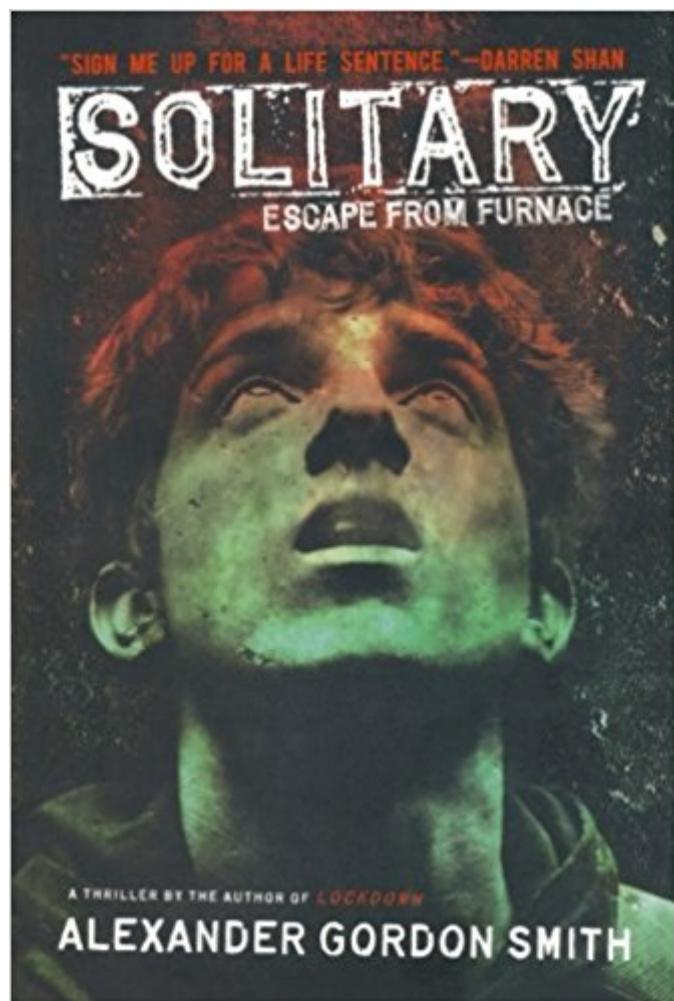


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# Solitary: Escape From Furnace 2



## Synopsis

Alex tried to escape. He had a perfect plan. He was almost free. Even felt the cool, clean air on his face. Then the dogs came. Now he's locked in a place so gruesome—so hellish—that escape doesn't even matter. He just wants to survive.

## Book Information

Series: Escape from Furnace (Book 2)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Square Fish ed. edition (July 5, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312674767

ISBN-13: 978-0312674762

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 130 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,906 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Law & Crime #88 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men #105 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Mystery & Thriller

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10—Alex Sawyer, 14, is in prison for a murder he didn't commit. He tried to escape the horrors of the underground prison known as Furnace in Lockdown (Farrar, 2009), and now he must battle the nightmare that is solitary confinement. The cells open from the top through a sort of manhole cover, and they are more like coffins standing on end than cells. Alex must fight the monsters and mutants that are his captors and tormentors, including the dreaded wheezers that have gas masks sewn to what should be their faces and the vicious rat and doglike creatures that spoiled their escape attempt. Alex's friend Donavan was thought to be dead, but as it turns out is part of the horrors going on in the infirmary. There are several disturbing episodes when Alex is alone with his thoughts in his cell, and his fatalism or depression leads him to contemplate suicide. The rest of this story is fast paced and packed with nail-biting scenarios, and the gross-out factor is high in many sections. Alex is coaxed into a leadership role by some of the creatures and his friend Zee, who occupies an adjoining cell, and through their attempt at another escape, discovers what is really happening to inmates in the infirmary. This is a dark story with a dark ending, but the gritty action and compelling characters will have reluctant readers enthralled.—Jake Pettit,

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In a sequel to *Lockdown* (2009) that is just as breathlessly paced and soaked with blood, mucus, and less savory substances, teen jailbird Alexâ„¢s escape from the futuristic underground prison and experimental lab called Furnace leads first to recapture and then to a second flight that involves frantic chases through dark caverns and tunnels, face-to-face encounters with flesh chewing human-rat hybrids, and visits to a gruesome â„¢Infirmary,â„¢ in which prisoners are modified into hideous monsters. Readers who relish lurid imagery and melodramatic prose will continue to be riveted and left eager for the next disgust-o-rama episode. Grades 6-9. --John Peters  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be locked in a completely dark room with no sound? This is exactly the situation that Alex is put into *Solitary* by Alexander Gordon Smith. This book is the second book in the *Escape From Furnace* series. In this book, Alex and Zee are placed in solitary, where they must fight against their mind to avoid going insane. Along the way, they meet Simon, a horrible human experiment gone wrong, who promises to help them escape, but can he really be trusted? I give this book 1.5 star out of 5. This book is the second installment in the *Escape From Furnace Series*. The setting is rather boring. The majority of the book is set in a solitary confinement chamber where it is too dark to know what time it is. I feel that putting such a boring setting into the book for such a long interval of time makes the story boring. The characters are very underdeveloped. New characters who are introduced are just barely described, and their character does not get any more information added to it throughout the book. In fact, for the most part, every character acts the exact same. They all have a â„¢Do whatâ„¢s rightâ„¢ attitude that really takes away from the story. The plot of this book tries very hard to be engaging, but it is simply lackluster. Yet again the setting of A dark room provides very little for the story to play with, and the only way the writer can add a little spice to the story is by having the characters briefly escape the solitary chambers only to end up in them shortly time and time again. Overall, I think that that Alexander Gordon Smith went in the wrong direction with this book. It did not carry any of the momentum from the first book, which was very good. I do not recommend this book to anyone.

Once one enters the Furnace universe, it's difficult for me to imagine how anyone could choose to leave it without first devouring every book in this series. Great character development, and awesome story line...not too far removed from where our world might be heading. And all this just makes these books even more terrifying. DEFINITELY recommended.

When I bought this book on my kindle, I was incredibly worried that it would be a rip-off of the first...and I'm pleased to say that Escape From Furnace: Solitary not only brings new concepts to the series, but in some ways, it was better than it's predecessor. Like the previous book, Solitary was full of suspenseful moments that had me biting my nails and sitting on the edge of my seat, but what really stuck out to me about this book was the raw emotion the author conveyed through the pages. Throughout most of the book, the main character spends his time alone in \*Spoilers\* solitary confinement after being caught by the warden during his escape, so Alex, the main character, has a lot of time to his thoughts. And what depressing thoughts they were... I'm not complaining, in fact I'm doing quite the opposite. Gordon did an absolutely fantastic job in having Alex express these emotions, so much so, it nearly brought me to tears a couple of times. It was also nice seeing Alex's friendship with Zee develop more in this book, I felt like the last book focused on his friendship with Donovan in such detail, that Zee was sidelined a little. I also liked the new character, Simon, who is introduced as a main protagonist. Anyway, I thought this book was amazing and I recommend it

Although the details of Furnace get all the more gruesome, as we plunge deeper into its bowls and its many caverns of horrors with Alex and his comrades; I think I was somewhat desensitized to some of it, with the very dark experience of book one. All the focus is on the escape this go around and we're introduced to the nightmare of The Hole along with more terrors that have been "created" by the Warden and his band of abominations. While more characters from LOCKDOWN die in this installment, others meet with a fate worse than death and a few whose ending has still yet to be discovered. For me SOLITARY: Escape From Furnace #2 was a strong follow-up read, but not as captivating as its predecessor. There is a lot of internal dialog coming from Alex's head and a good amount of stealthy action. There's just not a ton of actual story and I guess that's why I was slightly less won over this time. Not that I blame Smith for going in this direction with the second book, I mean I get it, at this point "the story" is the actual escape and it obviously need to be done in order to move ahead in the series. But I'm looking forward to what all this prep-work leads to. So book 3 should be good... or I should say, book 3 better be good(hopefully it'll be great). And I guess I'm about to find out.... Just remember one thing, "Don't forget your name."

I have this review up for the first two novels in this series. I have really enjoyed the first two novels of this series. I plan on purchasing the other offerings and hope they continue to be good novels. There is a need to develop a strong suspension of disbelief because of the extreme environment developed by the author but once one can become immersed in the environment the characters and storyline are very enjoyable. Also, despite the highly fictional nature of the story I felt that it inspires much thought on the ideas of crime and punishment and we as a species. I have stated before in reviews how very hard it is to develop new and engaging storylines and environments but this author has done an excellent job of giving us a terrifying and engaging local and characters to inhabit it. I wish him them the best and hope to encounter more offerings from them in the future. Best of luck and happy reading.

One of my favorite series. Rough, tough, quick and dirty. It will leave you thinking about the story for days afterward!

Great series. Great author.

Excellent series. My girlfriend got me into this and she was missing the second book! So I had to buy it so I could continue reading. Very similar writing style to Darren Shan. Would highly recommend both of authors. Very simple writing and a fast read, but so engrossing and lifelike. Definitely worth the price and is a series that will be read over and over.

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