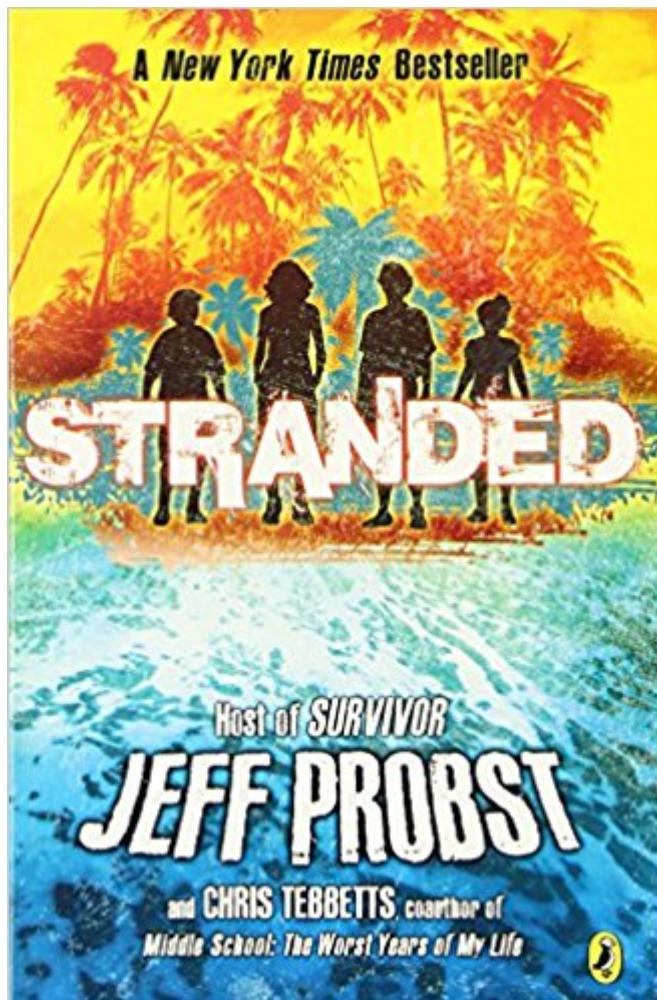




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# Stranded



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller! As seen on *The Today Show*, *Rachael Ray*, and *Kelly and Michael*. From the Emmy-Award winning host of *Survivor*, Jeff Probst, with *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life* co-author, Chris Tebbetts, comes a brand new family adventure series! A family vacation becomes a game of survival! It was supposed to be a vacation--and a chance to get to know each other better. But when a massive storm sets in without warning, four kids are shipwrecked alone on a rocky jungle island in the middle of the South Pacific. No adults. No instructions. Nobody to rely on but themselves. Can they make it home alive? A week ago, the biggest challenge Vanessa, Buzz, Carter, and Jane had was learning to live as a new blended family. Now the four siblings must find a way to work as a team if they're going to make it off the island. They're all in this adventure together--but first they've got to learn to survive one another.

Books in the original Stranded series: *Stranded* (Book 1) *Trial By Fire* (Book 2) *Survivors* (Book 3)

Books in the Stranded, Shadow Island series: *Forbidden Passage* (Book 4) *Sabotage* (Book 5) *Desperate Measures* (Book 6)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Series: Stranded (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 207 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,792 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies #330 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings #2056 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7-In this exciting survival novel, four kids from a recently blended family are sent sailing to get to know one another better. When a sudden storm front moves in, the boat runs into a rocky shoal and starts taking on water. The children's uncle, the captain, prepares a life raft with his first mate, but the two of them and the raft disappear before the kids can get on. The ship runs aground on an unknown island. Now stranded in the South Pacific, the children must find a way to contact the coast guard and survive. During their adventure, they learn to cross deadly cliffs, go spelunking, and try to keep from being swept out to sea in raging water. The nautical terms and descriptions with little contextual clues are confusing for the first part of the book, but once the children get stranded on the island, the story begins to move at an exceedingly fast and exciting pace. While the plot delivers, the character development is lacking. The youngsters represent different stereotypes and rarely step outside their roles: the thinker, the technology guru, the stubborn athlete, and the problem-solving geek with untapped leadership potential. Readers should be able to identify with at least one character, but the lack of dynamic growth limits the audience to fans of adventure/survival books.-Devin Burritt, Wells Public Library, ME (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

In this first entry to a new adventure series coauthored by Survivor host Probst, four kids are supposed to bond on a sailing trip as part of a newly blended family (Carter and Jane's mother has married Vanessa and Buzz's father). Instead, they end up on their own in the middle of the Pacific. Probst and Tebbetts (coauthor of James Patterson's Middle School books) begin with a bang in the form of thunder as a storm builds and the two adults on the Lucky Star get blown away on the only lifeboat. The kid characters are not indelibly drawn, but their difficulties "on the boat and then on an island without water or an easy way to communicate with the outside world" are diverting. At book's end, the boat's wreckage "and the kids' only shelter" has been pulled back into the ocean by the current. With only a few minutes to take supplies from the boat before getting to safety, the kids will no doubt be hunting the island's resources in the series' next installment. Grades 3-5, --Abby Nolan

Stranded is the first in a series for middle school age kids by Jeff Probst of Survivor fame. The story follows 4 children from a blended family (a sister/brother from each parent) who are sailing with their uncle and friend off the coast of Hawaii, while their parents honeymoon. The trip is meant as a way for the kids to bond, working out the difficulties (personality/attitudes) of blending into a new family.

Halfway through their trip and some 900ish miles from Hawaii, a sudden storm finds the kids shipwrecked and separated from the adults on board. Stranded is the first book of three following the kids and their efforts to get rescued. It ends with a cliffhanger...we have to wait til the second in the series is released to see what happens next. I thought the book flowed well and the writing appropriate for middle school aged kids, but will appeal to adults as well. This may be the new Swiss Family Robinson in the vein of Survivor. I'm hoping this series fares better than Probst's talk show.

"It was day four at sea, and as far as eleven-year-old Carter Benson was concerned, life didn't get any better than this." Stranded is written by Jeff Probst, the host of TV's Survivor. Who better to write a story about a family stranded on a deserted island, right? His coauthor is Chris Tebbetts who helped write the Middle School stories with James Patterson. The story is fast paced and easy to read. Vanessa and Buzz's father married Carter and Jane's mother. While their parents are on their honeymoon, Uncle Dexter is taking the kids on a sailing adventure. This trip is supposed to help the new siblings get to know each other better. That doesn't seem to be working and the weather isn't helping. Uncle Dex has been trying to steer them around the storm, but the weather keeps getting worse. When the ship starts taking on water, Dex attempts to get everyone into the life boat. However, the lifeboat is pulled away by the storm and the kids are left alone on the ship. The ship crashes on a deserted island and the kids are left to fend for themselves. This is an exciting adventure that young readers will enjoy. Both boys and girls will find connections with these kids. They each have their own strengths and pull together when it matters. Any kid who enjoys adventure stories will like this book. This is the first in a series and the end of the book isn't the end of the story. If your kids enjoy this book, I'm sure they will want to read the sequels. I think this book will appeal to reluctant readers and avid readers alike. I read it in one day and enjoyed it.

My daughter is a SURVIVOR nut and knew she'd love these books by the host, Jeff Probst. They're easy to read and interesting - would highly recommend to any "survivor" fans or anyone that has a sense of adventure and loves the outdoors. I esp like getting my kids hooked on series books (or similar genre by same author) because it gives them motivation to read more. She's currently in 7th grade but I think anyone from 5/6 grades and up would appreciate this series.

I got this for my grandson and according to him, it's "pretty good". Then he tells me all about it for the next 15 minutes. So my feeling is it's more than pretty good! He read it fairly quickly. About 10

days or so. It's the perfect book for a kid probably 9 to 12 years old. My grandson is 11 and enjoyed it.

I purchased Stranded after hearing an interview with Jeff Probst on the radio. I'm a huge Survivor fan so I was hoping Stranded would be a good book. It's FANTASTIC! I read Stranded with my 9 year-old daughter and 7 year-old son (occasionally my 5 year-old daughter would hang around to listen too). The story had a nice tone, my kids were captivated, as was I. Each night we couldn't wait to read the next few chapters. There were themes of respect, teamwork, trust. In the beginning chapters, I would stop and explain a few things to my kids (mostly about sailing or the boat terminology). We are looking forward to the next book.

I love reading and am bothered by the fact that 4 of my nephews aren't readers, in fact 3 of them hate reading. I read the reviews and purchased these books for all of them. Not only did all four of them love them but they begged me to preorder the second in the series. My 12 year old nephew with the biggest aversion to reading actually picked to finish the chapter he was in then play video games. I haven't read these books myself however they have 4 boys aged 8-13 constantly asking me when the 3rd book in the series is coming out. Having four boys excited about reading? 5 stars isn't a high enough rating for that!

I read part of this with my fifth grade grandson for his nightly reading log. He enjoyed it so much that he has bought book two so he can continue after he finishes the first book. It won't be long before he is in book two. The book is about a blended family who got shipwrecked on an island after being separated during a storm from their uncle and his friend. They find that it is important to get along and cooperate if they are to survive this catastrophe.

BBE. (Best Book Ever!) My teacher assigned this book for winter break and I wanted to do it early. To my surprise it was maybe the best novel I have read. I was so excited at the start that I could not wait to find out what happened so I ended up speed reading the thing and finished in less than an hour! And the ending... what a cliff-hanger! I would go on for pages but I HAVE to get the second book NOW! BTW it's worth the five bucks don't hesitate!

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