



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.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Grasshopper Jungle By Andrew Smith Bibliography

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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 original.”
—*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 beautiful 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 fizzles 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

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Winston Craig:

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they are still students or the idea for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great and important the book *Grasshopper Jungle*. All type of book are you able to see on many methods. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Ardith Bobo:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this *Grasshopper Jungle* book as nice and daily reading book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Orville Hightower:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the ebooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach

your children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write to the book. One of them is this Grasshopper Jungle.

Suzanne Palmer:

On this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to get a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list is usually Grasshopper Jungle. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking right up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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