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Anderson's "Lost island smugglers" and "Captain Jack's treasure" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Anderson, M. E. (2011). *Lost island smugglers*. Atlanta: Elk Lake Publishing. 148 pp. \$5.95. ISBN 9781942513254

Anderson, M. E. (2011). *Captain Jack's treasure*. Atlanta: Elk Lake Publishing. 176 pp. \$5.95. ISBN 9781942513261

The Sam Cooper adventure books are a well-balanced mixture of action, adventure, and mystery. They are designed to be read by ages 8 and up and should especially connect with boy readers. The story revolves around the main character, Sam Cooper, whose dad is a marine biologist that travels frequently because of his job. This has required Sam's family to move more than most families; as a result, Sam is continually having to make new friends and fit in. The two books reviewed chronicle his exciting adventures in his new home in eastern Florida in an area known as the Treasure Coast. Much of these two books are dedicated to searching for treasure, reading about treasure, and listening to stories about treasure.

Each of the books being reviewed contains a separate storyline and plot while introducing new characters as well. There are various facets such as Sam's family background, Sam's core group of friends, and character development that builds and expands from one book to the other. Anderson, with his extensive experience in motion picture and video production, does an admirable job in the development of an interesting storyline and plot. One of Anderson's most exceptional qualities is strong and descriptive character development. The reader can easily imagine both physical and personality characteristics of the characters. The plot in book one is slightly more engaging and action packed than that of the second book. The second book's action primarily revolves around Captain Jack's wonderful stories that he tells to Sam and his friends. However, the second book really drives home the importance of other things in this world compared with material possessions. It especially drives home the significance of family culminating in some Hallmark Movie like moments involving storylines connected with Sam's family and Sam's friend, Captain Jack.

These books are family-friendly and contain biblical truths, along with life-long lessons which are applicable to the intended audience and also older readers. Occasionally, the family-friendly approach in the book depicts what might be considered by some to be an overly perfect Christian home. This is especially prevalent in the first book in the series, *Lost Island Smugglers*. Some minor typos existed in the first book; however, the overall quality of both books is certainly above average. This book series is highly recommended for boys, especially those who may be opposed to reading. In fact, adults who enjoy action packed adventure and mystery will love these books as well.

Reviewer

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