



**Title:** Grasshopper Jungle

**Author:** Andrew Smith

**Imprint:** Dutton

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

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**ISBN:** 9780142425008

**Format:** Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 14 and up

**Grade Range:** Gr 10 Up  
(Recommended by School Library Journal)

# BOOK RESUME: GRASSHOPPER JUNGLE

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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

"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

"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."  
—Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (BCCB)

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“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*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- A Printz Honor Book
- A YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults selection
- An ALA Rainbow List Top Ten selection
- An ACL Distinguished Books selection
- A Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) Choices selection
- A *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Fiction Award Winner
- A Washington D.C. Capitol Choices selection
- A Michigan Thumbs Up Award selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award selection
- A Kansas State Reading Circle selection
- An NYC Reads 365 Reading List selection
- A Texas TAYSHAS Reading List selection
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year
- A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year
- An Iowa Center for the Book Great Reads from Great Places selection

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)

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