



## Exit 9

*Brett Battles*

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From thriller and suspense master Brett Battles comes Exit Nine, the second book in the Project Eden thriller series.

Before, it was just a test, a little demonstration to see if the virus worked. It did, and so much better than its creators could have ever hoped.

But the testing phase is over. It's time for Project Eden to take the next step. If its members have their way, humanity is about to get a reboot.

It's up to Daniel Ash and the others in the outnumbered resistance to keep the Project from severely downsizing mankind. But can their small force succeed in the face of a plan decades in the making?

The human race had better hope so, because if Ash and his friends can't...

Praise for *SICK*, the first Project Eden Thriller:

"*SICK* didn't just hook me. It hit me with a devastating uppercut on every primal level as a parent, a father, and a human being." — Blake Crouch, author of *RUN*

"*SICK* is a gem of an outbreak story that unfolds like a thriller movie and never lets up all the way to the last page. Absolutely my favorite kind of story!" — John Maberry, New York Times bestselling author

"*SICK* not only grabs you by the throat, but by the heart and gut as well, and by the time you finish you feel as if you've just taken a runaway train through dangerous territory. Buy this book now. You won't regret it."—Robert Browne, author of *THE PARADISE PROPHECY*.

"Like a fever, *SICK* makes you sweat and keeps you up all night, wondering what the hell is happening. It'll make your heart race like someone shot you with an EpiPen. You think Battles was badass before? He just cranked it up to 500 joules. CLEAR!"—popculturenerd.com

"*SICK* is Brett Battles at his best, a thriller that also chills, with a secret at its core that's almost too scary to be contained within the covers of a book." — Tim Hallinan, author of the Edgar nominated *THE QUEEN OF PATPONG*

## Exit 9 Details

Date : Published (first published December 18th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Brett Battles

Format : ebook 274 pages

Genre : Thriller, Horror, Science Fiction, Apocalyptic, Fiction, Post Apocalyptic, Action

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# From Reader Review Exit 9 for online ebook

## Rabid Readers Reviews says

Project Eden, the organization behind the Sage Flu in "Sick," plans to launch the Sage Flu virus around the world. They've vaccinated the chosen and the rest will die. Will Ash and the resistance group that saved him in the first book be able to stop them in time?

I usually dislike epidemic novels and that featuring this sort of storyline intensely but Battles brings a new flavor to the genre that is exciting and kept me on the edge of my seat. What Battles gives us a taste of in "Sick," he follows through with in "Exit 9" in spectacular fashion. This is a book with a lot of twists and turns and few of which are expected.

Something that friends and I have been talking about for a while is that a lot of authors seem not to favor strong women. Battles is a master of painting strong women. You're not going to find a weeping willow in this book or a comically slapstick female. Battles woman are serious and they're ready to do what they need to do. Chloe and Olivia are prime examples of this. You have a character who made a serious move in the last book ready to fight again and an intriguing almost baddie. I don't know, read the book and tell me if you think Olivia is a baddie. I'm so looking forward to the next novel and reading more about her.

This book contains a large cast of well fleshed out and compelling characters and follows through on all of them...until the end. The end is great and I won't spoil it for anyone but it's a massive cliffhanger.

This book is a great read. I'd recommend it at any price but at e-book pricing, how can you lose?

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## Sarah says

Daniel Ash returns in EXIT 9, the sequel to SICK. As many have previously said, you don't really need to read SICK, but you should not only because it's a great book, but it gives you some background information about Ash & Project Eden. But I digress...

Will the end of mankind, with the exception of a few who believe they are the elite, become reality in EXIT 9? Will Daniel Ash & his team be able to stop Project Eden from releasing the Sage Flu before ID, Implementation Day? These questions and more will be answered in EXIT 9.

I have been waiting for EXIT 9 to come out since I finished SICK (which I read in a day). EXIT 9 is no different. I read it in a day as well. This series is about a group of elite few who run what is called Project Eden. Their goal is to wipe out all of humanity (with the exception of their group) with a virus they developed called the Sage Flu. They are not fanatics or zealots by any means, but well organized, rational people. This conspiracy is intriguing and credible. Fighting against Project Eden is a group calling themselves the resistance, which includes Daniel Ash who first appears in SICK. In the beginning of EXIT 9, Ash is living in the suburbs with his children under a new identity, hoping the resistance doesn't call upon him to help. Which would mean only one thing - Project Eden is ready to release the Sage flu worldwide. That hope ends one day when two men show up on Ash's doorstep, sent by Matt Hamilton, head of the

resistance. The entire book is a thrill ride, counting down to Implementation Day, ending in a VERY surprising climax.

EXIT 9 is definitely a page turner. Brett has developed his characters well and the progression of the story gains momentum with each chapter. I won't lie about being an enormous fan of Brett's, which makes me somewhat biased. But even with that bias, I loved EXIT 9! I have yet to be disappointed by any of his books! And you won't be disappointed either!

I cannot wait for #3 in this series! I'm dying to find out what happens!!

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### **Betty says**

Not as good as the first in the series. I already have the third one for I'll stick with the series through that one, but if it doesn't step it up, this will be a series I don't finish.

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### **Jeff says**

Personal Goes Global. With SICK (Project Eden #1), Battles set up the coming global conflict but used one man's struggle to save his family as the primary story, with just the barest hints that it could become much bigger. With this book, we spend much more time at the Global scale, with the clock ticking down to the moment the human population is ordered nearly extinct. Particularly in the later chapters, short chapters and an ever decreasing clock ramp up the adrenaline. Very effective book, and you'll be glad you hadn't read it yet by the end - with the series completed now, we can go straight into PALE HORSE (Project Eden #3) - something those early readers couldn't do, and which would have been frustrating, given the ending.

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### **Karin says**

Really, not a stand alone book, should be tied with number 3.

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### **Peggy Holloway says**

I thought Sick was one of the best books I had read in a long time. It had everything I always hope for in a book. Exit 9 is even better and makes me wish we could give more stars than five. I was a little disappointed at the end when I found out that it wasn't the end yet but then I thought, "Great, more to come." I wish I didn't have to wait for the next book.

In Sick, the project ran a trial run, but in Exit 9 they are gearing up for the real thing and boy is it scary. The fact that something like this could really happen terrifies me and I like that. The plan is to infect the whole world population with this Sage virus and give the vaccine to a select few and basically start a brand new world over.

The hero, Ash has to, once again, put his life on the line and try to stop them. Reviewing a book without giving up the plot is difficult, but if you like mystery/suspense/thriller, the good guy not knowing who to trust, worried about his kids etc. You'll love this book. Brett Battles is THE best author I've found so far for my nook.

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## **Gadget Girl says**

Exit 9 is the second book in the Project Eden series and yet another fantastic read from Brett continuing with his fast paced action keeping you gripped to the very last page.

I literally burnt through both book one and this one as I couldn't put them down....Im loving this series.

Turning digital pages quickly we are with our favorite characters in particular Captain Daniel Ash as he is asked to join up again with the resistance who originally saved him to help them track down the Bluebirds HQ to help stop their tragic plan of murdering of 99% of the people; so humanity can restart with the deadly virus.

In book one it was just the virus trial; but this book its real they really are going to murder millions of people with their horrific plans and Brett maintains this level of scariness and suspense in the race to try and stop it.

He has maintained the likability of the characters; Ash and Chloe being my favorite. The characters are even more developed and the supporting characters are believable and work brilliantly bringing this plot together. Every chapter creates more thrills and fantastic twists and turns with plenty of edge of seat action. I also love Bretts detailing concerning the technology and gadgets, it makes the story plausible.

This second book is just as good as the first if not slightly better and the extra subplots really add that edge. Wow what another brilliant cliffhanger and no I cant tell you, as you seriously need to read book one first. I really am enjoying Bretts style of excellent writing and is now one of my favorite authors; it feeds my addiction for the possible reality style horrors.

I literally had to go buy book three Pale Horse straight away and waited impatiently as it took the super slow 4 seconds to download to my kindle to carry on reading this incredible storyline ;-)

Watch this space for more reviews.

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## **Anand says**

Exit 9 is the second book in the Project Eden series, and the author has managed to maintain the same high tempo that we liked in 'Sick'. This novel can act as a stand alone book (compared to the first novel), but it is strongly recommended that one reads the series chronologically. I was able to finish this book in a single 3-4 hours sitting.

The story continues and builds up from where it was left in the first novel. Project Eden is well and truly on its way to being implemented - the radical people behind the Project convinced that killing 99% of the Earth's human population, while saving only the balance roughly 1% who are meritorious to act as seeds for the future, is the only way to save humanity from self-destruction. The Project has been in the making for decades, and while the episode in 'Sick' dealt with a single aspect of the Project, namely trial testing, 'Exit 9' narrates the immaculate and exhaustive planning that has gone into the Project to make it successful, ending on the point of the "enter" button of the launch systems on the Implementation Day (that is, the day on which

the killer virus will be released simultaneously around the world in different countries and cities). The novel's chapters begin as a countdown, each Chapter being closer to the Implementation Day. It is up to the 'Resistance', of which Daniel Ash is also a part, to attempt to throttle the evil designs of Project Eden.

Though one find Ash being an important character, he is not the sole protagonist. There are various other characters, some within the Resistance, while others outside of it, that find an equal mention in the narrative. Unlike the first novel, which can be a complete stand-alone book, this novel ends abruptly at a particular juncture, and as a reader you will have to read the third book of the series in order to find out what happens next.

Will I be reading the third book of the series to find out whether the "enter" key of the launch system's computer was pressed or not? Oh, yes!

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### **Alan Williams says**

Exit 9 is the second book in the Project Eden series, Sick is the first book and although you don't need to read it first you probably should just because it too is a great book!

Exit 9 continues the story of potentially world ending terrorism with Project Eden seeking to change the world forever.

The story continues to follow Daniel Ash, and a number of other characters, but now lines between good and evil are a little more blurred than they were before, trust no one!

Brett Battles has another awesome book here, the well thought out plot takes you scene by scene through at an increasing pace to an absolute cliff-hanging ending which will have you crying out for the next book in the series. Twists throughout mean that it's difficult to tell who is on who's side, and the fast moving plot will leave you breathless guessing who is going to prevail.

The characters are well rounded, with many developing more than they did in the first book.

The technical aspects of the book and how it deals with the relevant science, gadgets and weapons are all well researched and believable, and this gives great depth to the overall story.

Don't expect a nice a tidy conclusion though, there are only two books that have ever given me nightmares while I've been reading them, Salem's Lot was the first and Exit 9 by Brett Battles is the other.

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### **Joe Kwiatkowski says**

Fun/exciting read!

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### **Wendy says**

Wow, sure knows how to end it so I can't wait to start the next book!

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## **Elizabeth A. says**

At the end of Project Eden series opener *Sick*, Daniel Ash knew the nightmare that had been dodged by the resistance's victory in preventing a global pandemic was only temporary. After all, the virulent Sage Flu was not a natural phenomenon, but rather a genetically engineered virus produced by a group known as Project Eden, whose mission is to bring about a "reboot" of the human race by killing 99% of the population and starting over with a select group of the best and brightest the world has to offer.

As *Exit 9* opens, Ash and his two kids have assumed new identities and are doing their best to have as normal a life as possible given their knowledge that Project Eden still exists. It's a difficult situation, one which is not made easier when members of the resistance show up on Ash's doorstep, once again calling upon him for help. The countdown to the day they've all been fearing, Implementation Day, has begun.

Now Ash and his team must race against the clock to discover Project Eden's secret base of operations Bluebird, believed to be located in the extreme northern reaches of Canada inside the Arctic Circle, before the group can unleash its "final solution" on the world.

In *Exit 9* author Brett Battles takes the disturbing concept he introduced in *Sick*, the existence of a group with both the desire and the means to cause the end of humanity, and moves things beyond the "what if" stage. Where the events that unfolded in *Sick* were ultimately an elaborate dress rehearsal, the plan Project Eden sets into motion in *Exit 9* is terrifying in its scope and finality. Even more disturbing than their plan, however, is how absolutely rational Battles has made the members of Project Eden. They are not some mindless cult lead by an out of control fanatic, but rather a group of highly intelligent, highly organized, extremely well funded men and women around the world who have united to pursue a goal they truly believe necessary to ensure the long-term survival of the human race... killing off most of it and starting over.

Battles puts the scope of Project Eden's plan into perspective by presenting the story from multiple points of view, including those of people at various locations around the world who are involved, sometimes unwittingly, in setting up the mechanization through which the Sage Flu will be unleashed upon the planet. Interspersed with the unfolding of Project Eden are scenes of Ash and his team's race through the treacherous arctic landscape to locate Bluebird, the one and only place where there may still be an opportunity to derail the group's plan. And lest you think you know how things turn out, Battles has crafted a doozy of a cliffhanger ending that is definitely open to interpretation. Until we get the next book, that is.

*Exit 9* is yet another feather in Brett Battles's already extremely well-plumaged cap, clearly demonstrating why he's one of the most exciting authors writing thrillers today.

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## **Carol Chapin says**

Second book of a series. As I noted with the first book ("*Sick*"), this was obviously an ongoing story, and that book did not stand alone very well. This one was worse, ending with a huge unanswered question (which must be answered in the third book).

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## **Matt Allen says**

I enjoyed Brett Battles's first Project Eden novel, *Sick*. It was sleek with an interesting plot and characters you became acquainted with. It was breezy, light, a popcorn trip of a novel.

*Exit 9* was all plot. That was the focus--the whole nine yards. *Exit* continues the Project Eden narrative and Battles gives us a brief summary to start (which I appreciated), but it's a plot summary from the first. It did little to set the characters back up on the page.

The action begins--and, to be fair, there's quite a lot of engaging fireworks--and it's a machine-gun magazine of one bullet scene after another. The problem here is that there is not meat on any of these characters and most of them only have one brief appearance and then we're on to someone else who we don't know and spend little with. It didn't endear me--after a bit, it's not enough to know that someone is in trouble. I wanted to know why that person being in trouble mattered.

Further, those characters I got acquainted with in *Sick* were hardly around. As an example, our protagonist from *Sick* had one scene in almost the first quarter of the narrative.

*Exit 9* wasn't boring--there's plenty going on. That's the shame for me. There was definitely time to take a foot off the gas and meet these new characters and reintroduce ourselves to the old. I felt like a richer experience could've been waiting, but the cast members were all gone before I could even say hello.

Can't recommend, but readers of fast action suspense stories might be able to settle in where I couldn't.

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## **Tammy says**

I read *Sick* and *Exit 9* back-to-back in one frantic, tense, and exciting week, and I'm glad I did. *Sick* is the first book in the Project Eden trilogy, and introduces us to a group of bio-terrorists who want to rid the world of 99.9% of the population in order to start a new and better breed of humans. Now, this concept isn't new or original. There have been plenty of books and movies, not to mention historical events, which deal with the idea that humanity is out of control, and the only way to make things right is to start from scratch. But in typical Battles fashion, Brett has created an exciting story about the race to stop the bad guys from carrying out their plan, and he's added some new twists to the mix.

*Sick* takes place during the testing stages of Project Eden, the nefarious plan to decimate the population. Daniel Ash and his family have moved into a housing development for ex-military families and are adjusting to their new home. One night Ash is awakened by a cry from his daughter's room, and by the end of Chapter 1, Ash's wife is dead, both his son and daughter are direly ill, and Ash himself is forced to run for his life. There's a virus out there killing people called the sage flu, and almost no one survives. Except, we discover, Ash and his children, who appear to be immune.

*Exit 9* picks up eight months after the thrilling conclusion to *Sick*, as Ash and his children have changed their identities and are hiding out in a small town in Iowa. In other parts of the world, Project Eden's wheels are still turning, and Implementation Day, the day they plan on releasing sage flu on an unsuspecting world, is only weeks away. A band of resistance fighters, including Pax and Matt from *Sick*, are trying to locate Bluebird, the secret base of Project Eden. When one of their many teams fails to report in after a routine

scouting operation, Ash is recruited and joins Pax and Chloe, another character from *Sick*, on what turns out to be a dangerous mission to Northern Canada to see what went wrong. Elsewhere around the globe, we get a glimpse of just how big Project Eden really is, as we follow various minor characters in their discovery of the mysterious shipping containers that seem to be popping up everywhere. The reappearance of Olivia, an imprisoned character from *Sick* who was once part of the Project but seems to have switched sides, adds excitement to the story as she joins Ash and the others and convinces them she is trying to help bring down Project Eden.

This break-down of the story barely scratches the surface. There is a lot going on in *Exit 9*, and it happens fast and furiously. Brett skillfully jumps from place to place as each character moves closer to the dangerous truth and the bodies start to pile up. He is also adept at delving into the lives and back-stories of his characters. One of my favorites is Chloe, a damaged woman who has an as yet undisclosed past with Project Eden and struggles with her fear of those in charge and her desire to stop them. Is there a vaccine? What's in those shipping containers? And why the heck is the book called "Exit 9"? The answers to these questions and more are waiting for the patient reader, and although the ending is gleefully devilish and you may be cursing Brett by the time you finish, have faith: Book Three will be out soon.

Many thanks to Brett for supplying me with free review copies of *Sick* and *Exit 9*.

This review originally appeared on Books, Bones & Buffy

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