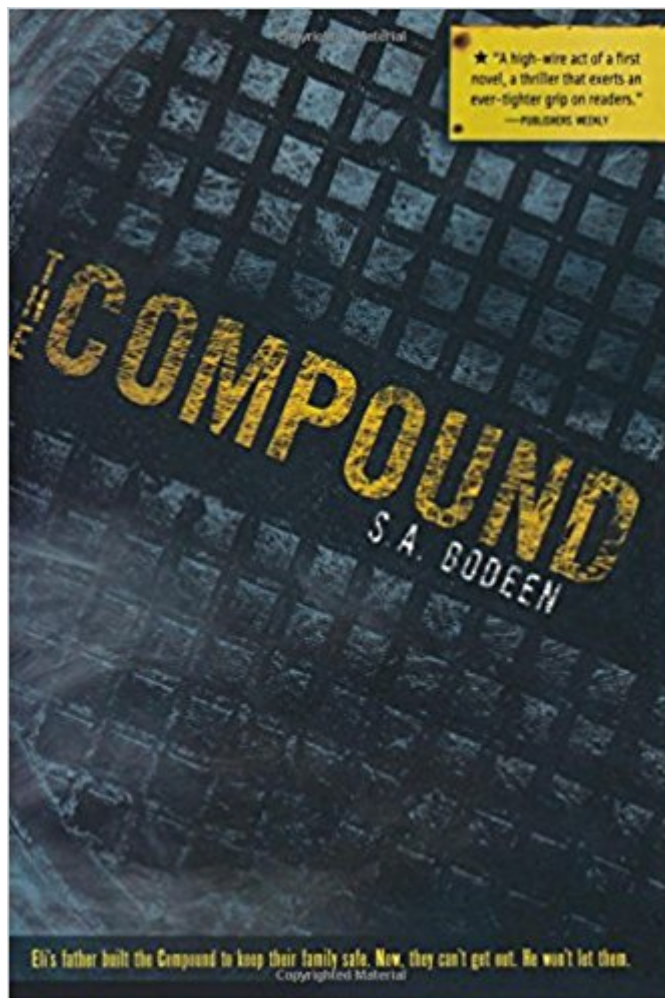


The book was found

The Compound



Synopsis

Eli and his family have lived in the underground Compound for six years. The world they knew is gone, and they've become accustomed to their new life. Accustomed, but not happy. No amount of luxury can stifle the dull routine of living in the same place, with only his two sisters, only his father and mother, doing the same thing day after day after day. As problems with their carefully planned existence threaten to destroy their sanctuary and their sanity, Eli can't help but wonder if he'd rather take his chances outside. Eli's father built the Compound to keep them safe. But are they safe really? The Compound is a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312578601

ISBN-13: 978-0312578602

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 197 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #34,604 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Mystery & Thriller #131 in Books > Teens >

Mysteries & Thrillers > Mystery & Detective #153 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction >

Action & Adventure > Survival Stories

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Bodeen, acclaimed as the writer of such picture books as *Elizabeth's Doll*, turns out a high-wire act of a first novel, a thriller that exerts an ever-tighter grip on readers. Eli, the 15-year-old son of a billionaire techno-preneur, has spent the last six years with his family in the massive underground shelter his father has built, knowing that nuclear war has destroyed the world he knows and killed his grandmother and his twin brother, who couldn't reach the compound in time. With nine years to go before the air outside will be safe to breathe again, the

food supply shows signs of running out, but Eli's father has a solution—provided they jettison all morals and ethics. Repulsed and already suspicious, Eli begins investigating his father's claims, and sets up a family death match against a man who grows increasingly irrational and sinister but no less powerful. As far-fetched as the premise may be, Bodeen keeps Eli's actions true to life and uses clues planted fairly and in plain sight. The audience will feel the pressure closing in on them as they, like the characters, race through hairpin turns in the plot toward a breathless climax. Ages 12-up. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 8 Up—Following a nuclear holocaust, nine-year-old Eli and his family race into the underground compound his billionaire father created in this post-apocalyptic novel (Macmillan/Feiwel & Friends, 2008) by S.A. Bodeen. The hatch is slammed shut, but without Eli's twin and their grandmother. The family must stay underground for 15 years until the radiation levels are safe. Fast forward six years and Eli is beginning to have some doubts, as do his two sisters and mother. They have trusted their father, but now he is behaving strangely. Eli believes that his father created the entire scenario as some kind of sick hoax, right down to cloning and creating human babies, The Supplements, who might actually be needed someday as a food supply. Repulsed and frightened, Eli teams with his sisters, his mother, and The Supplements in a race to discover what is really going on, what happened that fateful night, and how to escape the powerful madman who has them trapped. Suspense galore is brought to life by Christopher Lane's masterful reading, fraught with tension, anger, and a gamut of powerful emotions. The taut, fast-moving plot will grip listeners.—Jane P. Fenn, Corning-Painted Post West High School, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Compound by S. A. BodeenThe world suffers a nuclear attack and Eli and his family are rushed into The Compound late one night, leaving behind Eli's twin brother Eddy and his grandma. Eli's father happens to be one of the richest men on earth and has created The Compound as a safe place for his family of 6 to live safely underground for 15 years. He has thought of everything, an abundance of food, clothing supply through the years, all their favorite things in their own replica underground bedroom.They have been living underground for six years and boredom, and despair are setting in. Eli's father is acting strange, everyone wants out, their food supply is dwindling and their father has begun experimenting with a different food source known as the supplements. Eli

wonders if things are OK in the world now and if they could safely leave. Except here is no internet, or phone and they are locked in by a special code. Bodeen has written a thriller that slowly unfolds to reveal a shocking situation in *The Compound*. *The Compound* is a compelling and intriguing page turner. Once I started reading *The Compound* I couldn't stop and devoured it in just 2 days. *The Compound* is a book that will make you fall in love with its characters and then slowly cause you to question their trustworthiness and question all you know. *The Compound* is thought provoking. It made me really think about what I would do in a nuclear situation. Obviously I don't have a underground compound but I also don't have a plan for a disaster of huge proportions like this. This is probably because I'm not paranoid but I'm also skeptical that something like a nuclear attack would ever happen. Maybe I'm just in denial. This is scary to think about. Do you have plans for a nuclear attack? Bodeen does a great job of creating suspense. I can't wait to read the sequel! *The Fallout*, here I come.

I was excited to find another YA post-apocalyptic novel, but *The Compound* by SA Bodeen is SO much more than that. In fact, its level of twists, turns, and truly disturbing plot lines will keep you interested through every page. Eli is the son of a brilliant billionaire, Rex, whose technological advances have rocked the world. When he finds out a nuclear attack has occurred, he rushes his family into *The Compound*, a shelter he has been working on for almost a decade in case just such a thing occurred. When they rushed to get in, though, their grandmother and Eli's twin Eddy are left outside. When Eli shouts that they have to wait for them as the *Compound* door closes, his father says, "At least I have one of you." Life in the *Compound* has been growing increasingly precarious despite the monotony and the boredom. The food source that was supposed to last for 15 years has been compromised in many ways. The livestock grain was poisoned, the grow lights were actually normal bulbs, and the food supply would never last for the full 15 years necessary for the radiation to dwindle to safe levels. Rex has found a way to survive for longer, but the result, held behind the yellow door, is something no one in the *Compound* but Rex is willing to consider. When Eli finds his brother's old computer and picks up a wireless signal (Rex had removed wireless capabilities from all the other computers), he begins to question why they are really in the *Compound*. Was there really a bomb? Did people survive? Could Eddy and Gram have survived? Is his dad telling them the whole truth? This novel will keep you asking crazy questions from beginning to end. While there is no sex or real violence in this story, it is very disturbing in parts. The lengths Rex will go to survive will leave the hairs on the back of your neck standing on end. At first he is a quirky rich man intent on protecting his family, but as the story unfolds, it is clear he is also more than a bit unstable. I

would save this crazy story for a more mature reader, although the reading level is quite accessible. While the life in the Compound is fairly routine, Rex's madness is anything but. This is an amazing, creative, and disturbing story, but make sure not to read it on a dreary day!

I'm not sure how I have two books listed in my completed reading - both entitled The Compound. I remember seeing both titles and figured out this was the one I wanted to read - and read it I did. Unfortunately, I gave the rating and review for this book to the other book with the same title, but different author, Christina J. Adams. Sorry, Ms. Adams. Essentially, while I liked the book, and I liked the main character, the father was hard to take in. He is a moneymaking genius but acts like a bratty self centered child, who has no care for the lives he endangers (especially his wife and children). The "Supplements" were also hard to swallow - not so much that they existed but everyone's reactions to them. I found it strange and couldn't see a real family acting the way they did towards the Supplements. They didn't appear to be a dysfunctional family until they were put in the compound - so their reactions seemed, well, odd, stiff, hard to empathize with - to me. There were many parts of the story that was interesting and got me thinking about "what would I do" in that situation - but I was so distracted by the "out of character" reactions of the different family members that I had a hard time losing myself in the story and suspending my disbelief. I realize not every author can know everything in order to make a story realistic, and in order to make a plot work - there may be some incredulous details - I'm always ready to suspend my disbelief if the story and characters can draw me in - but they did not. Not a bad read - would recommend it to pre-teenagers - if anything.

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