

*Stormbreaker*  
hits theaters  
October 6

# STORM

**Alex Rider looks like an ordinary student—that's what makes him a perfect secret agent.** Read about Alex's first undercover assignment in this cliffhanger play adaptation of the new movie *Stormbreaker*, based on the novel by Anthony Horowitz.

ADAPTED FOR *SCOPE* BY RACHEL WAUGH



Teen spy Alex Rider (Alex Pettyfer) gets ready to jump from a helicopter hovering over London.

## Characters

Write your initials next to the character you're going to read.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ___ *NARRATOR 1 (N1)                                    | ___ *MRS. JONES, Blunt's deputy                           |
| ___ *NARRATOR 2 (N2)                                    | ___ HARRY, an employee of MI6                             |
| ___ *NARRATOR 3 (N3)                                    | ___ SLATER, a junkyard owner who works part-time for MI6  |
| ___ *NARRATOR 4 (N4)                                    | ___ NEWS ANCHOR   |
| ___ *ALEX RIDER, 14                                     | ___ *DARRIUS SAYLE, a computer genius and criminal        |
| ___ IAN RIDER, Alex's uncle                             | ___ *NADIA VOLE, Sayle's public-relations representative  |
| ___ TEACHER   | ___ SCIENTIST   |
| ___ SABINA, Alex's classmate                            | ___ VOICE, the voice of a Stormbreaker factory worker     |
| ___ *JACK STARBRIGHT, Alex's housekeeper and friend     | ___ PRIME MINISTER (PM), the leader of the United Kingdom |
| ___ POLICE OFFICER                                      |   |
| ___ VICAR, a reverend of the Church of England          |   |
| ___ *MR. BLUNT, head of MI6 Special Operations Division |   |

\*Starred characters are major roles.

# BREAKER

## Scene 1

**N1:** At a high school in London, England, Alex Rider reads an essay about his family out loud.

**ALEX:** My parents are dead, so I live with my uncle, Ian.

**N2:** Sabina smiles sympathetically at Alex.

**ALEX:** I have a sort of housekeeper, an American named Jack. She's always there for me because my uncle's often away on business. My uncle has a boring job at a bank.

**TEACHER:** Where's your uncle now?

**ALEX:** He's at a conference in Cornwall.

**TEACHER:** OK. Thanks, Alex.

**N3:** After school, Alex sees Sabina.

**ALEX (unsure):** Hey, Sabina, do you want to do something this weekend?

**SABINA:** Sorry, I can't. I have riding lessons.

**N4:** Alex hides his disappointment as Sabina walks away. His cell phone rings. It's Ian.

**IAN:** Hey, Alex?

**ALEX:** Hey. Are you coming home?

**IAN:** I'm in the car on my way now.

**ALEX:** How was the conference?

**IAN:** You know how they are.

**ALEX:** No, I don't, you never tell me.

**IAN:** There isn't much to tell. I'll be home for dinner.

**ALEX:** See you then. Bye.

**N1:** Above Ian's car, a helicopter appears out of nowhere. A man dangles from it next to the driver's side window. He draws a gun and shoots, shattering the glass.



## Scene 2

**N2:** Alex arrives home.

**JACK** (*in Japanese*): How was school?

**ALEX** (*in Japanese*): Why are we speaking Japanese?

**JACK** (*in Japanese*): We're having sushi for dinner.

**N3:** Alex picks at his raw fish.

**JACK:** Alex, please eat. Ian's just late.

**N4:** A car pulls up outside the house.

**JACK:** That must be him.

**N1:** Alex opens the front door and sees a police officer.

**OFFICER:** Are you Alex Rider?

**ALEX:** Yes.

**OFFICER:** I have some bad news...

**N2:** Two days later, Alex and Jack are at Ian's funeral.

**VICAR:** We're gathered here today to bid farewell to Ian Rider, a man of great courage.

**ALEX** (*to himself*): What's so **courageous** about banking?

**N3:** Alex looks at Ian's co-workers, many of whom wear dark glasses. They don't look like bankers.

**N4:** After the service, two of Ian's co-workers approach Alex and Jack.

**BLUNT:** I'm Mr. Blunt, the chairman of the bank. I'm sorry about your uncle. If only he'd been wearing his seat belt. This is my deputy, Mrs. Jones.

**JONES:** Please accept my **condolences**, Alex.

**N1:** Blunt and Jones begin to walk away.

**ALEX:** My uncle always wore his seat belt, Mr. Blunt. He was a very careful man.

**BLUNT:** Not careful enough.

## Scene 3

**N2:** Jack drives Alex home. They see

two men carrying Ian's personal belongings out of the house.

**HARRY:** This file cabinet's heavy, Slater.

**SLATER:** Hurry up, Harry. They'll be back soon.

**JACK:** Hey! That's Ian's stuff! What are you doing?

**N3:** The two men jump into their van and drive away. Alex hops on his bike and speeds after them.

**N4:** The van arrives at a car-wrecking yard. Alex sneaks in and sees Ian's sports car. It's peppered with bullet holes.

**SLATER:** Demolish Ian Rider's car now, Harry. I'm going to Liverpool Street Station.

**N1:** A guard dog sprints toward Alex. Alex jumps into Ian's car for protection. Seconds later, a huge metal claw grabs the car from above and swings it toward the car crusher.

**N2:** Alex spots a button on the dash labeled "ejector seat." He pushes it and is fired into the air. On the way down he catches hold of the claw, jumps onto a pile of tires, scrambles down, and follows Slater to Liverpool Street Station.

**N3:** At the station, Alex sees Slater go into a photo booth. He looks into the booth, but it's empty. Alex sits down and puts a coin in the slot. With a flash, his chair starts moving on rails through a tunnel.

## Scene 4

**N4:** Alex arrives at a large office building. He sees Jones and Blunt.

**JONES:** Hello, Alex. Shouldn't you be at school?

**ALEX:** What is this place?

**BLUNT:** As you've probably figured

out, your uncle didn't work for a bank. He worked for us, the Special Operations Division of MI6, Her Majesty's Secret Service.

**ALEX:** You're saying he lied to me.

**JONES:** He lied to everyone. I'm sorry. It was part of his job.

**BLUNT:** We want you to work for us.

**ALEX:** I don't want to be a spy. I'm still in school.

**BLUNT:** Your uncle would be very disappointed.

**ALEX:** But he made sure I never knew anything about this!

**BLUNT:** All your life, your uncle was preparing you. You're a black belt in karate. You speak three languages.

**JONES:** You've been scuba diving, mountain climbing, and rifle shooting. He was training you.

**ALEX:** They were hobbies!

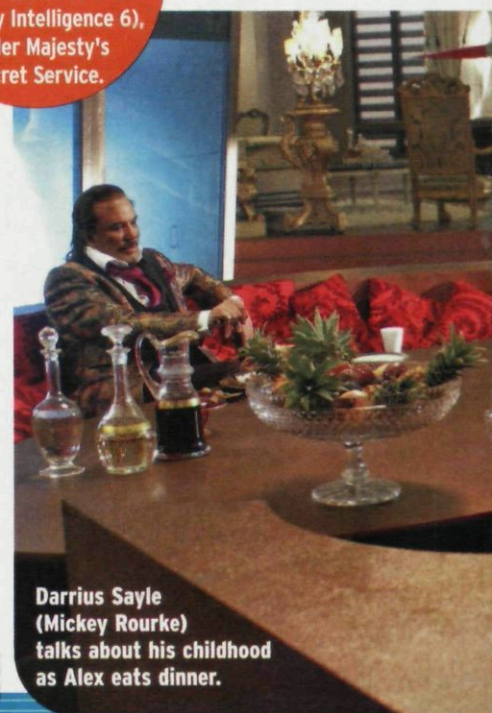
**BLUNT:** How's your American housekeeper, Jack Starbright? I suppose she'll be packing soon.

**ALEX:** Why?

**BLUNT:** Her visa ran out seven years ago. She'll be deported any day. That is, unless you

### PLAY POINT:

The British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) is also known as MI6 (Military Intelligence 6), or Her Majesty's Secret Service.



Darrius Sayle (Mickey Rourke) talks about his childhood as Alex eats dinner.

**SAY IT!** courageous — kuh-RAY-juhss • condolences — kuhn-DOH-luhns-iz



decide to help us.

**N1:** Alex knows he has no choice but to agree.

**ALEX:** What kind of people are you?

**BLUNT:** The kind that get their way. Now let's discuss your training.

## Scene 5

**N2:** A week later, Alex returns to Secret Service headquarters.

**BLUNT:** Alex, you're ready for your first mission. Watch this.

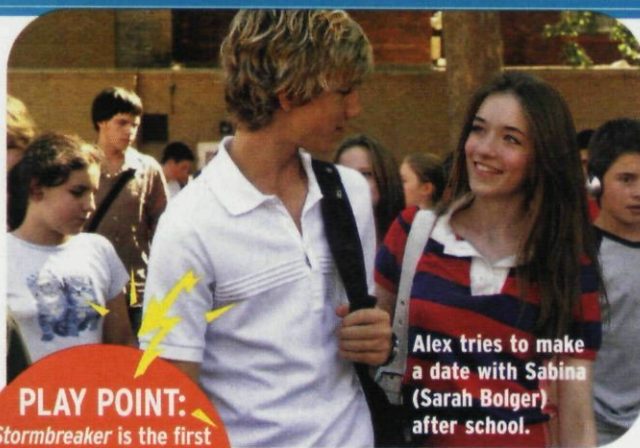
**N3:** Using a remote, Blunt turns on a screen. A news anchor appears.

**ANCHOR:** The Stormbreaker is the most sophisticated personal computer of the 21st century. Today, its multibillionaire inventor, Darrius Sayle, has an astonishing announcement.

**SAYLE:** I'm going to give a free Stormbreaker to every school in the country.

**N4:** Blunt freezes the screen.

**BLUNT:** We don't trust Sayle. Six months ago we sent an agent to



**PLAY POINT:**  
*Stormbreaker is the first of six books about Alex Rider. Alex is partly based on the character James Bond, created by Ian Fleming.*

Alex tries to make a date with Sabina (Sarah Bolger) after school.

keep an eye on him.

**ALEX:** You mean my uncle.

**BLUNT:** Yes. Sayle has a factory in Cornwall, built over an old mine. Ian Rider went there as a security guard. He sent us this photo of the mine entrance.

**N1:** Blunt clicks the remote to show the photo.

**JONES:** In his last message to us, he mentioned a virus.

**ALEX:** A computer virus?

**JONES:** He didn't have a chance to tell us.

**BLUNT:** We need someone to take a look around.

**ALEX:** Why me?

**N2:** A teenager appears on-screen.

**BLUNT:** Meet Kevin Blake, a computer whiz. He won a competition in a computer magazine.

**JONES:** First prize is a visit to Sayle's Cornwall plant to try out Stormbreaker. You'll borrow his identity and take his place.

**ALEX:** But I'm not a computer whiz.

**BLUNT** (*handing him a pile of books*): You soon will be.

**JONES:** Go to Hamley's Toy Store and see a salesman named Smithers. Use the password "Cornwall." He will give you the following gadgets: a backpack that has a parachute inside, acne cream that eats through metal, and a pen

that shoots a dart full of mind-control serum.

**N3:** For a moment, Jones eyes Alex with concern.

**JONES:** Be careful of Sayle. He may seem charming...

**BLUNT:** ...but he's as charming as a snake.

## Scene 6

**N4:** The next day Alex flies to Cornwall. At the airport, a grim-looking woman greets him.

**VOLE:** You must be Kevin Blake. I am Nadia Vole.

**N1:** Vole drives Alex to Sayle's house and introduces him to her boss.

**SAYLE:** Ah, Kevin, how are you?

**N2:** Alex sees a huge tank occupied by a giant jellyfish.

**SAYLE:** That's the Portuguese man-of-war. She's silent and deadly. She reminds me of myself.

**ALEX:** It's 90 percent water and has no brain.

**SAYLE:** If you came into contact with that, you'd die a memorable death.

**ALEX:** I'm too young to die.

**SAYLE:** You're never too young to die.

**N3:** A man in a dark suit enters.

**SAYLE:** This is Mr. Grin, my butler.

**N4:** Mr. Grin has scars running from each corner of his mouth to his ears.

**ALEX:** Did he cut himself shaving?

**SAYLE:** Mr. Grin had a circus act. He used to catch a knife in his teeth.

**ALEX:** What went wrong?

**SAYLE:** He lost his concentration when his mother waved to him from the audience. Ms. Vole, take Kevin to the Stormbreaker.

**N1:** Vole takes Alex to the computer and helps him log on.

**ALEX:** It has slice-matrix virtual reality software. That's cool.





**VOLE** (*impressed*): I see you know computers. I'll leave you alone.

**N2:** After 20 minutes roaming cyberspace, Alex logs off to explore Sayle's factory. He sneaks into a building and sees Sayle talking to a group of scientists.

**SCIENTIST:** Here's the scale model of your London headquarters. I incorporated a nationwide transmitter that can instantly activate all 70,000 computers. It's a foolproof backup system.

**SAYLE:** It's excellent.

**N3:** Alex feels a tap on his shoulder.

**VOLE:** Why are you here, Kevin?

**ALEX:** I got lost, Miss Vole. What is this place?

**VOLE:** This area is restricted. Follow me, please...

## Scene 7

**N4:** Later, Alex joins Sayle for dinner.

**SAYLE:** I had a miserable childhood.



Mrs. Jones (Sophie Okonedo, center) agrees that Alex (right) is ready for his first mission as a secret agent.

### PLAY POINT:

Author Anthony Horowitz has been writing since he was 10. His favorite book is *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

I still have nightmares. Luckily, my mother won the lottery. She sent me to the best school with Britain's **elite**.

**ALEX:** You were at school with the Prime Minister?

**SAYLE:** That's right. And he treated me as kindly as he treated all his classmates.

**N1:** While Alex is eating dinner with Sayle, Vole searches Alex's room. She finds his cell phone and dials "home." A picture of Ian appears.

**N2:** Jack sees Alex's number on the caller ID and picks up.

**JACK:** Hello, Alex? Where are you?

**N3:** Vole hangs up and runs downstairs.

**ALEX:** I think I'll turn in early tonight.

**N4:** Alex pretends to go to his room. Instead, he leaves the house. Seconds later, Vole bursts into the dining room.

**VOLE:** Kevin Blake's real name is Alex Rider!

**SAYLE:** Find him and kill him!

## Scene 8

**N1:** Outside, Alex enters an old mine shaft. He crawls along a tunnel and squeezes through a vent. He finds himself in an immense underground factory

where hundreds of Stormbreaker computers move along an assembly line.

**VOICE** (*amplified*): Warning. The R5 injection is now in progress.

**N2:** A machine squirts green liquid into

each computer.

**ALEX** (*to himself*): It's not a computer virus.

It's the real thing!

**VOLE:** Snooping again, "Kevin"?

**N3:** Armed guards escort Alex to Sayle.

**SAYLE:** Shame on MI6, sending a schoolboy to replace Ian Rider. He was your uncle, I believe?

Alex holds a vial of Sayle's lethal virus. Even the armed guards don't want to get too close.



**ALEX:** Why are you putting a virus into the Stormbreakers?

**SAYLE:** Do you know what it's like to be the new boy at a school for snobs? One kid gave me the nickname Darrius Smell. Guess what? He grew up to be the Prime Minister.

**ALEX** (*astounded*): This is all about revenge?

**SAYLE:** In a few hours, the Prime Minister is going to press a button at the Science Museum to activate all my Stormbreakers—and release the virus!

**ALEX:** Lots of people are bullied, but it doesn't turn them into **psychopaths**!

**SAYLE:** Mr. Grin, take care of our young friend.

**N4:** Mr. Grin cracks his knuckles.

**SAYLE:** I'd love to see how this ends, but I have an important appointment in London. Cheerio!

## Scene 9

**N1:** At the headquarters of MI6, Blunt has bad news for Jones.

**SAY IT!** psychopaths — SYE-kuh-paths





copter and shoots Mr. Grin with his dart pen. Grin's pupils dilate as the mind-control drug takes effect.

**ALEX:** Grin, fly me to London, fast!

## Scene 10

**N2:** An excited crowd waits outside the Science Museum.

**ANCHOR:** In a few minutes the Prime Minister will activate the Stormbreaker computers in schools nationwide.

**PLAY POINT:** Alex Pettyfer, 16, once played Willy Wonka in his school's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

**N3:** The Prime Minister arrives and steps onto a platform inside the museum.

**ANCHOR:** Darrius

Sayle insists that the Prime Minister press the button. In fact, it's fingerprint-sensitive so nobody else can do it.

**N4:** Darrius Sayle shakes the Prime Minister's hand.

**PM:** I am delighted to accept the generous offer from my old school pal, Darrius Smell. I mean *Sayle*!

**N1:** From the helicopter, Alex looks down on London. He jumps.

**SAYLE:** My Stormbreakers are about to change the life of every child in England, thanks to my old friend the Prime Minister.

**N2:** Alex pulls the cord on his backpack and a parachute billows out. He smashes through the museum's glass roof. The Prime Minister freezes. Special Forces soldiers surround Alex.

**JONES** (into a walkie-talkie): This is a red alert. Secure the area.

**SAYLE** (to the PM): Hurry up! Press the button, you **buffoon**!

**N3:** Just in time, Alex destroys the radio-transmitting device. As it explodes, everyone

dives for cover. In the confusion, Sayle slips away.

## Scene 11

**N4:** Before Alex leaves the museum, he meets with Blunt and Jones.

**JONES:** Well done, Alex.

**ALEX:** What about Sayle?

**BLUNT:** You can leave him to us.

**N1:** Alex gets into Jack's car.

**JACK:** I can't believe I let you get mixed up in this! But it's over. I'm taking you home.

**N2:** As they drive through London, Alex sees an unmistakable building.

**ALEX:** That's Sayle Tower! I saw a model of it in Cornwall. Sayle is going to set off the virus himself!

**N3:** Jack speeds around a corner, into traffic.

**ALEX:** We're not going to make it!

**N4:** A group of girls on horseback passes in front of the car.

**ALEX:** Sabina?

**SABINA:** Alex?

**N1:** Alex jumps onto the horse and sits behind Sabina. They gallop through the park toward Sayle Tower. At the same time, Sayle hurries into his building.

**N2:** As Alex enters the tower, Sayle feverishly punches codes into a computer.

**N3:** The screen displays one word: "activate." Sayle smiles and prepares to hit the red button. ■

**BLUNT:** The government is ignoring my advice and going ahead with the ceremony.

**JONES:** What about Alex? He hasn't contacted us since yesterday.

**BLUNT:** Let's hope he can look after himself.

**N2:** At Sayle's house, Grin tosses Alex into the jellyfish tank and leaves.

**ALEX** (treading water): Let me out!

**VOLE:** The jellyfish can't attack you, Alex. It has, as you said, no brain. But you will tire soon. You will drift into its embrace.

**N3:** Alex takes out the acne cream and smears some on the tank's frame. Bubbles rise as the metal begins to dissolve.

**VOLE:** What are you doing?

**N4:** The tank bursts open, spewing the contents of the tank into the room. Vole is completely smothered by the huge jelly.

**N1:** Alex grabs his backpack, runs outside, and sees Mr. Grin leaving in a helicopter. After a **memorable** chase, Alex climbs into the heli-

**SAY IT!** memorable — MEM-ur-uh-buhl



Read the book or see the movie to find out if Alex makes it in time to save the day. To read an online interview with author Anthony Horowitz, go to [www.scholastic.com/scope](http://www.scholastic.com/scope).



# Play Skills

**Your mission:** Decode the following questions to demonstrate your total mastery of the play *Stormbreaker*.



## NO-SWEAT TEST PREP

**DIRECTIONS:** Fill in the circle next to the correct answer for each multiple-choice question. Be sure to check your answers!

- When and where is the play set? (*setting*)
  - present-day London and Cornwall, England
  - Paris and Normandy, France, in the 1970s
  - Rome and Tuscany, Italy, in the 1980s
  - Barcelona and Costa Brava, Spain, 1995
- Which happens first? (*sequencing*)
  - Alex spots Sayle's London headquarters.
  - Harry and Slater crush Ian's car.
  - The jellyfish lands on Nadia Vole.
  - Alex meets Blunt and Jones.
- Why do Harry and Slater remove Ian's file cabinet from his house? (*inference*)
  - They are thieves and plan to sell it.
  - It might contain secret information that they would hand over to MI6.
  - They plan to give it to Sayle.
  - The bank where Ian worked needs it.
- What does Sayle have in common with a Portuguese man-of-war? (*compare & contrast*)
  - They both actively seek revenge.
  - They are both deadly.
  - They both went to school with the Prime Minister of England.
  - They are both originally from Portugal.
- How does Alex know what Sayle's London headquarters looks like? (*understanding plot*)
  - Blunt showed him a photo of the building.
  - Sayle showed him a photo of the building.
  - He has seen a model of the building.
  - The building is near his school.
- Why doesn't Alex want to become a spy? (*analyzing character*)
  - He wants to be a banker like his uncle.
  - He is too lazy.
  - He just wants to be a normal teenager.
  - He'd rather spend his time on a computer.
- According to Sayle, why did Mr. Grin lose his concentration during his knife-throwing circus act? (*detail*)
  - A clown car backfired.
  - His mother waved at him from the audience.
  - A fly landed on his nose.
  - He became nervous.
- How does Nadia Vole find out Alex's true identity? (*understanding plot*)
  - She finds his passport.
  - She sees a picture of him in the newspaper.
  - She calls his home on his cell phone.
  - Mr. Grin finds out and tells her.
- Why does Sayle want the Prime Minister to activate the Stormbreakers? (*character motivation*)
  - Sayle wants to show his deep respect for the Prime Minister.
  - Sayle wants the Prime Minister to take the blame for spreading the deadly virus.
  - He wants the Prime Minister to get sick.
  - He doesn't know how to do it himself.
- Which sentence best sums up the play? (*main idea*)
  - A teen spy jumps from a helicopter.
  - A teenage spy saves thousands from a virus.
  - An American housekeeper serves sushi.
  - A Portuguese man-of-war accidentally smothers an evil genius's assistant.

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