

LoveReading Reader reviews of Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Sarah Murray, age 15

*This book was **really original, I've never read anything like it.** Even though I liked it I get the feeling that this book is like marmite in that you'll either love it or hate it.*

The narrative is interesting in that among the main action we often switch to other side aspects of the story which come to affect later. This did confuse me at first but after a couple of chapters you forget the unusual story telling.

This book was really funny as Austin is sarcastic and you end up developing inside jokes. I also loved how Austin was very blunt, nothing was sugar coated and he said everything that was on his mind. Also, being the nerd I am, I loved the history elements throughout where we learn more about his family and relationships with Shann and Robby.

Overall I would say that no matter what, this book is worth looking at.

This has something for everyone; sci-fi, apocalyptic aspects, LGBT aspects, humour and so much more. I feel as though any fan of Michael Grant or David Levithan would love this book!



Andrew Wilson, age 16

St. Colm's High School, Draperstown, Co. Derry. N. Ireland

'Grasshopper Jungle' is an exciting and unique story of three teenagers, two boys and a girl, who are beginning to make relationships and are aware of changes to their bodies. But unfortunately for them 6-foot praying mantises have taken over their small home town.

The story also contains details about the main character's Polish family history, as well as the history of the people who once lived in their town.

As the teenagers push on to stop the mantises wiping out the entire town, the main character, Austin Szerba, is blinded by his hormones and cannot focus on what is important. SURVIVAL!!!

Andrew Smith has written an excellent book with a unique story and many twists and turns along the way.

I would recommend this book to mature 16+ as the story is very graphic all the way through. It is definitely not for younger audiences.

If you enjoy a combination of realism and sci-fi with a unique interesting storyline then this book will keep you hooked all the way.

Izzy Read, age 13

It is either an unusual mix of genres or it was a completely new one. But strangely, it worked fantastically.

*'Grasshopper jungle'; where to start! This book struck me as very odd. It is either an unusual mix of genres or it was a completely new one. But strangely, it worked fantastically. The story was told in the view of Austin, who narrated it in mainly past tense, jumping backwards and forwards in history, as and he says: telling the story of the end of the world. It is very original and different to so many other books that I have read, it sympathizes with teenagers, especially those pondering their sexuality. **This is a really unique book that I think a lot of teenagers will enjoy;** I hope it does well in the future.*

Jack Graham, age teen

I really enjoyed this book because of the different idea. It is written in 1st

person, but like a diary. **In Ealing, Iowa, two boys accidentally released the unstoppable soldiers – horny, hungry, six foot tall praying mantises.** Austin, Robby and Shann discover Eden, a massive underground bunker where they are urged to repopulate. **Written as Austin's history of the world, Grasshopper Jungle is a funny, complex and intense novel.**

The main characters are Austin, Robby and Shann. Austin is a young boy and the narrator who becomes confused about his sexuality. Robby is his best friend, who is gay. Shann is Austin's girlfriend. As the book develops, the relationships between the three of them grow increasingly complex.

Overall this book is an excellent read. I would read any other books by Andrew Smith. I recommend this to anyone 14+ because it has so many good ideas and a great storyline but contains sexual topics.

James Smith, age 15

Funny and Gripping.

A book that should have really stuck to the point, it went on and on about random things, I understand wanting to give us an idea of Austin's history but 300 pages seemed somewhat ridiculous. It would have been better if more focus was on what had been promised by the blurb.

Language was used a bit too frequently for my taste, it's a very good book when it gets going, it just took a long time. It also can be quite funny at times.

I'm not sure how some adults will react to this book, and for sure it will be controversial due to its sexual and language content but **to me it was a good book, and it would make a very good film.**

Oliver Cawthorne, aged 11

Thomas Cowley School - Donington

I found this book very interesting. There are a lot of exhilarating moments.

It was quite gory and had a lot of swearing but it was also very funny. There are a lot of mysteries and puzzles in the book. There are also a lot of suspicious people. Some of the people have good stories to tell because people have left or

people have died.

My favourite bit was when they shoot the giant grasshoppers with blood in their BB guns. This was with blood that was taken from them a moment ago.

I would recommend this to everyone who loves mysteries and a good laugh. I would rate this book for 12 years old because it swears quite a bit.

Corey McKernan, age 16

St. Colm's High School, Draperstown, Co. Derry Northern Ireland

I have to say that in my honest opinion, 'Grasshopper Jungle' is one of the most "interesting" books that I have ever read, with extra attention to the "interesting".

I am not saying that the book was a horrible read, but interesting in the sense that there were so many sexual innuendoes, and this tended to get a bit annoying. I found this aspect of the book just a bit too much.

We get the message at the very beginning of the story that the teenage Austin's sexuality has gone into overdrive, but the author really did not need to include it in every page of the book. It tended to make the story very boring after a while and took away from the main storyline.

I liked the main character, Austin, and most teenage boys around the world will empathise with his sexual dilemmas. I liked how the author made him question everything from sex to ancestry.

I have never read a book quite like this one, although I do enjoy sci-fi and this was a really good storyline with giant praying mantises about to wipe out the world and the characters finding an underground world to keep them safe.

This is not a book for younger readers as most of the story has vivid descriptions, but I found it was a most memorable read.

Zoe, age 16

If I had to describe this book up in one word, it would be: 'interesting'. Not 'interesting' which means extraordinary and entertaining, but 'inter....esting' where I found it odd and unexplainable.

This book was definitely not what I was expecting and I hadn't encountered with this author's work before. Although this book wasn't all bad, it -

unfortunately - wasn't my cup of tea.

Told through the eyes of Austin, a sixteen year old boy, this book follows the weird and strangely realistic story of three friends trying to survive whilst battling uncontrollable hormones. The characters really come to life; however, I was very confused for the most part and didn't really understand the point of a lot of events.

The thing that confused me the most about this book is the "unstoppable, six-foot tall praying mantises" that were apparently about to destroy humanity. These are only mentioned towards the end and the only time we see them are in the last chapter. LAST CHAPTER. The synopsis made it seem that this would be a sci-fi comedy and maybe a big battle at the end. From my point of view, it seemed like most of the book was Austin rambling on about how horny he is. I did find the author's way of interpreting a person coming to terms with their sexual orientation well-written though. The aspect was interesting but seemed to take up most of the book.

All in all, this book was lacking plot-wise and I had to take a break before forcing myself to finish it. The characters are hilarious and relatable thus creating brilliant dialogue, but the confusing plot line spoiled most of the book.

You can read Zoe' blog at: www.bookhi.blogspot.com

Madi Campbell, age 14

Some may enjoy this book and some may dislike it, there will be different thoughts on it. In my opinion it is not the most amazing book I have read.

This book would not be on the top of my recommendations list, it would actually quite close to the bottom for me personally, however I know some people will read Grasshopper Jungle and enjoy every word. Books can't be everyone's cup of tea and this isn't mine. If you do fancy reading this book, give it a go, you might find you have a different opinion to me.

Jasmine Kelynack

*I didn't enjoy this book as much as I'd hoped. I found the writing style very difficult to get into and I didn't really connect with the characters. However, **the story is so random that I found it very interesting** and continued reading so that I could see what happens next. So overall, it was an OK read.*