

Grasshopper Jungle

By Andrew Smith

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A 2015 Michael L. Printz Honor Book
Winner of the 2014 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction

"Raunchy, bizarre, smart and compelling." --*Rolling Stone*

"*Grasshopper Jungle* is simultaneously creepy and hilarious. Reminds me of Kurt Vonnegut's in "Slaughterhouse Five," in the best sense." --*New York Times Book Review*

In the small town of Ealing, Iowa, Austin and his best friend, Robby, have accidentally unleashed an unstoppable army. An army of horny, hungry, six-foot-tall praying mantises that only want to do two things.

This is the truth. This is history.
It's the end of the world. And nobody knows anything about it.
You know what I mean.

Funny, intense, complex, and brave, *Grasshopper Jungle* brilliantly weaves together everything from testicle-dissolving genetically modified corn to the struggles of recession-era, small-town America in this groundbreaking coming-of-age stunner.

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Grasshopper Jungle By Andrew Smith Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #58457 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-17
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- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.13" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 416 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
An Amazon Best Book of the Month, February 2014: Andrew Smith's *Grasshopper Jungle* defies easy description. To say that it's a wild, over-the-top story of male adolescence, science gone wrong, the end of the world, and giant praying mantises sounds a little bit insane. And doesn't begin to touch the warm and fuzzy bits (honesty, love, connection) that are a large part of what makes this book great. Narrator Austin Szerba is a unique historian of momentous things, including the nature of history itself, and his chronicle of family, how the end of the world began beside a dumpster in his small Iowa town, and what life is like when you're sixteen and in love with two people, is something you won't want to miss. --*Seira Wilson*

From Booklist
Simmering within Ealing, Iowa, is a deadly genetically engineered plague capable of unleashing unstoppable soldiers—six-foot-tall praying mantises with insatiable appetites for food and sex. No one knows it, of course, until Austin and his best friend Robby accidentally release it on the world. An ever-growing plague of giant, flesh-hungry insects is bad enough, but Austin is also up to his eyeballs in sexual confusion—is he in love with Robby or his girlfriend, Shann? Both of them make him horny, but most things do. In an admittedly futile attempt to capture the truth of his history, painfully honest Austin narrates the events of the apocalypse intermingled with a detailed account of the "connections that spiderweb through time and place," leading from his great-great-great-grandfather Andrzej in Poland to Shann's lucky discovery of an apocalypse-proof bunker in her new backyard. Smith (Winger, 2013) is up to his old tricks, delivering a gruesome sci-fi treat, a likable punk of a narrator, and a sucker punch ending that satisfyingly resolves everything and nothing in the same breath. Grades 9-12. --Sarah Hunter

Review
"**A literary joy to behold**. . . . reminds me of Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*, in the best sense."
—*The New York Times Book Review*

"This **raunchy, bizarre, smart and compelling** sci-fi novel defies description – it's best to go into it with an open mind and allow yourself to be first drawn in, then blown away."
—*Rolling Stone*

"[*Grasshopper Jungle*] reads more like **an absurdist *Middlesex*… and is all the better for it**. A-"
—*Entertainment Weekly*

"Nuanced, gross, funny and poignant, it's **wildly origina**l."
—*The San Francisco Chronicle*

"If you appreciate kooky humor, sentences that bite, and a nuanced understanding of human beings' complicated natures and inexplicable actions, then you, too, will love Smith's **bold, bizarre, and beautifu**l novel."
—*The Boston Globe*

"The end of the world comes with neither a bang nor a whimper but with a dark chuckle and the ominous click-click of giant insect mandibles in this **irreverent, strangely tender new novel** by Andrew Smith. This but hints at the intricately structured, profound, profanity-laced narrative between these radioactive-green covers."

—*The Washington Post*

“Andrew Smith’s writing grabs you. He takes phrases and turns them into recurring motifs that punctuate the story, until by the end you start to expect them, maybe even mutter them to yourself. And the way that he takes all these seemingly disparate plot strands and weaves them together is masterful… **Once you get lost in *Grasshopper Jungle* you won’t want to be found.**”

—Geekdad.com

“**No author writing for teens today can match Andrew Smith’s mastery** of the grotesque, the authentic experiences of teenage boys or the way one seamlessly becomes a metaphor for the other.”
—*BookPage,* Top February Teen Pick

"A meanderingly funny, weirdly compelling and **thoroughly brilliant** chronicle of ‘the end of the world, and shit like that’...a mighty good book."
—*Kirkus,* starred review

"Filled with **gonzo black humor**, Smith's outrageous tale makes serious points about scientific research done in the name of patriotism and profit, the intersections between the personal and the global, the weight of history on the present, and the often out-of-control sexuality of 16-year-old boys."
— *Publishers Weekly,* starred review

"Original, honest, and extraordinary… **pushes the boundaries of young adult literature**."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“*Grasshopper Jungle* plays like a classic rock album, a killing machine of a book built for the masses that also dives effortlessly into more challenging, deeper regions of emotion. Above all else, when it's done you want to play it all over again. **It's sexy, gory, hilarious, and refreshingly amoral.** I wish I'd had this book when I was fifteen. It almost makes me sad that it took twenty years to finally find what I'd been looking for.”
—Jake Shears, lead singer of Scissor Sisters

“*Grasshopper Jungle* is a **cool/passionate, gay/straight, male/female, absurd/real, funny/moving, past/present, breezy/profound masterpiece of a book**. Every time you think you've figured it out, you haven't. Every time you're sure Andrew Smith must do *this*, he does *that* instead. *Grasshopper Jungle* almost defies description because description can only rob the reader of the pleasure of surrendering to a master storyteller. Original, weird, sexy, thought-provoking and guaranteed to stir controversy. **One hell of a book**.”
—Michael Grant, New York Times bestselling author of the *Gone* series

“I found myself saying over and over again, ‘Where in the heck is he going with this?’ all the while turning the pages as fast as I could. Mostly I kept thinking, ***This was a brave book to write***.”
—Terry Brooks, author of the Shannara series

“Andrew Smith is the bravest storyteller I know. *Grasshopper Jungle* is the most intelligent and gripping book I've read in over a decade. I didn't move for two days until I had it finished. **Trust me. Pick it up right now. It's a masterpiece.**”
—A. S. King, Printz Honor-winning author of *Ask the Passengers* and *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*

"In *Grasshopper Jungle*, it's **as if Andrew Smith is somehow possessed by the ghost of Kurt Vonnegut.** This book is nothing short of a **brilliant, hilarious thrill-ride that is instantly infectious**. But, the most beautiful thing about *Grasshopper Jungle* has nothing to do with the absurd or out-of-this-world. It is the deft hand by which Smith explores teenage love and sexuality that is truly breathtaking. In writing a history of the end of the world, Smith may have just made history himself."
—John Corey Whaley, Printz Award-winning author of *Where Things Come Back*

"*Grasshopper Jungle* **is about the end of the world. And everything in between**."
—Alex London, author of *Proxy*

"Austin's narrative voice fizzes with catchphrases that keep the reader on track as he dives into history and backstory. His obsessively repetitive but somehow endearing style **calls to mind Vonnegut and Heller.** This novel approaches its own edge of sophisticated brutality, sensory and intellectual overload, and sheer weirdness, and then jumps right off."
—*BCCB*

Winger (2013)
"Smart, poignant and entertaining." –***The New York Times***
Los Angeles Times and *Publishers Weekly* Summer Read picks
Starred reviews**, *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*

Passenger (2012)
"Brilliant and remarkably unsettling." –*Kirkus,* **starred review****
"Smith is a brilliant, almost hallucinatory stylist, who frequently uses his talent to gruesome effect…" –*Publishers Weekly,* **starred review****
"Smith has securely carved out his spot on the darkest fringes of YA lit." –*Booklist*, **starred review****
Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2012

Stick (2011)
ALA/YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults
"Smith revs up the emotions and the violence in this realistic and powerful tale…" –*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review****

The Marbury Lens (2010)
ALA/YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults
Starred reviews**, *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*
Publishers Weekly Best Children's Books of the Year
Indie Next List

In the Path of Falling Objects (2009)
ALA/YALSA Best Books for Young Adults
Children's Literature Council Award
Southwest Book Award

Ghost Medicine (2008)
ALA/YALSA Best Books for Young Adults
“Smith’s first novel... defies expectations via its sublime imagery.” –*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review****

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Seth Sawyer:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called Grasshopper Jungle? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

John Carroll:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want experience happy read one using theme for entertaining including comic or novel. Often the Grasshopper Jungle is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

James Drake:

Often the book Grasshopper Jungle will bring one to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book you just read, this book very acceptable to you. The book Grasshopper Jungle is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Jose Brown:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Grasshopper Jungle, you could enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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