



# Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1

*By Alexander Gordon Smith*

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## Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1 By Alexander Gordon Smith

Furnace Penitentiary: the world's most secure prison for young offenders, buried a mile beneath the earth's surface. Convicted of a murder he didn't commit, sentenced to life without parole, "new fish" Alex Sawyer knows he has two choices: find a way out, or resign himself to a death behind bars, in the darkness at the bottom of the world. Except in Furnace, death is the least of his worries. Soon Alex discovers that the prison is a place of pure evil, where inhuman creatures in gas masks stalk the corridors at night, where giants in black suits drag screaming inmates into the shadows, where deformed beasts can be heard howling from the blood-drenched tunnels below. And behind everything is the mysterious, all-powerful warden, a man as cruel and dangerous as the devil himself, whose unthinkable acts have consequences that stretch far beyond the walls of the prison.

Together with a bunch of inmates—some innocent kids who have been framed, others cold-blooded killers—Alex plans an escape. But as he starts to uncover the truth about Furnace's deeper, darker purpose, Alex's actions grow ever more dangerous, and he must risk everything to expose this nightmare that's hidden from the eyes of the world.

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## **Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1** By Alexander Gordon Smith Bibliography

- Published on: 2009-10-05
- Released on: 2009-10-27
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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—"Beneath heaven is hell. Beneath hell is Furnace." That's 14-year-old Alex's description of the underground prison a mile below the surface of the earth where he and other teen boys are incarcerated for life. The first title (Farrar, Straus, 2009) in Alexander Gordon Smith's new series begins when the protagonist is caught by strange silver-eyed men as he and a buddy are in the midst of a house burglary. Resigned to jail time, Alex is shocked when he's framed by these ghostly black-suited figures who pull guns and murder his pal right in front of him. Pleas of innocence are ignored and Alex lands in Furnace. Gangs bully everyone, the food is disgusting slop, bizarre guard dogs tear inmates apart, and boys are arbitrarily dragged away late at night and return as killing automatons. When all seems lost, Alex and his savvy cellmate devise an escape plan. Last minute calamities bring the plan to the brink of disaster, and a cliffhanger ending definitely carries listeners to the next installment. Using a variety of accents, Alex Kalajic captures the teen's terrors and occasional black humor as well as the guard's monotone menace. Themes of fear and brutality are frequent and descriptions are occasionally visceral, but none of the scenes are gratuitous. Discussions about the consequence of bad choices, loyalty between friends, and prison life are among the topics that spring from this story, but male audiences will find the fast-paced survival saga most appealing. An additional purchase.—*Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT*  
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From [Booklist](#)

Positing a near-future backlash against teen crime (and teens in general), Smith sets his series opener in a squalid prison for juvenile offenders built deep underground and patrolled by surgically altered supermen with vicious, skinless dogs. Framed (like a suspicious number of his fellow inmates) for a murder he did not commit, Alex is plunged into a desperate struggle for survival amid constant sirens, lurid lighting, nightmares, gang violence, and terrifying encounters with the prison's scary guardians. Smith establishes a quick pace with an opening chase described in staccato prose, closes with a convoluted but explosive escape for Alex and a handful of allies, and in between crafts a picture of prison life less raw and hideous than what is found in, for instance, Adam Rapp's *Buffalo Tree* (1997), but frightening enough to boost reader interest in sequels. Grades 6-9. --John Peters

Review

"Fresh and ferocious, *Lockdown* will hook boys with its gritty, unrelenting surprises."—**James Patterson**

"Furnace is hotter than hell and twice as much fun! Sign me up for a life sentence of Alexander Gordon Smith!"—**Darren Shan, author of the Demonata series**

"This nightmarish start to a new series is unrelentingly bleak, uniquely horrifying, and strangely compelling." —***Realms of Fantasy* magazine**

"A great next choice for fans of *The Maze Runner*, *The Grassland Trilogy*. . . , or *Lord of the Flies*. As for me, I'm looking forward to future books (*Lockdown: Escape from Furnace* is the first of a planned trilogy). Recommended for dystopia, thriller, and horror fans, or anyone looking for a fast-paced, spine-chilling ride." —**Jennifer Robinson's Bookpage**

“Readers will be turning pages without pause, and the cliff-hanger ending will have them anticipating the next installment. Most appealing is Smith’s flowing writing style, filled with kid-speak, colorful adjectives, and amusing analogies. Fans of James Patterson’s ‘Maximum Ride’ and Darren Shan’s ‘The Demonata’ series will find this satisfying fare.” —*School Library Journal*

“One of those leave-you-on-the-edge-of-your-seat thrill rides that will grab the reader right from the start. Teens will appreciate Smith’s vivid imagery. His writing is extremely fluid, and he makes the reader feel for the characters, especially the young protagonist, Alex. Readers will be cheering him on from start to finish. Look for the sequel, *Solitary*, forthcoming in 2010. Readers will be anxious to see where Alex...

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Kristy Douglas:**

Hey guys, do you want to find a new book to see? Maybe the book with the concept *Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1* suitable to you? The particular book was written by popular writer in this era. Often the book titled *Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1* is the one of several books that will everyone read now. This particular book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new shape that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their plan in the simple way, so all of people can easily to know the core of this guide. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world on this book.

#### **Katrina Scofield:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get lots of stress from both everyday life and work. So, if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not only a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the book you have read will be *Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1*.

#### **Myron Mendez:**

Would you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you just don't know the inside because don't evaluate book by its protect may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe your answer could be *Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1* why because the amazing cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly assist you to pick up this book.

**Alexander Pridmore:**

The book untitled Lockdown: Escape from Furnace 1 contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy approach. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site and order it. Have a nice examine.

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