



The Forbidden Flats

Peggy Eddleman

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Escape one danger. Jump into another. . . .

Twelve-year-old Hope has always felt a little different from everyone else who lives in White Rock. She tries hard, but she doesn't always think before she acts. She takes big risks. Sometimes her risks pay off, but sometimes they fail. Sometimes she fails.

Hope knows that the most dangerous thing about living in White Rock is that it's so close to the deadly Bomb's Breath—the invisible, fifteen-foot-thick band of compressed air that's hovered over the earth since the Green Bombs of World War III. The citizens of White Rock live in fear of the Bomb's Breath. Only Hope has figured out a way to go through it—and lived to tell the tale.

But when a massive tremor rips across the earth, the Bomb's Breath begins to lower over White Rock. It's up to Hope and her friends Brock and Aaren to make the dangerous journey far from home, across the bandit-ridden Forbidden Flats to the wilds of the Rocky Mountains, and obtain the one thing that may be able to stop it—before the Bomb's Breath sinks too far and destroys them all. This time, Hope can't fail.

The Forbidden Flats Details

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From Reader Review The Forbidden Flats for online ebook

Ms. Yingling says

In this sequel to Sky Jumpers, Hopes community of White Rock is hit by an earthquake. The damage to the buildings is bad enough, but the real danger lies in the fact that the Bomb's Breath, a fifteen foot wall of deadly gas, is lowering dangerously and will affect the community very soon. Local scientists decide that this can be reversed if they introduce seforium into the atmosphere, but the closest place this can be found is 500 miles away across the Forbidden Flats, in the Rocky Mountains. With the help of guide, Luke, several townspeople, including Hope and her friends, take off to try to get the seforium in time, taking with them Ameiphus (the medicine they discovered in the last book) to trade. The journey is treacherous, but Hope finds out information about her birth mother from an unlikely source.

Strengths: This series is a great dystopian one for middle grade readers. I liked the details about what happened during WWIII to make the climate and topography so treacherous, and the structure of the various towns and settlements that the group encounters gives a good cross-section of how people in a post-apocalyptic world might reimagine civilization. The children being the brave ones who save the day never hurts, either!

Weaknesses: The story line about Hope's mother wasn't all that necessary, and slowed down the narrative for me and felt a bit interpolative.

Lucy Thorneycroft says

The sequel to sky jumpers written by Peggy Eddleman. This book follows the story of Hope. A 12 year old girl from White Rock. She's brave and loves to jump in the Bombs Breath, a collection of compressed air, that kills within a breath. After the Bombs Breath starts to lower over her town, threatening their existence, she and her friends brave the Forbidden Flats to find the cure.

This book is very original with lots of creative science mixed in with the plot. This is great for the younger readers, giving them a chance to fall in love with engineering and science. The characters are fantastically realistic and quickly feel like old friends. The young age of the characters are captured perfectly by Peggy Eddleman. She is a talented writer with the rare gift to keep the reader enchanted throughout the book. This book is quick and very easy to read but the end also felt rushed. It lacked any really satisfying conclusion and you're left realising that nothing much happen in the duration of the story. Also it needs some editing on the exclamation marks. Too many are used unnecessarily and often undermine the sentence and make the mood too immature even for a younger audience.

Emily says

Sky Jumpers: The Forbidden Flats, a Whitney Award finalist this year in the middle grade category, is a worthy sequel to the initial *Sky Jumpers* novel, a Whitney Award finalist last year.

A massive earthquake has shifted the geological formations around White Rock, releasing a gas that, though not toxic in itself, bonds to the deadly Bomb's Breath - the residual from the green bombs that destroyed the world in the war. The band of poisonous gas starts dropping, just a few inches a day at first but at an

accelerating rate. Once again, twelve-year-old Hope has to use her talents, courage, and willingness to take huge risks in order to save her hometown.

The Forbidden Flats effectively expands the world that Peggy Eddleman started to build in *Sky Jumpers*. As Hope and other citizens of White Rock travel further afield in search of the antidote to the falling Bomb's Breath, they interact with survivors in other settlements and discover new inventions, new perspectives, and new friends. And Hope is able to learn more about her birth family as well.

As with the first book in the series, messages about the importance of appreciating different strengths and using your own talents and gifts to the best of your ability shine through. "What this world needs is people to invent, and people to discover." Neither ability is pre-eminent; both are needed.

To read the rest of this review, visit Build Enough Bookshelves.

Skyler Ainscough says

Hope, Aaren, and Brock are collecting a special medicine Ameiphys to cure Shadel's Sickness, when a earthquake hits the town of white rock. The earthquake crushes together two veins of rock in the white rock crater, making a gas rise up, which causes the bombs breath poisonous gas to lower. It is endangering the entire town. To reverse the bombs breath lowering they need to make a new chemical mixture that emits a reversal gas. The key element for this mixture is Seforium. Seforium is only found many, many days away and across the Forbidden Flats in a town high the Rocky Mountains called Heavens Reach.

Hope and her friends leave to trade Ameiphys for some Seforium with the town of Heavens Reach. Hope finds her brother Luke and they travel together. They get to Heavens Reach and at first the mayor says no to Luke, then Hope goes to talk to him and he gives her the Seforium in exchange for the medicine. When they get back they pour the Seforium into the cracks and the bombs breaths stops lowering and starts to rise. Then they start living their normal lives again.

The sequence to mix 2 chemical rocks to cause a double replacement.

First: Grind the rocks into a fine powder.

Next: Carefully pour both powders into a vial and put the stopper on.

Lastly: Give the vial a few shakes and watch the gas fill the vial.

I like how it was adventurous and exciting. I like the background story on how their world got to be like it is now. Also I enjoy how they sky jump or how they sky surf. It was very entertaining to read and it is a good page turner. I recommend it, it is very fun to read and think of ways to logically make things work in the book.

Rosalyn Eves says

Peggy Eddleman does a terrific job of making her middle-grade world come alive in her *Sky Jumpers* books. In *The Forbidden Flats*, Hope and her friends are again called on to do what they do best: save their families and friends from danger by taking calculated risks. In this sequel to *Sky Jumpers*, after a massive earthquake upsets the chemical balance in White Rock, the deadly band of gas known as "bomb's breath" begins to lower. Calculations reveal that the gas will be low enough to make White Rock uninhabitable in a little over

three weeks, unless someone can fetch a specific chemical from the Rocky Mountains several hundred miles distant.

Of course, Hope and her friends join up, and much of their adventure involves dealing with the various towns and groups that have sprung up along the plains. As always, Hope is intrepid (sometimes too intrepid), and the story moves along quickly. Since Hope's character was established in the first book, we didn't learn as much about her in this sequel, but Hope learns more about her birth mother and the family she came from as they travel through the town where her birth-mother was born.

But mostly, I was impressed by the fun science in the book. I'm not a chemist (that's my husband), but Eddleman's ideas about how a massive "green bomb" might have changed the chemical characteristics of rocks was fascinating--and, of course, Hope and her friends still get to do cool gravity-defying feats involving the Bomb's breath.

I read this one quickly--now to pass it off to my kids!

Hillvan says

820L

Becky B says

A huge earthquake hits White Rock, causing a rupture in the earth and the release of a gas that causes the Bomb's Breath to start sinking. The good news is that there is a way to fix the problem, the bad news is that the mineral required can only be found 500 miles away. A small group from White Rock sets out on a race against the sinking gases of the Bomb's Breath. Can they survive the perilous journey, dangers of bandits and suspicious villages, and make it back in time?

This is a nice adventurous follow-up to *Sky Jumpers*. It continues to build reader's understanding of the world as it is after the green bombs, reveals a little bit more about Hope's birth family, and provides a well-paced adventure. Those who liked the first book should not be disappointed with this one.

Notes on content: No language issues. No sexual content. There are some perilous situations. One person suffers a potentially dangerous injury, but nothing gory and no fatalities.

Jen (Book Den) says

I had a great time reading *Sky Jumpers* so I went straight into reading *The Forbidden Flats*.

This was a great followup. The Bomb's Breath - the deadly air that the kids were cliff diving into in *Sky Jumpers* - is now lowering over their town. The kids have to figure out how to stop it. It's a brilliant premise.

I didn't love *The Forbidden Flats* as much as *Sky Jumpers*, but I had a great time with this series.

3.5 stars

Aeicha says

Peggy Eddleman returns to her captivating middle-grade Sky Jumpers series with the equally thrilling, The Forbidden Flats!

A few months after the dangerous events in Sky Jumpers, twelve year old Hope's beloved home of White Rock is once again in danger. After a huge earthquake rocks her crater town, the Bomb's Breath (the deadly 15 foot pocket of air above the crater) begins to rapidly lower. The only way to stop the Bomb's Breath lies 500 miles away in the Rocky Mountains. Once again Hope and her friends Aaren and Brock, must set out on a wild adventure to save their town.

Last year, Sky Jumpers wowed me with its exciting premise, action-packed story, and compelling characters, and Eddleman returns to this world with another hugely entertaining story! The Forbidden Flats takes both Hope and readers on a thrilling journey across a post-apocalyptic USA; a journey full of dangers, bandits, deadly weather, and unexpected new friends. Eddleman packs so much imagination and innovation into this series- from Sky Jumping in the Bomb's Breath, cool inventions, crater towns, towns high in the clouds, a town made of glass, and a world that has been ravaged by bombs and forever altered. Richly built and vividly laid out, The Forbidden Flats is full of mesmerizing and unforgettable settings that young readers will love.

I love how much Eddleman expands her enthralling world in The Forbidden Flats and the new places we get to explore. Readers will have so much fun flying down the hills of White Rock, Sky Jumping in the Bomb's Breath, traversing the streets of a glass city, and exploring the mines of Heaven's Reach with Hope and company...and if Sky Jumping sounds exciting just wait until you're introduced to Sky Surfing!

I love Eddleman's characters, especially her young characters. Hope and her friends are so plucky, endearing, brave, funny, and lovable. I've greatly enjoyed getting to know this threesome and going on wild adventures with them. And in The Forbidden Flats, we meet some fun, new characters, including a mysterious man from Hope's past!

Eddleman not only infuses her story with thrills, imagination, and fun adventure, she also sprinkles in clever, thought-provoking science and theory, creating a story that is not only entertaining, but smart as well.

My Final Thoughts: The Forbidden Flats is an action-packed, smartly crafted, wildly entertaining page-turner perfect for younger readers who are not quite ready for YA dystopians and post-apocalyptic books!

Kayla says

Ever read an awesome first book in a series and then you get to the second one, finish it, and then you're like, "meh, that was a letdown"? SO not the case with "The Forbidden Flats." "Sky Jumpers" set a high bar for the sequel to live up to, but book 2 did not disappoint!

At the very beginning of the book, there is a massive earthquake in and around the town of White Rock.

Besides damaging buildings and causing a lot of injuries, the earthquake exposes underground minerals that begin releasing gases into the air that react chemically with the Bomb's Breath, making it denser and causing it to start descending into the crater towards people's homes. There is a mineral called seforium that can reverse the reaction and put the Bomb's Breath back at its proper elevation, but it can only be found in the Rocky Mountains--a journey of hundreds of miles. The rest of the book is a desperate race to retrieve the seforium and return to White Rock in time to reverse the deadly reaction.

I had the opportunity to go to a book signing with Peggy Eddleman and hear her talk about "The Forbidden Flats," and one thing she mentioned during her spiel was that the reason there are so many orphans in middle-grade fiction is so the main characters can go off and have adventures without parents interfering and trying to keep them safe. Hope, the narrator and main character of the "Sky Jumpers" series, has both her parents. What she doesn't have is a pair of bumbling fools trying ineffectively to keep her out of danger as is so common in other middle-grade books whose MCs are not orphans. (Case in point: Obert Skye's "Pillage" books. All the adults in those books are either completely incompetent or the villain.) Hope's parents are sensible adults, and the way in which Hope was allowed to join the expedition to retrieve the seforium was quite elegant, well thought out, and it made sense.

One thing I liked about the original "Sky Jumpers" was how the characters, particularly Hope, didn't stay static. They changed and grew over the course of the story, and the same holds true for the sequel. In this book Hope meets a man named Luke and finds out that he is her biological uncle. She trusts him and follows his lead into some situations where she shouldn't have, and it gets her into trouble a couple of times. But toward the end of the book, after it seems Luke has ruined any chance the expedition may have had of trading for the necessary seforium and returning to White Rock in time, Hope salvages the situation with her honesty and ingenuity. And here's something really important: she forgives Luke. Even after he nearly causes their whole mission to fail, Hope confronts him, gives him a dressing-down, and then tells him it's okay and asks him to come back with her and her friends to save White Rock. I think too often books end with the "villains" getting "what they deserve" and ending up conveniently dead--and I admit that if the villain is evil enough, sometimes that's the only way for the protagonists to get a happy ending--but Luke wasn't really a villain. He was just misguided, but he's Hope's family, and to Hope--who never knew her birth parents--that's more important than the mistakes he made.

All in all, a very satisfying read. Kind of makes me sad that this is the last book. Oh well. At that book signing I mentioned, Peggy gave us some teasers about books she is planning, so I will definitely be keeping an eye out for them. If they're anything near as good as the "Sky Jumpers" books, they will be very good indeed. A solid five stars.

Katherine Yost says

I loved this book!!!! Its about a girl named Hope who lives in White Rock(this book takes place after WWIII) She likes to jump through the bombs breath(a deadly after gas of the bombs from the war and if you take one breath of it then you die) with her friends Brock and Aeren. Hope and her friends are out collecting plants that can be turned into medicine when a giant earthquake happens!!! Everyone is o.k., but Hope finds out something even worse. The bombs breath is lowering, and heading strait for their city. If hope can't find a solution, everyone in White Rock will have to evacuate. And evacuation comes with the risk of being attacked by the fearsome bandits.

Hope changes because of the hardships and pressure she is put through. She grows stronger in the

circumstances in the book. She is willing to do anything for her town and friends. She is intelligent, witty, funny, generous girl who can do anything.

I liked certain things about the book. I liked how much action there was. So many plot twists came together for an amazingly epic story. The author worded the book so well. Though, one little tidbit that bugged me just a tiny bit was that the author kept describing the scenery. I really loved the book read it!!!!!! this is the second book so read the first and second!!!

Becky says

In the first book, *Sky Jumpers*, readers are introduced to Hope, Aaren, and Brock. Three kids who risked their lives to save their community of White Rock. Bandits had come, threatened everyone, threatened to steal the drugs that keep them safe from a deadly plague. Against all odds, these three manage it all. They take risks. They take chances. They face the elements. They cling to hope. They think of the people they love whom they are trying to save. It's an intriguing, dramatic read.

In the second, Hope, Brock, and Aaren will have to do it all over again. The world-saving. Not from bandits, mind you. An earthquake has occurred. This quake changes their community. It opens up a crevice, I believe, that releases gases into the air which interact with the Bomb's Breath. Life as they knew it is over. The Bomb's Breath is dropping lower and lower and lower day by day. Within a month, their community will lose its healthy pocket of air. But there is a tiny bit of hope. One of the adults knows of a mineral (or metal?) that can counteract and reverse everything. Their town can be saved if a) they send a team to a far-away community in the Rocky mountains b) if the team is able to travel to the town and back within the time period c) if the trade goes well in the first place. They send adults. They send kids. It's a good thing they send kids. Their guide is Luke. And for better or worse, Luke seems to dominate most of this book. Luke and Hope. The book is their journey to and from. Will they be able to save White Rock?

Did I love *The Forbidden Flats* as much as I loved the first novel in the series? No. Not really. I wanted to. I did. But I was a bit disappointed in the sequel.

As the title suggests, this one takes place almost exclusively out of the community of White Rock. As this group travels together (view spoiler) new communities and settings are introduced. We get a glimpse here. We get a glimpse there. Nothing deep or substantive. Mainly what the book is about is Hope's newfound interest in rocks. Do you enjoy reading about a person who becomes passionately interested in rocks? I wasn't. (view spoiler) The main relationship focus of this book is between Hope, the heroine, and Luke, the guide they hire. Hope's relationships with Brock and Aaren are less important, I'd say. Hope has struggled with belonging in her own community, and, I suppose this book is suggesting that maybe Hope will one day choose differently, that she may find where she belongs someplace out there.

So I said I was disappointed. That doesn't mean I hated it. That doesn't mean I disliked it. It means I didn't love, love, love it the same way as the first book. (view spoiler)

Segullah says

I usually don't have many good things to say about the second book in a dystopian action trilogy, but Peggy Eddleman's *Sky Jumpers: The Forbidden Flats* is an exception to my (highly prejudiced) rule. In this book, the bomb's breath that threatens White Rock is descending, and Hope, Brock, and Aaren leave their home in Kansas to travel to the Rocky Mountains in an effort to find an antidote to the poison that will soon overtake them. The book has plenty of action and adventure, but my favorite part of the story was Hope's relationship with her birth family, whom she discovered along the way. I think it's common for authors to develop characters in their first novels, but I loved seeing Hope's character change in important ways in *The Forbidden Flats*.

Lisa says

Gr8

Love it lol eighteen words, blah blqh blah blah

Clare Rossetter says

Good sequel for *Sky Jumpers* as it continued the story of Hope and her friends as they once again set out to save their town from disaster. It does lack some of the depth of the first one and the characters seem more flat. I am not sure why this is, I reread it to try and figure this out. In the first book it is more about the struggles Hope has with being unable to invent and how she accepts those skills she does have. In this book she does begin to realize the path she wants to go on as she becomes an adult. She is able to build on her skills to problem solve and discover as she learns more about her birth mother. I am anxious to get this book on the shelf to see how the students who have read the first one feel. I think they will find this one to be a good read as well. For those who have not they will find the adventure in this one and enjoy the idea of a world after the bomb, a popular theme for many adventure tales.
