



Fire from the Sky: The Sanders Saga

N.C. Reed

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Post-Apocalyptic Fiction by N.C. Reed

Clayton Sanders left home the minute he had his high school diploma in hand. He waited that long only because the Army wouldn't accept him without one. Now, ten years later, he's home. Home with no warning, no advance notice, no anything after being gone ten years with almost no contact with his family. Home carrying a secret that is burning him up from the inside. A secret that has pushed him to the brink, forcing him to become a criminal in order to be where his family needs him to be, even though they don't realize it yet. Because Clayton knows something they don't. Something that hasn't happened, but will. Something that will burn everything it touches. And change the face of the world forever.

PROLOGUE

They didn't have real names. Well, they had them of course. They just didn't use them. Not here. They were known by names their comrades had chosen. Names that suited their personalities. Names that only mattered to them. The men of CTG 31 were the kind of men that didn't exist in the modern, civilized world. There was no place for them in an enlightened society. Except when that society needed them. They were the kind of men who visited dark places in the middle of the night, doing violence to those who preyed on the weak and the helpless. Rough men, yes, but honorable. They had a code of their own, these men, and they lived by it as if it were a writ from a Higher Authority. No one broke that code, that set of unwritten rules that kept them from sliding over the edge. Kept them from becoming like those they hunted. Like those they were pursuing right now.

"We're about twenty, maybe twenty-five minutes behind, Boss-man"

The man known as Boss-man stopped, hand raised in a fist. Those following halted and spread out without being told.

"Status?" Boss-man asked tersely. He was angry. They were all angry. Something they had to guard against in their business. Keeping things strict and orderly helped.

"Still on the trail for now," the scout replied.

"Continue," Boss-man ordered and waved his hand forward. The squad of men behind him began moving again.

They were in a hurry today. Before dawn a group of terrorists had attacked a small village that the squad had befriended. Or that had befriended them. The men of CTG 31 weren't sure which was the case. They did know that the people of the small village known as Home had become their friends. The village had become a place where they could relax, even if only slightly, and be people for just a few hours at a time. A place of sanity in a world that had lost its own.

And that place had been violated. People they knew had been killed. Children they had grown to care for taken, herded toward a fate that no one in their group wanted to consider.

Someone had to pay for that. Someone would pay for that. Dearly.

They had been in pursuit for hours, running the entire way. Hard men who pushed themselves to be harder still, banking that toughness against a day like today. A day of reckoning.

Had the attackers known the kind of men they were offending, it's entirely possible they would not have committed the atrocity. They were not brave men, these thugs known as terrorists. By nature terrorists were cowards, using fear and intimidation to force their will upon those too weak to resist them.

But they hadn't known, and so they had attacked a place that was sacred to this squad of hard, violent men.

And in so doing had assured that they, themselves, would not see another day on this mortal plane.

Time meant nothing as they ran. There was only the objective and nothing else. A dozen pairs of eyes roamed the country around them, missing nothing as they moved.

Fire from the Sky: The Sanders Saga Details

Date : Published May 18th 2017 by Creative Texts Publishers, LLC

ISBN :

Author : N.C. Reed

Format : Kindle Edition 316 pages

Genre : Apocalyptic, Post Apocalyptic

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From Reader Review Fire from the Sky: The Sanders Saga for online ebook

Robert Crawford says

A Great Apoplectic Novel

N. C. Reed has become one of my favorite authors. I have read almost all of Mr. Reid's novels and have enjoyed all of them. Fire From the Sky is an especially good novel - very heavy into the "prep" part of prepper fiction (which is the part I enjoy most). Mr. Reed writes with a dry sense of humor which I very much appreciate. I also enjoy the way in which he develops his "strong silent type" heroes.

Sharon Brown says

Worth every 5 star rating

Very likable characters. The good guys, that is. This book surprised me. Most dystopian novels go right to the devastation immediately. This book took the building of the characters almost through the first whole book. However, it always held my interest thru the entire book. I know there is still a lot of character building to be done, but I know my interest will never wane. I can't wait to start the next in the series. This is one series I will read to the end. And, I will suggest it to my friends as a great read!?

Linda Brown says

Great!!!! A new series by one my favorite authors.

N.C. Reed has done it again. "Odd Billy Todd" is the best, IMO, post-apocalyptic book that I've read to date. NOW a new fav is out. It don't get any better. If there is a flaw in "Fire From the Sky" it would be the insane actions of the President. He just can't be that dumb. You have to have some smarts to be elected. But noooooo, he just doesn't believe that disaster can really strike America. I mean can he really be that stupid. A politician that overlooks everything to check on his re-election. Hmmm... never mind ;-)

Eric Smiley says

Only three stars because of the spelling errors. I am buying book 2 and hoping for less errors. I do like how the characters are being fleshed out.

James Stein says

This is one of the good ones.

There are so many books out now with survival after the "big one" (nuclear, flood, fire, electronic, etc.) the main theme you begin to tire of reading about going back to nature and discouraging the bad guys. However, in my case purely by accident, I ended up with Fire From the Sky and I think it's a worthwhile read. Enough common sense, believable tough guys and scenarios, beautiful women, nasty people and action to entertain me and wait for the next book in the series.

Pam Shelton-Anderson says

First, this really needed an editor as there were a lot of issues with word usage, grammar and sentence structure. These distract from the story and are avoidable. I didn't like the main character, Clay, as he was so rigid and unyielding and kind of hard on Lainie who had every right to be skeptical. Some of these people seemed to be too easily accepting of his story that originates from the dream of an African shaman. They went all out preparing for a CME when, at least at first, it could have been some other cause like an asteroid, nuke or even a volcano. The president was over the top stupid and not believable. I did like old Leon and the twins and also the details in how they prepared. I would not have thought of some of those things, which is why they would not have invited me to the farm. It did seem very convenient that they had so much warning on this and available items that they needed. I would read the next book, if there is one, to see what happens and if the writing improves.

Uncle Dave Avis says

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING! This author is a really good wordcrafter with a vivid and believable imagination. I loved the unfolding plot and the dramatic action scenes. The characters are marvelous and I really felt that I knew them and was a part of their community. The twins are delightful, the Old Man is a lion, the main character, Clay, is a strong leader. All the rest are fleshed out and could be our neighbors. Have you ever just wanted to shop with a purpose; with abandon; and without financial limits? You'll love the great shopping spree!

I can't say enough praise for this book. I've read about 80 books this year and this is the best of them all, hands down.

I highly recommend everyone reading this fine novel. Looking forward to the next one.

TomP says

Good story - read it!

The story line is excellent. My only criticism is the poor English. I'm not referring to the conversation, I grew up in a farm and in a small town near Murfreesboro so I understand how people talk. I'm referring to the written English. Your and you're are not the same. Future tense of weave is not weaved, same as shined and shown. Many instances. While others may not care, it makes reading less enjoyable for me. With that said, the story and characters are well done! I highly recommend reading this and look forward to its continuation.

Ira Meltzer says

Story line and plot were great. They kept me engrossed in the book. Characters were developed nicely and all interactions made sense.

The only ding I have is that the book really needed to be proofread. words like we'll were written like this "we 'll". There were words that didn't make sense inserted into a lot of sentences which caused me to have to re-read the sentence to to understand it. BTW I am not talking about dialect differences, those I understand.

I am now starting the Brotherhood of Fire next.

Julie D says

Several items I did not like: Very long buildup, nothingburger event, unnecessary misogyny and physical abuse by the “good guys”, poor use of political storylines, use of brute force to solve too many problems, and the use of stereotypical characters generated from a male author likely from the military who lacks understanding of civilian life, especially with women.

1. The event doesn't happen until 85% through the book. I am more interested in what happens after the event in this type of book, so I kept waiting for this to get somewhere. If the intent to take this long to build it up, then the development of the story and supporting storylines need to be less shallow.
 2. After waiting for most of the book to get to the event, the event itself was a nothingburger, so rather anti-climatic.
 3. Didn't know this was a series and one needs to buy the next book to get to what I assume will be more interesting reading?
 4. The use of misogyny, actual physical abuse, laughing, intimidation, and threat tactics of women by the good guys completely undermines the storyline being built around why the good guys are the good guys. When children disobey, disrespect, or are shown to go around parental authority, it is at the detriment of the female parent. It shows the lack of depth this author has to deal with the situation. Let the humans who are starving and desperate be the ones who let civility fall by the wayside, not the good guys who have food, water, and safety. It is so boring when an author retreads the same old male-based stereotypes where women are property, are beaten and threatened for their opinion, have vocations as a housewife, seamstress, stripper, waitress, with the occasional doctor thrown in and a woman who has built her own business gladly gives it up for a guy after a four month fling. Even the “Brienne of Tarr” character is portrayed as diminutive as she tries to hide behind her much smaller stature male partner when she is introduced...like her size and male-leaning abilities are something to be ashamed of.
 5. The political storylines at the end of the book are extremely shallow stereotypes of a few character lines: A willfully ignorant POTUS, a lying/scheming reporter, POTUS cabinet/staff. The shallow characters are more a representation of the author's inability to develop those tangential storylines rather than of the characters themselves. This was done so poorly, it would have been best to leave the entire storyline out and have the reader make something up themselves. Just skip to having the report come across the radio waves. What a disappointment.
-

Alexis says

2.5 stars. I guess I'm one of the very few that didn't like....? I can see why people do like it, I really can. I got into it quickly, and just could not put it down.... until certain points in the story which annoyed me and then it came to a point where I just could not finish it due to the subtle misogynistic, abusive and self-righteous underlying themes.

So, spoilers below, but I wish someone would have told me these before I started. This is one of the very few books I've ever started and not finished, and I didn't even hate it, but I could not go any further.

1. Abusive relationships. When the cowboy tells Lanie what they've been doing and what they have planned, she reacts as any NORMAL person would - complete and utter disbelief. Instead of trying to see it from her point of view, he abandons her and pushes her away, to the point where she is begging for him to take her back and that it's all her fault and repeatedly apologizes to him. He never, ever once thinks that maybe, just maybe, he had asked for something unrealistic. And then it is all settled when she basically says she'll never question him again. Emotional abuse. That was when I first started to dislike this story, but I kept on. The point where I put this down to never pick up again was when the cowboy's older sister, Alicia, was put in her place. She comes to a family gathering one night, sitting uncomfortably, apparently having had some kind of beating from her husband. Her family APPROVE of this! Her mother even smiles!!! W.T.F. And why? Because she had the nerve to question the menfolk? That maybe this whole endeavor may have been over-the-top? That she had the audacity to be angry that they involved HER children in this without telling her? UGH!!!!

2. The hypocrisy. I kept thinking of the turtle god, Om, in Terry Pratchett's "Small Gods" - DO UNTO OTHERS BEFORE THEY DO UNTO YOU. Apparently, one of the morals of this story is that people are evil, so therefore, it is ok for the "good" guys to steal supplies, like... oh, I don't know, MEDICINE! They're good, so it's ok, right? Also, the grandfather is basically a pimp or drug dealer or something, yet still a "good" guy. They are also all high-and-mighty, thinking that if people want stuff, it's their fault they're unprepared. Now, granted, I do agree with it to an extent, but the self-righteous attitude got on my nerves - sorry, not everyone has access to unlimited funds obtained from killing African warlords or local criminal activities. UGH again!

3. Unlikeable characters. As alluded to in my first comment, the Cowboy is kind of a whiny baby. Our hero is a cranky, know-it-all. He left his parents' as soon as he could because he didn't feel luuuuved. He left his stripper girlfriend when she had the nerve to question him because he didn't feel luuuuved. What a wuss. Grandpa is quite funny but a criminal, though that's ok apparently. The twins were entertaining but a bit unrealistic. The mom was annoying. The dad seemed to think he was the Godfather or something. I just never liked anyone.

4. The premise. The whole story hinges on whether or not the family believes the Cowboy, who has been gone for 10 years by the way. They have to believe that his interpretation of what an African medicine man tells him in passing signals the end of the world. The man said something about a fire in the sky and to be with your family. For all you know, that could mean someone you love was in a plane crash. Or maybe he just smoked a little too much shisha. But suddenly he is SURE that it means the world will end. UGH!!!!

5. This book basically reads as a preppers' survivor guide more than anything. It got boring after a while with what amounted to chapters of lists of supplies.

Patsy Burdette says

A great book.I

It was a great story. I didn't want to put it down but I have to eat and sleep. I did read it while I was eating. I didn't want it to end. I wouldn't change a thing about the book. If a sequel is written I definitely want to read it. I would recommend this book to any adult. It may frighten some younger teenagers. It could possibly happen but is

not worth worrying about.

Sunnie Anderson says

New twist on the end of life as we know it.

Definitely a setup for a series. Characters need more a bit more balance of good/bad, but are fleshed out well we enough that the reader cares what happens.

Moral codes of the characters tend to be pretty Boolean, with a strong predisposition to Darwinian, which raises interesting questions. It will be interesting to see how far down that path the author is going to take it. So far, it's been saintly good (with some mud tossed on for camouflage) versus the fiendishly evil who needed to be put down like rabid dogs.

I am wondering if the author is going to be willing to grapple with the grayer, more morally ambiguous scenarios.

Gracie Love says

Captivating!!!

This is a great story made up of wonderful characters, and I am so very glad it's a series.....I love these people, and I am grateful that I will have the chance to follow their lives in this well written series. I hope that the author continues to write as the characters talk, and being from AL, we most definitely talk in such a way. So please just ignore all the goofy complaints about misspelled words, typos, and what have ya's....Mr. Reed.....I'm positive that the majority of the readers are lovin' it! Thank you for such a great captivating story!!!

HOLLY CLAGHORN says

If there was 10 stars I would check this book as such. Author N. C. Reed is an exceptional writer. The story takes you from a village in Africa to across the world and getting ready for a devastating event to helping people. It is getting into gangs or something creating fires in the near by town. I can't wait to see what is going to happen next. I hope the next book in the Sanders Sage will be out soon. You need to read this book.
