**Book Review**The bunker diary

**Genres:** The bunker diary is a thriller for teens and young adults.

**(Main) Characters**;

**Linus Weems:** Linus is a sixteen-year-old boy and comes from a wealthy family. For the most of his life, he shared the house with his father. His father creates comic books, and his mother passed away when he was very young. After the death of Linus’ mother, his father started to have a drinking problem. He disliked the boarding school he had to go to as well. This resulted in Linus moving to live on the streets. There he played the guitar, begged for money or food and just tried to survive. One morning Linus wanted to help an supposedly old and blind man who was trying to lift a heavy suitcase in a van. He offered to help and climbed into the old man’s van. Before he realised there was something wrong, a cloth with chloroform got pressed against his face. Later that day he woke up in a bunker which he couldn’t escape from.

 **Jenny Lane:** Jenny is a nine-year-old girl. She used to live in a loving family with a father and a mother. She is a sweet, brave, smart and innocent girl. In the time they were in the bunker, she got close with Linus. They slept in the same room and spent the first days together. She was the youngest one who was kidnapped and put into the bunker. And Linus was very protective of her as an older brother.

**Anja Mason**: Anja was a young blonde attractive woman in her late twenties. For a living, she was selling houses in the City. She was a very confident woman and used to get what she wants. She was also very selfish. When she was locked up in the bunker, she was hiding food from the people in the bunker. At the end, she was the one who got crazy and got strangled.

**Fred**: Fred was a huge man, tall and robust. He was addicted to heroin, and you could see the track marks on his arms. He was very helpful to Jenny and Linus in the bunker. Although, when ‘the Man Upstairs’ send down heroin, he got addicted once again. He saved the lives of the others by killing the starving Dobermann. Fred murdered Bird during their time there because Bird was trying to murder Jenny.

**William Bird**: Bird was working as a Management Consultant in London before he got kidnapped. He was in his late thirties, and he was an overweight man with curly black hair. He was selfish and bossy, and he only liked Anja. He was the one who got bit by the Dobermann. He got rabid, and because of that, he got crazy. There was a possibility that he murdered Anja and Russell because of that.

**Russell Lansing**: Russell was a quite famous author of a book called ‘Time and Staff: Natural Philosophy in the 21st Century’. Linus admired him because of his wise words and the book he wrote. He was an African American man and was quite old. Russell was homosexual, and he had one glass eye. He had a brain tumour, and because of that, he was confused at the end.

##### ‘The Man Upstairs’: There wasn’t a lot of information about ‘the Man Upstairs’, but they all said he was a middle-aged or old man with dark hair and he must have been strong. He was the one who kidnapped the six people and played with their lives. The Man Upstairs was only a nickname because no one knew his true identity and they had no idea about what his motives were.

##### Timeline and Setting:Setting: The setting of the Bunker Diary is the bunker itself. The exact location of the bunker is unknown but it is somewhere in the United Kingdom. The bunker has a kitchen, a bathroom, a living room, six bedrooms and a hallway that connects everything. The bunker also has a lift where the foods and new people get down in the bunker. Time: The exact year the Bunker Diary is taking place is unknown as well, but I think it’s around 2005 – 2020 because there has been some mentions about mobile phones and internet. The days get mentioned because it’s written in diary style. It begins at the 30th of March and goes on until the 21st of March. It goes on some more pages but Linus doesn’t write the days after that. Only Saturday, Sunday and Saturday. At the end there are some blank pages.

**Title explanation**:

*Why is it called this way?*
The book is called the Bunker Diary. The book is called this way because it is written in a diary style from the perspective of Linus. He was locked into a bunker with some other people in a bunker. The bunker was the main problem in this book, that’s why it is called the Bunker Diary.

*Do I think it’s a fitting title?*Yes, I think it is a fitting title. It summarizes where the book is about. If you think about a Bunker Diary you immediately think it must be a diary about a bunker. I think a lot of people get curious about this title because what kind of bunker is this and what happens in the bunker?

**Theme:**
*“Summarize the book in one to two words or a small sentence”*

‘Real’ life isn’t fair.

I think this summarizes especially the ending. The Bunker Diary has a unexpected but tragic end. There are a lot of bad events in this book and with each one it just doesn’t seem fair. You feel sorry for the characters because they die, get bitten, are starving or feel very sick. In your mind you keep thinking why it happens and there just doesn’t come up an explanation. It isn’t fair that these characters are being forced to live and eventually die that way.

 **Resume:** The book is mainly written in the perspective of Linus. He’s a sixteen year old boy who gets kidnapped by a mysterious and unknown man. He got ‘thrown’ in a bunker where five other people arrive after him. The people who were put in the bunker were all very different from each other. Jenny was very young and naïve, Anja was in her twenties and very selfish, Fred was an addict but helpful, Bird was in his late thirties and bossy and Russell was the eldest and was quite wise. Linus got along with some of them like Jenny and Russell but he also had troubles with another’s like Anja and Bird.

The had to stay in the bunker and all attempts to escape resulted in punishments. These punishments could vary from not getting any food, a very hungry dog being sent down, major changes in the temperature and loud high pitched noises. They were hungry at most times and the life in the bunker was definitely not an easy one. They all longed to escape but the ‘Man Upstairs’ who had kidnapped them made this impossible. He watched them all through the camera’s at the ceilings and he could hear them through the microphones next to the camera. He was able to control everything in the bunker.

Some of the people in the bunker got crazy after a while. Anja for example, would stay in her room all day, hide food from the other’s and was too scared to come out. Russell got worse each day because he had a tumour growing in his brain.

When the book was coming close to the end there were slowly people dying. Anja got murdered by someone but there were only suspects. Fred got bitten by a dog and got rabid. They all were thinking he murdered Anja and Russell because he attempted to murder Jenny as well.

At the end Linus, Jenny and Fred were together. ‘The Man Upstairs’ didn’t send any food down anymore, closed the water taps and turned down the heat. They all slept together in one room to stay warm but eventually it got too much. Fred committed suicide by drinking bleach and Jenny and Linus died because of the lack of water and food. It was a tragic and sad ending.
 **Own opinion:**

The Bunker Diary is a sad and tragic story. While reading the book I was constantly thinking about how it would end and when they would escape. These things didn’t happen and I didn’t expect that. Almost all books the I’ve read had good endings or at least something positive at the end. This book ended with sadness and loss.

In my opinion the book was well written and I got really into the book. I was in love with some of the characters and I felt sorry for the characters when they were hungry or sick.

The things I liked less about this book was for example that you didn’t know anything about ‘the Man Upstairs’. I would’ve liked to know his story. Why did he kidnap them? Sometimes the villains are more interesting than the good characters and that was what I missed in this book.

I either didn’t enjoy the amount of bad words being used in this book. I would’ve rather seen them using special signs so you could fill itin by yourself. This book is being read by young teenagers and I don’t think it’s a good example to scowl in a book.