

NATIONAL PRESS REVIEWS

The Daily Telegraph

WHAT TO WATCH

ALEX RIDER

Amazon Prime

Anthony Horowitz's hugely popular books about teenage spy Alex Rider are perfect material for an action-packed adventure series, especially with Amazon's deep pockets backing the production. Rising star Otto Farrant is terrific as reluctant hero Alex, drawn into the murk of international espionage when he's asked to go undercover to help investigate the death of his uncle and how it connects to the killing of two high-profile businessmen.

theguardian

guide



Alex Rider

Thursday, Amazon Prime Video

Anthony Horowitz's bestselling teen spy novels get a small-screen adaptation with Otto Farrant starring as Alex. With this series based on the second book, *Point Blanc*, we join Rider going undercover in a French boarding school to investigate the death of his uncle.

THE  TIMES

Thursday 4

Alex Rider

[Amazon Prime Video](#)

Anthony Horowitz's books about the teenage secret agent come to the small screen as *Point Blanc*, the second novel in the 20 million-selling franchise, is adapted into an eight-part thriller by the screenwriter Guy Burt. Otto Farrant plays the titular London-based teenager who has unknowingly been trained since childhood for the world of espionage. Andrew Buchan is the uncle whose death Alex must avenge by assuming a new identity and going undercover in a boarding school. Perfect for those who devoured the books, and possibly for James Bond fans pining for the delayed film. **JC**

NATIONAL PRESS REVIEWS

DAILY
Mirror



The book
Point Blanc
has sold
more than
19million
copies

Teen spy Alex
with Mrs Jones
(Vicky McClure)

'Amazon
Prime feels like
a natural home for
the series. I hope this
is the start of a long
creative partnership...
with another 12 books
ready to go!'

Author
**ANTHONY
HOROWITZ**

ALEX RIDER Amazon Prime from Thur

Reluctant M16 agent Alex Rider is back in action – this time in a thrilling eight-part TV series, and an adaptation of the second book, *Point Blanc*.

Alex (Otto Farrant, who was in *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*) is investigating the murder of his secret agent uncle and its links to the assassination of two billionaires.

Sure, it's from Anthony Horowitz's book for teenagers, but parents will enjoy this as much as their kids with its fast-paced scenes, glamorous locations and zippy dialogue.

It follows Alex as he is recruited by Alan Blunt (*Game of Thrones*' Stephen Dillane, right) then goes from being a normal kid in London to The French Alps, where the elite *Point Blanc* school is located and the students are part of a secret plan.

Meanwhile, the mysterious Mrs Jones (*Line of Duty*'s Vicky McClure) has a tough job on her hands trying to keep the young boy safe.



STORMBREAKER Amazon Prime

In 2006, Magic Mike hunk Alex Pettyfer starred in this action movie based on the first *Alex Rider* novel. It was supposed to be the start of a blockbusting franchise, but the plan was shelved when the film flopped at the box office.

NATIONAL PRESS REVIEWS

Daily Mail

It's **Show time!**
WE PICK THE BEST OF WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK ... SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO!

ON DEMAND CHOICE

Thrilling spy series Alex Rider is an adaptation of Anthony Horowitz's books. From Thursday, Amazon Prime



Daily Mail

NETFLIX

NEW! **13 Reasons Why** (Season 4)

★★★★ The moody students are about to graduate as Netflix's controversial drama returns for one final season. *From Friday.*

NEW! **Snowpiercer** (Episode 3)

★★★★ The train is the passengers' only protection against the frozen wastes outside in this dystopian thriller, and has become a kind of religion. It's soon clear that there's a murderer among the flock, though, and this week, Layton's investigation shakes things up in first class. *A new episode arrives every Monday.*

LASTCHANCE **Being Human** (All five seasons) ★★★★★

Mix of houseshare comedy and supernatural drama, with Aidan Turner, Russell Tovey and Lenora Crichlow as a cohabiting vampire, werewolf and ghost. The US comedy Full House – a very different kind of a houseshare – also leaves Netflix on the



AMAZON PRIME

NEW! **This Is Us** (Season 4) ★★★★★

This generation-hopping US family drama, the modern equivalent of Thirtysomething, returns for a new season. *From Friday.*

MOVIE **Sherlock Holmes** (2009) 12 ♦

★★★★ There's a lot of charm in Guy Ritchie's pairing of Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law as Holmes and Watson for this fun adventure. The sequel, A Game Of Shadows, is also on Amazon. *From today.*

NEW! **Alex Rider** (Season 1) ★★★★★

After some odd opening scenes, this adaptation of Anthony Horowitz's second Alex Rider book – Point Blanc – develops into something dark, pacy and exciting.

Otto Farrant is a strong choice as capable teenager Alex (left), who is brought in to work for MI6 by a shadowy bunch of grown-ups, including Mrs Jones (Line Of Duty's Vicky McClure). Keep watching, and the oddness of those opening scenes will be explained, too. *From Thursday.*

NATIONAL PRESS REVIEWS

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On Demand

Alex Rider Amazon Prime
Anthony Horowitz's books
make it to the screen, with
Otto Farrant as the teen spy.

DAILY
STAR

Alex Rider

Thursday marks the debut of this coming-of-age spy-thriller series based on the best-selling book franchise. When teen Alex Rider (Otto Farrant) loses his uncle, he's quickly drawn into the world of espionage. But how does the assassination of two billionaires link to the case? To find out, Alex goes undercover in a remote school in the French Alps where he finds there's more to Point Blanc than meets the eye.



THE
Sun

3 REASONS
TO WATCH...

Alex Rider
Amazon Prime

NEW
FROM
THURSDAY



1 Foyles' War writer Anthony Horowitz's hugely popular young-adult spy books have been adapted for the small screen.

2 This new action-packed eight-part show is based on the second novel in the 12-strong Alex Rider series, *Point Blanc*.

3 Otto Farrant plays Alex, who's called in to help MI6, while *Line Of Duty*'s Vicky McClure co-stars.

Words: Mona Tabbara

NATIONAL PRESS REVIEWS

The Mail
ON SUNDAY

AMAZON

DRAMA

ALEX RIDER

NEW SHOW

Gritty new adventures of the teenage spy

Alex is the sort of lad who will scale a wall, break into a building and pick a lock with a paperclip to retrieve a friend's confiscated phone. He just seems to be naturally good at that sort of thing. After the death of his guardian uncle, who he discovers was a spy, Alex is recruited by a specialist subdivision of the British Secret Intelligence Service. 'MI6 gather information. We apply it. We take care of the bigger picture and we use any means necessary,' the department head Alan Blunt (Stephen Dillane) tells him. The teenager is the perfect candidate to infiltrate a school called Point Blanc, which appears to be the link between two high-profile 'accidental' deaths. Based on the second novel in Anthony Horowitz's best-selling series, this stars Otto Farrant (above right) in the title role and Vicky McClure as his MI6 handler. *From Thursday*

PICK OF THE WEEK



THIS IS US

NEW SERIES

Family affairs in time

It may not have found an audience during its brief, free-to-air run on Channel 4 a few years ago, but the US comedy-drama has belatedly picked up a UK following among Amazon Prime subscribers. The fourth season continues to follow the lives and


THE SUNDAY TIMES

CRITICS' CHOICE

Alex Rider (Amazon Prime Video)

What greater compliment can there be from the target audience of Anthony Horowitz's teenage spy adventure than to take their parents hostage until every episode has been watched? So it was in this previewer's household. Otto Farrant, well on his way to heartthrob status, plays the young hero who realises that his uncle has been training him in spycraft, a fact that now, with shades of "You're a wizard, Harry", comes in handy as there's a case involving an exclusive school for troubled teenagers. This is witty, action-packed, slightly too violent for parents and immensely enjoyable.

Helen Stewart