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# The Fallout



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## Synopsis

Eli and his family lived in an underground shelter they called the Compound for six years. They thought they were the only survivors of a nuclear attack, but when Eli learned that it was all a twisted experiment orchestrated by his tech-visionary father, he broke the family out. His father died trying to keep them imprisoned. Now, the family must readjust to life in the real world. Their ordeal has made them so famous, they must stay in hiding to escape everyone from fatalists preparing for doomsday to the tabloid media wants a piece of them. Even worse, their father's former adviser continues to control the company Eli and his twin brother are the heirs of. As Eli tries to determine who the family can trust, he learns the nightmare of the Compound and his father's experiment might not be over. The Fallout is S. A. Bodeen's highly anticipated, thrilling sequel that will keep readers on the edge of their seats.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10-This book picks up in the weeks after the shocking events at the end of The Compound (Feiwel & Friends, 2008) and basically recounts the fallout of the family members' escape from the compound, where they were locked away for six years, and the death of its brilliant but unstable patriarch. Justifiably shell-shocked, most of the Yanakakis clan, believing the world as they knew it

has fallen, concentrate on shielding themselves from the intrusive media and survival nuts who want to know their story. Pages are devoted to them settling in to a new home, but nothing much really happens. Eli has been reunited with his twin, who avoided imprisonment at the faked Armageddon, and the narrative reveals what everyone eats and wears, and how they pass the time. Mom is furious that her husband's henchman, Phil, is in charge of YK Industries until the boys become 25, and they go to the company to make a show of interest. Eli randomly picks from many charitable involvements a folder detailing the Progeria Institute's grants and demands a visit to the facility. Lackluster plot elements are thrown in: an adopted older sister's interest in her birth parents; trips to Costco, a Mariner's game, and the aquarium; stomach flu; and people posting online with sightings of them. None is particularly compelling. Eventually a threat of sorts to Eli and two of his siblings results in abduction and some discoveries, but few readers will experience shock or dismay on the characters' behalf. -Suzanne Gordon, Lanier High School, Sugar Hill, GA  
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In this follow-up to *The Compound* (2008), Eli, his mother, and his siblings have been reunited with his twin and their grandmother after spending 2,000 days believing their world had been obliterated by nuclear attack. It was a lie, one of many told by Eli's brilliant but amoral father. Now, while trying to deal with the fallout (so to speak), Eli comes to believe that the horrors may not be over and that his father is still alive and hatching his next plan to control both his family and the world. Eli's first-person narration increases the immediacy of this standalone psychological thriller. Though the prose can be didactic, the emotion and pacing are realistic, and Bodeen does a fine job conveying the characters' paranoia and readjustment while living in the public eye after a sensational media event. Hints that the mad-scientist father is still on the loose, and enough action to offset the introspection, should make this appealing for a wide readership. Grades 8-11. --Cindy Welch --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

S.A. Bodeen is one of those hit or miss authors, who comes up with original -- and sometimes unimaginable -- plots and twists. I don't like all of S.A. Bodeen's books, but I did love *The Compound* and was especially excited to hear about *The Fallout*. While not quite as edge-of-your-seat as *The Compound*, *The Fallout* touches on the aftermath of Eli's life, after he and his family escape from their underground prison. They experience a few natural obstacles, like working out what happens to the family's fortune now that the family's 6 year death has been

reversed. There is Phil to deal with. He is the father's assistant, who helped plot the underground experiment/imprisonment but still seems to be in charge of the family business. Then there is the media and the public, following the family everywhere, forcing them into yet another imprisonment trying to maintain their privacy. In addition to the family having to adjust, Eli's twin brother, who was rendered an orphan and only child after the "death" 6 years ago, has to readjust to having not only his mother and 3 siblings back, but an additional 4 babies. He also has good memories of his father and Phil, so he and Eli are conflicted between who is good and who is evil and who is trustworthy. As is in the S.A. Bodeen fashion, there is a crazy twist toward the end that will either have you gasping in surprise....or maybe just rolling your eyes, going "Right. Of course." Either way, I thought it was a great sequel. I hope there are no more, though. The story is done and done well and any others might ruin it.

Again, as I said on the first book, while I liked the book and the premise of the plot, and while I liked the main character, the son (and one of twin brothers), the father was hard to take in. He is a moneymaking genius but acts like a bratty, possessive, self centered child, who has no care for the lives he endangers (especially his wife and children) - which is why the possessiveness was hard to believe. This is the story taking place after the Compound - and the reuniting with the twin brothers and the normal world again was bizarre. The way they acted was strange. 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.

I am sad to say I really didn't like this book much at all. Let me first state my praises for the first of the series, The Compound is a rich and well thought out story with wonderful characters, which kept me and every one of my teenage boys spellbound. I suggest you stop there. The Fallout is just too simplistic, in my opinion. It was very classic ('exposition, rising action, climax, etc.) BUT, the whole first 3/4 of the book contained a very brief exposition and then a great deal of rising action. The climax, falling action, and resolution were all jammed into the final 1/4. And considering the complexity of what Eli discovers, it just seemed a little too simplistic and easy. And (SPOILER!) when he presses the (very convenient) self destruct box (really...again?!) and races off the island to save himself and his brother and sister, leaving everyone else on the island to die, including the

experiments (who were fully cognitive-just suffering) I was dumbfounded at his own disregard for life. Eli ran past people who were innocent of what the alarm meant-surely he might have tried to fit at least some on the plane to save them as well? He doesn't. The life of himself and his family is all that matters and the annihilation of everyone on the island appears to be an appropriate cost. Maybe S.A. Bodeen was trying to suggest a correlation between Eli and his father...I don't know? Perhaps Eli will be the next evil ('ends justify the means') villain in the 3rd book. But it didn't suggest a 'happily ever after' to me. The reason I gave it two stars, despite all this, is S.A. Bodeen is a good writer and I did read to the end, which I don't always do once a story has lost my interest. But I was disappointed with this book and would not recommend it as a purchase.

This book is amazing! Just amazing. You have to read it and I hope S.A. Bodeen will someday write another with verity and Eli about what they're life is like afterwards.. about how they live and just everything and Tony and all of them. Totally worth way more than your money! So buy it and read it!!!Ash

My 12 year old son loved this book!

My kids can't stop reading these books. They eat them up, a book a day. I figure it has to be good! I actually read this one myself and even though it can be a bit too gory and macabre at points, it is still great for exciting interest for reading in kids.

Great read for a young teen. As a middle school teacher I'm always looking for books I think will capture the attention of those who say "I don't like to read." This does just that. Make sure though to read the first in the series, "The Compound."

Awesome! I loved it!

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