Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of Big Game by Dan Smith

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading4kids members.

Kurt Simpson, age 10

Dan Smith is one of the best authors of the 21st century, and he has written a piece of magic! In my opinion he is one of the best writers ever. This book in three words: Danger, Action, Survival!

I loved reading this book because it is action packed and quick to get into. Oskari is a clever, quick-witted 13 year old boy, who has not got a single kill. He is armed with only a bow and arrow. I think that he will meet big danger and not succeed. In the forest instead of finding animals to kill, Oskari stumbles across an escape pod, with the President of the United States inside! They form a formidable team to stop the terrorists that shot the President's plane down; "Air Force One!" I would love to read more children's books by Dan Smith. I would recommend this book to boys aged 9+, or anyone that enjoys action packed fiction! Once I started it, I found it hard to put down!

Isaac, age 10

A thrilling mix between tradition and the modern world, this gripping book will keep adventure addicts glued to the page. Giving parents a break.

When Oskari turns 13, tradition in Finland is to hunt, to survive in the wild for a
night. However, as he cannot even draw a bow, is hunting really for him? Setting out into the wilderness, he encounters some mad terrorists, who are plotting to kill the president.

Without warning the president's escape pod crash lands nearby. Oskari suddenly finds he holds the life of the most powerful man in the world in his hands.

In a race for survival, can he save the president and escape the terrorists clutches and prove hunters wrong?

I loved this book because it's action-packed and builds up tension in every page. I couldn't put it down for a second. I especially liked how he had to bring out a 'trophy' showing what kind of hunter he is.

I felt like I was Oskari, a hero that any young boy would love, I liked the way he wouldn't give the president to the terrorists and he wouldn't go down without a fight.

I thought it was ingenious how Dan Smith wrote the book, with such gripping chapters that made me feel like I was in Oskari's shoes.

It was the best book I've read this year, and I've read a lot.

Sam Harper, age 11

A really gripping, action packed story which takes place over a period of just 24 exhilarating hours. Fantastic!

This is the story of 24 hours in the life of Oskari, a twelve year old Finnish boy. It is probably the most important day in his life as it's the day before his thirteenth birthday, the day when he will become a man. The traditions in his village say that he must earn his manhood by spending the night alone on Mount Akka and returning with a trophy of an animal he has hunted himself. The animal he kills will say what sort of man he will become but Oskari isn't even strong enough to draw the ceremonial bow. He has learnt all the survival skills from his father but he's still not a very good hunter. The trial will be hard for him but he has no idea how hard it will get. On that night, terrorists lead by the crazy Hazar, shoot down Air Force One and it crashes on Oskari's mountain. They are hunting the President of the United States, Oskari is the only person who can save him and now they are after them both. Will Oskari's skills be enough to help them escape and survive in the wilderness?

This was a really gripping, action packed read. I liked the fact that Oskari was
not a big, strong, brilliant hunter. He was scared of the trial, just like I would be, but he had more skills than he thought and he discovered how brave he really was. It was really exciting with the whole story taking place in just a few, exhilarating hours. I think it will make a brilliant film and I can't wait to see it!

Ollie Wright, age 8

An adventurous book, for adventurous people!

I would recommend this book for adventure seeking boys!

The story is about a boy called Oskari who goes into the woods for a test of manhood which involves hunting.

Instead of finding his prey he finds the President of the United States. The problem is the President is a wanted man and there are evil hunters after him. Oskari tries to protect him and develops his skills as a hunter at the same time.

This book is full of excitement but it took me a while to get into it. Once I had my head though it got much more exciting from then.

It had a weird start and a surprising ending. As I said, it was slow starting but as soon as Oskari met the president it started to pick up. I didn’t like the character Hazar because he was always killing things. It would’ve been more exciting if there had been more than one setting like a marshland.

I did like the author’s style as there was a mystery around every corner. I would like to know why the book is called ‘Big Game.’ I would definitely recommend this book.

Abraham Fisher, age 12

If you are looking for an adventure book, this is the book to get, ‘Big Game’ is an amazingly written book with an extremely fast pace. I would recommend this to anyone and I would rate it 10/10.

Lucie Harrison, age 12

‘Big Game’ is a perfect choice for fans of Alex Rider and other Anthony Horowitz novels.

Just when life for Oskari is looking like death, an unlikely friendship is what saves his skin. But danger is looming closer by the minute and Oskari, along
with his new friend the president, needs to run hard or die hard.

Isabel Kardos-Stowe, age 10

I really enjoyed this book. I think that it is suitable for boys and girls over the age of 9, that love a thrilling book. I rate this book 10/10.

‘Big Game’ is about a 12 (nearly 13) year old boy, Oskari. Armed with only an arrow and bow that he can’t pull the whole way back, he sets off into the Finnish wilderness to face his tribe’s ancient trial method. Whatever he can hunt is what the forest gave him. It is therefore what he is worth. His father is legendary for bringing back a bear from his trial, the day before he turned 13. Oskari feels under lots of pressure to bring back something like his father, but, being the weakest boy in his tribe, is not expected to. What he finds is beyond belief: the shot down aeroplane, Air Force One. Inside is the President of the United States of America! However, with terrorists searching for the President, will they survive in the wild all alone?

I really enjoyed this book because it was different to anything that I had read before. It kept me on the edge of my seat the whole way through. I really love the description in this book as it made it easier to picture the scene. My favourite character was the President because he realised throughout the book that you aren’t always going to have everything that you need, when you need it. He also learnt that not everyone that you think is your friend truly is. All of the characters felt real, which was good because you felt that this story could have really been happening.

I think that this book is suitable for boys and girls who enjoy stories with lots of excitement and adventure, over the age of 9. I would rate this book 10/10.

This book in 3 words: Thrilling-Action-Exciting

Oliver Knight, age 10

The title page of ‘Big Game’ shows the reader how and what the book is about and the excitement of the scene.

The book is a great action packed novel full of mystery and surprises. The character descriptions are very in detail.

The scenes are very well described and the way the author tells you about what is happening is truly amazing.
Hannah Baer, age 11

The book is about a boy called Oskari. He has to go to the forest to kill a wild animal but he finds the president of the United States.

*I thought that the book was okay but it got a bit boring* when it got to the chapter 'Hunted'. Also, the plot was a bit long and boring for my liking. When it got to the part that Oskari went to the forest, I nearly stopped reading but I wanted to read a tiny bit more. Altogether, I thought the book was a 4/10 and that it's not a book I would like or recommend to all my friends.

Charlotte Rosevear, age 11

‘Big Game’ is an amazing book!

Oskari can’t pull back a bow so how is he going to survive the woods? He has lost every thing and to make matters worse, the president arrives in a pod and people are trying to kill him! Oskari has to help him or he will die. The president tells him to run three times but Oskari doesn’t listen and saves his life every single time. When he has to come back home, any animals that he kills mean something e.g. a buck: intelligence. A hare: strength. But a president... I’m not so sure what that means!

*I recommend this book to any one.*

Calum, age 11

A great gripping book a definite recommend, well done Dan Smith.

Right at the start this book gripped me and made me read in anticipation. Oskari - a thirteen year old boy - sets out on an ancient trial of manhood but his car slips on some rocks and he falls to the bottom of a cliff. With no mode of transport he sets into the woods and stumbles across Air Force One; the President of the United States.

I would recommend this book to 10-15 year-olds because the language is quite basic but the content is more advanced. Also I would recommend it to action and adventure lovers.

This book is very similar to ‘The recruit’ by Robert Muchamore because Oskari’s mum died and he wasn’t noticed much but he overcomes his fears and becomes a true hero.
Overall I would rate this book a 7 out of 10 because it wasn’t my type of book and it got a bit boring.

**Rory Faulkner**

The hunt is on ‘BIG GAME’ by Dan Smith is an amazing book as it is really gripping, and also quite sad.

Dan Smith is a brilliant writer as I have also read another of his books ‘My Brothers Keeper’ and they are both now on my list of most loved books. ‘Big Game’ is a book about a thirteen year old boy from Finland called Oskari who saves the American President from terrorists. My favourite chapter in ‘Big Game’ is ‘Enders Game’ as it is the most exciting and is the part where Oskari has to fight for his survival. **This book was amazing and I couldn’t put it down, and I’m now going to search out more books by Dan Smith.**

**Eloise Mae Clarkson, age 12**

This book was great and contained action and adventure. It is about a boy who lives in a fairly small village in Finland. On the day of his big hunt in the nearby woods as part of his coming of age tradition he finds the the president of the United States of America in his escape pod. However the aeroplane crash isn't all as it seems. **The characters were brilliant and were portrayed well. The plot was excellent and kept you engaged. I would give this book five out of five stars.**