



The Swiss Family RobinZOM Book 1

Perrin Briar

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The first novella in an 11-part zombie series.

The Classic Family Adventure... Now With Zombies!

Once bitten, the virus spreads throughout the human body. It shuts down organs, kills nerve impulses and even reprograms the way we think. The virus becomes us.

Trapped aboard a ferry destined for their new life in the Philippines, the Robinsons learn of the virus sweeping across the planet. Early symptoms include a hacking cough, shortness of breath, and deathly pale skin. The exact same symptoms shared by a fellow passenger.

Torn between warning the rest of the passengers and preventing full-scale panic, the Robinsons do everything they can to help. But are the choices they make right for everyone or just themselves?

The classic tale, inspired by Robinson Crusoe, written by Johann David Wyss, adapted by Perrin Briar, is an adrenalin-pumping adventure of zombie survival. If your family was trapped on a doomed ship, what would you do?

The Swiss Family RobinZOM Book 1 Details

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Author : Perrin Briar

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From Reader Review The Swiss Family RobinZOM Book 1 for online ebook

Donna says

Cover/Title: I don't want to rant but it really annoys me when I go to write a review and spend an hour trying to figure out why my search is coming up with a different title. My book is called Flowers VS. Zombies: Genesis but this one comes up when I search that. When I click on the link to see the book on Amazon, I see the book I read. The title here makes no sense. I understand that the author took inspiration from the original story of the Swiss Family Robinson. However, this book is about a swiss family with the last name Flowers. So naming it "The Swiss Family RobinZOM" is kinda like calling a cat "Dog". Ok, I am done with my rant about the title. The cover that I have on my version is interesting. The cover above is not. I like the zombies with the city looming in the background on my cover.

Characters: I really enjoyed reading about this family. The kids seem fun and even the youngest kid insists on being part of the action.

Plot: The idea of a family shipwrecked during a zombie outbreak is interesting. I love how inventive this family is.

Overall: Aside from my cover rant, the only other thing I didn't like was the layout of the book. It seems like it started from the end and then starts over again from the beginning. Basically part 2 of this book is the beginning and then it continues in book 2. Part 1 of this book seem to be chronologically after book 2. Seems to be very confusing for no reason at all. I liked this book and I will probably give book 2 and possibly book 3 a try. If they continue to skip around like that, I probably won't finish the series.

Otherwise, the book was interesting and I enjoyed the story.

Candy Robosky says

The Flowers Blossom

Format: Kindle Edition|Verified Purchase

I was so glad Perrin went back and explained how the Flowers came to be on the island. I found it interesting how quickly the dead turned. I appreciate how real the Flower family is before and during the ship voyage. There were even parts where Perrin tricked me but I won't say where to avoid spoilers.

It is the first part of the book when they are on the island that I have some problems with the characters. For example, I find it a little unbelievable that a doctor and his family figured out how to built their extensive tree house system in such a short time. The defense systems maybe since the kids I am sure played videogames and watched TV but the living quarters and their pets???!!!!???

I am looking forward to seeing how this develops though.

Edit

Delete

Cheryl Viner says

I enjoyed this book and i will be getting the rest of the series. I would suggest that you read the 2nd story in the book first. The way the book was put together, if you read the story "Wrecked" first it will start you off in the middle of the story. Then "Genesis" will take you back to the beginning. Mr. Briar understands how to use word imagery to pull you in and leave hungry for more when you realize you are at the last page.

Joan Barstad says

Perrin Briar has become one of my top story tellers. He has written a lot of books, so I have to buckle down and keep my nose to the ages.

The Flowers vs. Zombies series looks like a pure winner to me. It has the Flowers family being on a boat when the zombie outbreak starts. They get onto an island, and learn to survive. But they soon find that they aren't alone.

I have to read the rest of the series now.

Randy says

A take on the Swiss Family Robinson, but with zombies. A Swiss family on a boat cruise in the Philippines are worried about radio reports of a virus spreading throughout the world at an alarming rate.

This is the first entry into the story of a family's survival against the odds.

A nice quick read written in an easy style that keeps the reader hooked.

Enjoyed this one.

Andrew says

I'm always game for a new take on Zombies. It's a guilty pleasure that I rarely admit (hence the guilty) to partaking. These are very quick to read. Why I'm rating this as a 2 is mostly that I'm sure I'm in the wrong demographics. The book seems to read as a middle grades book, say 12-16 years old. I fall out of that zone by more than a few decades.

If I was only that young the review might be quite different.

My thanks to Goodreads and Perrin Briar for my free copy in exchange for this review.

Sinisa Mikasinovic says

I've been given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Just like you, I like getting free stuff, plus there's no moral barrier as my reviews are always honest.

I'd like to believe there are no other reasons for writing a review than to subjectively sum up the overall book experience, but that's frequently being tested reading other reviews. On the plus side, malicious comments are usually very short.

Note that I wouldn't read just any book - free or otherwise - it really needs to fall into my scope of interest. As a book about zombies, it was spot on.

But, I digress.

Apparently The Swiss Family RobinZOM is a remake of a century old classic The Swiss Family Robinson, with added zombies. Like being shipwrecked just isn't enough by itself.

I never read the original story, nor I have plans to, but I can tell it may be an interesting read.

Still, not knowing anything about any of the books I jumped in and started reading.

Story started unraveling pretty quickly. Mostly because of the long and drawn out passages like "She's a very tall girl, with hazel eyes like deep pools of water you could drown yourself in. Locks of her long, curly, auburn hair flailed on the wind...". Yeah, those weren't in.

I think most of us just skim through such and carry on reading, but eventually still come back looking when something further down the line requires us to know it. Or there's an internal conflict forming as our hero couldn't possibly have left a DNA evidence in a form of a blond hair as his has is obviously brown! Or is it? Let's go back and check!

Hm. Still not much about the book. This review sucks.

Try again.

OK - it feels like we arrived just in time to join Robinsons as they're preparing for an adventure. Apparently a family of 5, two grownups and three boys, is dying of boredom. As a parent I had difficulty believing that :-). Plus one of the kids is an adrenaline junkie and climbs everything that can be climbed on. Including buildings.

So, they go. And they go with their friends. In search of an adventure.

We go with them and witness everything that an adventure is not.

When the opportunity arises to jump right in and get our hearts pumping with adrenaline writing cuts short. Every time there's a zombie encounter, what should be a fight to death versus a horrible monster, it just ends. "He pushed him overboard". There's no mention of psychological turmoil, of deepest fear vs illogical and terrifying. Of shock and horror. That's not how you do a zombie story.

How did he push him? Were his eyes wide of disbelief when he noticed zombie was missing a jaw? Did he feel disgusted when his fingers went through the dead flesh and peeled it off like a piece of a soggy toilet paper? Was he scared? Angry? Defiant and determined to save his family for the price of his own life?

No. He pushed the zombie overboard.

It's just... missing. So much could be added that would cause us to care for the characters. To get inside their heads and feel what they feel. To be scared WITH them when the horrifying zombie rushes them from the dark alley.

And after several occasions a pattern emerges. Feels like the writer was afraid to add too much to the original story and all the actual zombie events are so minimized they actually take away from the experience. The other extreme is the mother that's overprotective of her children, as she should be, but transfers the wrong set of emotions to zombies as well.

These are not actual quotes from the book, but you'll get and idea:

"But he's a human."

"It's a zombie, kill it!"

"But I just shared coffee with him..."

Guess what - this coffee-drinking friend of yours is trying to eat your face and you should go mental on him! Hit him with a chair, put a bullet in his head, bring the god damn wall down!

That's a survival instinct everyone has. Guilt comes much later. When adrenaline rush fades, then we're free to search our emotions and question our moral compass. Things we did to protect our children and such.

But that's not in there either.

I kept on reading regardless as it was a light read and the book fairly short. Just couldn't get the enjoyment out of it. All the elements were there but they were just put together in a wrong way. Incompletely.

I wasn't looking for an action pumped superhero zombie slaying festival, but if you're writing about real people make them do things real people would do. You must have seen The Walking Dead. It's not a canon, that's for sure, still you can get a page or two from their book. At least on the suspense, if you're not going for the action.

If there isn't a horde of zombies banging on your door at least you can capture that "they're everywhere and are out to get you" atmosphere.

If I got publication history of the writer correctly, this is one of his first works. I can't take much against him or his writing style, but I can surely dislike some of it. Let me show you.

She let go and slid down the deck toward the jagged edge.

The infected grabbed for her as she passed.

She fell into the water, piercing it to a depth of three metres.

She peered around at the darkness around her, and then spotted the white orb of the moon.

She kicked as hard as she could, clawing her way through the water.

Her lungs burnt, and just when they felt like they were about to burst, she broke through the surface.

She gulped the air into hungry lungs.

Yes, it bugged me too.

All in all, the short story isn't bad. Overall, there's a potential, and seeing the author wrote a dozen of them must mean that he both improved on the writing style and the storytelling. But I just don't see myself reading any further.

Not being generous, but not taking away anything, I rate this 3*.

I am not sure how to rate it 2.5* - 3.5*, so 3* will have to do it.

I also have a feeling I cut this review short.

Rosemary says

Flowers vs Zombies - a review by Rosemary Kenny

The two parts of this novel are, to my mind, interchangeable; in the first, 'Wrecked', the eponymous Flowers family - led by Dad Bill, (formerly a doctor) Mum, Liz and their four sons have started a new life on a South

Pacific island...only to find that native [and 'alien'], predators threaten their new 'Eden'.

In the second part, 'Genesis', the family are aboard a small boat, with a variety of travelling companions emigrating to a new life in the Philippines.

When they learn that an Armageddon-like virus is killing people indiscriminately on all continents - only for them to suddenly revive as blood-hungry Zombies - they are instantly on the alert.

Will the Flowers' reach their destination - and once there will they be safe? Are any other passengers or crew aboard already infected? Who can they trust? And who, (if any of them) will survive?

This [free] novel, by imaginative writer Perrin Briar, which is part 'Swiss Family Robinson' and part 'Shaun of the Dead', will keep your eyes riveted to the page - and make you look differently at your friends and neighbours from now on!

Ann O'Nymos says

I have a strange version with part 1 & 2 where part 2 is called Genesis and appears to be the first book in this series. Unfortunately I started at the beginning which must be book 3.

Part 2 Genesis: 3,5*

The Swiss family named Flower are out for an adventure, leaving their home to go live somewhere in the pacific. Just when they are on a boat a strange virus is turning the world into a zombi apocalypse. And boats are not a safe place...

The writing style and pace are good, although sometimes it reads more like a stage script (Will smiled. "It's a good dream to have", he said. Ian pointed up at the sky. Look, he said, a red star! Jack looked up. It's blinking, he said. What do you think it is? Ian said...)

And although father Bill Fowers is a doc and his family seems quite intelligent, some decisions made me wonder (e.g. Liz sending jenny to her cabin).

But a good read. Now I need to find the next book because there must be another one between part 1 & 2 which I read now.

P.S. Chucerne? Does he mean Lucerne in Switzerland?

Kelli says

DNF. This read as a PG rated zombie novel, meant for pre-teen-early teen? I do like the characters and the Family dynamic. It simply was not adult or gritty enough for me. Even during the zombie fights, it had a sense of cheerfulness. So as to make it feel lighthearted enough for youth readers. Therefore, I was unable to finish reading.

Cats of Ulthar says

Review: THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINZOM BOOK 1 by Perrin Briar

Somehow I don't think Daniel Defoe ever foresaw this...but Perrin Briar has.

We live in a world suffused with toxins, both natural and manmade. Chemical and biological weapons abound; and as if those were insufficient, genetic engineering researches more daily. So it's no surprise that

sooner or later, some type of mutating plague will occur. Author Perrin Briar, noted for his unique sense of humor, postulates a family lost in virtual wilderness desperate for survival both from natural predators and from the plague zombies...

because, hey, it's just not the 18th Century any more!

Olivia Rofrits says

Great read!

I really like this story. All character's well developed as well was the storyline. Detail's was great which is big thing for me. First part could of been lefted out or used at the end of the book because it started with them being there for awhile and nicely setup. Then part 2 started at the beginning of the outbreak. I'm looking forward to reading book 2 I'll be starting it after I'm done with this review..

Nora says

Definitely wanted to read more

These types of books go to show you that anything in this world as possible. We're more fragile than we actually think. It also goes to show if you don't work together the odds of catastrophe are so much worse.

Diana Oliveira says

As to my merits as a reviewer of this book I have to confess that i am a frequent reader of the books by Perrin Briar, and besides that, I will pretty much read anything with "zombies".

In any case I am still capable of distinguishing the good, the bad and the so so... i think that as much as i had a nice time reading this book, it is a so so.

I don't think i was able to really feel engaged by the characters... maybe if the book was bigger... i don't know... regardless of the differences in personality of the various kids... meh... Liz... meh... i do like Bill, he seems to drive most of the book for me.

Regarding the story itself:

SPOILERS

Perry gives a fair warning that this is a bit of a mash-up of two books with some added plot and zombies - so nothing to criticize there.

I found some minor spelling errors, nothing too bad, but maybe these can be corrected?

I like the story's pace. I like the idea of short chapters where it is easy to keep to the story even when one

doesn't read it all in one go.

The reason i don't rate the book higher has to do with two annoyances i have:

1) How did the woman (i don't remember her name - this says a lot) get infected and show no signs of sickness? So Reg was all sick and falling apart at the seams, but the actually sick - from zombie virus - gal was all well... and then she turns? Like that? How did she died? Was she squashed? I know most books relating with the subject of zombie apocalypse avoid dwelling in the how's and why's of the virus outbreak, but this is underwhelming... i tried to make sense of this and couldn't. Were there other infected on board already?

2) Why does one of the kids have to have photographic memory? This serves no purpose whatsoever... the story does not advance in any way because of this o_O ... good thing Ernest remembered the constellations due to his photographic memory...oh wait... turns out we are not going to use this in whatever way, because we got to an island while we slept... why Perry, why? To me this bit felt completely unnecessary - maybe this "super power" comes in handy later on in another book?

I can live with how the rest of the story plays out... poor Beauty... that was an awful way to die --'.

I have already started book 2, so if like me you are into zombie apocalypse reading give this a go!

Bandit says

I must be in a tiny minority that isn't familiar with the Swiss Family Robinson phenomena. If it's at all like this zombie enhanced take on it, then it must be pretty awesome. I'm not familiar with Briar either, but well done. Just the right balance of cheeky and fun, without ever falling into cutesy zone. Some nice zombie (or Lurchers as they are known in Briar's universe) action too. Makes for a great light entertainment and I imagine especially if you're a fan of the original. Very quick read, something like an hour and a half. Available for free download on amazon and totally worth it. Might make you crave an adventure.
