



Countdown

Natalie Standiford

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The clock has finally run out for the Cahills. As the leaders of the world's most powerful family, Dan and Amy have been in the crosshairs for too long. It was only a matter of time until luck failed them.

Media tycoon and presidential candidate J. Rutherford Pierce has set his sights on destroying the siblings. And after numerous close calls, it looks like he's about to get his wish.

Now Dan is hopelessly trapped and nothing can save him. Nothing except unleashing an evil the Cahills have spent centuries trying to hide.

The Cahills have always had a secret weapon, but it comes at a great cost. With everything to lose, Amy has to ask herself the question that haunts her nightmares:

Just how far is she willing to go to save her little brother?

Countdown Details

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Author : Natalie Standiford

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William says

This arc of the 39 Clues series is progressively getting darker. I am honestly not sure if I am liking it. I understand why this is the direction the authors are trying to take the series, but I feel like it is losing sight of the original innocence and fun that comprised the essence of 39 Clues even within all the danger.

Or it could just be me being silly, but whatever. Can't wait for the next book.

Linette says

Each book is starting to get a little samey, even with different authors on the team.

Sally says

[J. Rutherford Pierce was an awesomely evil villain... but would he really be a worse president than Donald Trump? ;) I was floored when April May turned out to be Cara, and again when Cara turned out to be the girl who hoodwinked Ian in Ireland! OMG I was devastated when Pony died though, unfair :(That was harsh. Loved the settings and the hunts for the serum antidote ingredients so, so much. (hide spoiler)

Tara says

[

First things first, I'll give a short summary of the book. Countdown is the 3rd installment in the unstoppable story arc. It picks up right where we left off with Amy, Dan and Co. On the way to Guatemala to retrieve the riven crystal. Over the course of the book, Dan almost dies, Amy drinks the serum to save him and now it's a race against the clock to retrieve all the elements for the antidote. Unfortunately this proves to be tough as

Tasnia says

This was one of the better Unstoppable books so far, however I still find it incomparable to the first series. Standiford did touch more on the feelings between Amy and Dan and Jake, and the tension between Jake and Ian, but like a lot of the book, everything is just straightforward. I understand that the rest of the team are fearful for Amy's death, but following Amy's unreasonable orders with little question...it doesn't seem right. The whole book - and the past few books - are all centered around Amy and her Cahill leadership. That's it. Even with Dan taking the wheel now, I expected something, anything, to be a little different, but he's a carbon copy of the Amy he hated. I miss the old books where Ian and Ham and Jonah had more to say than "Yes, Amy." Although, I'm really happy that Nellie is more involved in the books now, although how she's

managed to stay at Trilon Labs that long without knowing basic biochem is beyond me.

Bhavya says

Not-so-dear-author,

Why? Seriously, why? Why would you do this? How could you do this? Didn't you know it would hurt, so much!?

Yours Sincerely,
Reader-in-tears

Elizabeth says

I know I said Amy was annoying in the last book, but that doesn't mean I want her to die!

goodgraces says

Like always, I was totally annoyed by Jake. He still keeps his whole, "You aren't the boss of me," attitude with Amy, which is totally un-called for. My only hope is that he either develops away from that, or doesn't end up dating Amy in the end. But... he has kept that charade up for almost ten books, so I doubt it. And of course this book was heart-breaking. Amy taking the serum to save her little brother was very emotional for me, and it showed that after all they've been through, even after Dan basically *quitting* the family, she would still trade her life for his, which sums up what being a big sister is about. I just wish that Jake had been more... understanding. He's an older brother, you would think he would know why she had to do what she did. Here is an example of a scene where Amy is experiencing serious negative side-effects to the serum, the same side-effects that are going to kill her in six days:

"Shake it off, Amy," Jake said with the same mix of fear and irritation that had colored everything he'd directed toward her since she took the serum, as if all she had to do to stop dying was "put her mind to it."

-- Page 111

My favorite part about this book is that Nellie had many chapters, and they brought our boys back into the field! That's right, after two books of phone-calls only, Jonah, Hamilton, and Ian are back with Amy and Dan, in a risky plan to retrieve shocked quartz. This is at the climax of the book, so unfortunately the boys are out of action for the majority of the time, but it's the thought that counts. Of course, there is that rivalry between Jake and Ian that I'm thoroughly tired of. At this point, Jake seems to hate Amy AND any sort of contact between Ian and Amy.

[Amy to Dan] "All right. Call Ian."

At the mention of the name *Ian*, Jake flinched.

--Page 139

There is also a scene when the boys arrive that I thought was very sad, and I wish it had been from Amy's POV so that we could know what she was thinking. Instead, it's from Dan's POV and ends up being one line.

He [Ian] enveloped Amy in a bear hug and held her a second longer than usual, but he couldn't quite meet her eye, as if he didn't know what to say to her.

--Page 150

I wish the authors would make the relationships between Amy, Dan, and the boys more believable. They almost make them sound like strangers at this point, instead of friends/family that have known each other for two+ years. It definitely seems like Ian especially would be able to understand Amy and *definitely* look her in the eye. Jonah and Hamilton also seem very awkward around her, which is odd considering how well they know her.

I feel like often times the boys are ignored/not called for help when it would be obvious to do so, just because the authors want Jake and Atticus to solve all the problems. There are those sweet scenes where Amy would call the boys for help and immediately brighten up when she hears their voices, which is what I've basically lived for up to this point. You can tell that they are Amy's closest friends, and that they truly love her.

Overall, the book was okay. The character development just hasn't lived up to my expectations. ~~And, as I have wished since third grade, Ian and Amy have not gotten together yet. Disappointing, considering I am now in high school.~~

Wendy Kuzma says

I liked this one better than the previous book in this series.

Rebecca says

The Trump-Pierce comparisons are eerily prescient.

Lady Flo says

It gets worse. The only interesting person in book, Pony, Is dead! Why all stranger who try to help Cahills die? Booooooriiiiiiingggg

Daniel Lauron says

This book was a good sequel to the previous book. Overall the plot and events of the book were well written and assembled, but there were a few things I particularly liked. First, the situation is very similar to other books in the series as they are trying to find an artifact and are hunted by a group of soldiers. Secondly, the ending was both sad and was too soon of an ending. That doesn't mean the book was bad; I still gave it four stars. I really liked some of the newer characters' role and the tense feeling I got that caused me to continue reading chapter after chapter. The rest of the series wouldn't make sense without it. Even though the ending was (in my opinion) distasteful, it was very dramatic and again forced me to read on. There was one scene that made me gasp, which I will not go into detail in to prevent spoilers. It alone made the book stand out compared to the previous books, because it was completely unexpected and sudden. There were several other scenes that made the book a big success, some of which haven't been used in the series. So, overall, this was a riveting and well written sequel to the rest of the series. This concludes my review on "Countdown". I hope you enjoy the book, and I do suggest reading the entire 39 Clues series.

Caleb says

This was a very intense read! The clock is literally ticking on how much longer Amy has to live and the gang is rushing to finish collecting the ingredients for the antidote to the serum so they can save Amy's life and stop Pierce from becoming President before it is too late!

I really enjoy reading the books in this series because there is guaranteed to be a lot of thought put into the story and well put together plot twists to entertain the readers.

Kyra says

I personally think that COUNTDOWN is better than Nowhere to Run and Breakaway. Miss Standiford has a different approach in writing. I kinda gave up on the series after reading Breakaway. It was good, really. But it wasn't as good as Maze of Bones and One False Note. I hope Flashpoint will be as or more exciting than Countdown. I wish to see more Amy-Jake moments and you know, more of Dan's jokes.

AND P.S.

I gave 4 stars when I first read it, but when I reread it, I enjoyed the book more. I have this kind of sickness in which I don't mind reading, just finding out what happens in the end. Ha.

Jim says

Generally I like these books because they have a bit of history as well as some adventure. However, they are getting a bit annoying. Amy's actions are so ridiculous that she has become a very annoying character. I also don't like a "good" leader being presented as someone who makes the decisions for the people that work for

them. What I mean is her insistence on not allowing Jake and Atticus to decide for themselves if they want to risk their lives for the antidote. She needs to provide them the information and let them make their own decision as to their involvement. She shouldn't try to control them out of fear.

Most of the time the book is fun for all ages but other times it reads too much like a little kids book. One point where this shows up is with Nellie in her disguise as an organic chemist expert. The interaction between her and the suspicious co-worker is implausible. She gets the guy fired because of gnomes and the company responds with an instant promotion to VP. WTF? Its like saying, "you passed your driver's test, congratulations, you're now President of the United States".

the authors have done a good job of making both Dan and Amy protagonists you don't really like anymore. The most interesting characters are Pony and Atticus. The rest of the Cahills are underused.
