

The Alex Crow

By Andrew Smith

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The Alex Crow By Andrew Smith

The author of Printz Honor book *Grasshopper Jungle* returns with another genre-bending literary exploration of the absurd.

Once again blending multiple story strands that transcend time and place, *Grasshopper Jungle* author Andrew Smith tells the story of 15-year-old Ariel, a refugee from the Middle East who is the sole survivor of an attack on his small village. Now living with an adoptive family in Sunday, West Virginia, Ariel's story of his summer at a boys' camp for tech detox is juxtaposed against those of a schizophrenic bomber and the diaries of a failed arctic expedition from the late nineteenth century. Oh, and there's also a depressed bionic reincarnated crow.

"Smith takes [readers] to a place where humanity is imbued with the potential to render people inhuman…and reminding us that being human, all too human, is far better than any conceivable alternative." —***BCCB Reviews*, starred review**

"Magnificently bizarre, irreverent and bitingly witty" —***Kirkus*, starred review**

"Smith is a **spiritual heir to Kurt Vonnegut**" —***Booklist*, starred review**

"Fans of Smith's raunchy, profane, and provocative work will find this funny but morally serious tale deeply appealing." —***Publishers Weekly*, starred review**

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The Alex Crow By Andrew Smith Bibliography

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- 352 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 9 Up—The author weaves several odd yet connected story threads: the 19th-century Arctic exploration aboard the ill-fated Alex Crow ship; a madman's bizarre U-Haul road trip; and the Merrie-Seymour Research Group and its de-extinction program. But the most compelling narrative is that of Ariel, a teenage refugee of an unnamed country, who is adopted into an American family. He and his brother, Max, are sent to Camp Merrie-Seymour "where boys rediscover the fun of boyhood." The camp's purpose is to wean teenage boys off of their technology addictions. Unfortunately for Max and Ariel, their father works for Merrie-Seymour, so they're forced to attend because it's free. Smith deftly combines Ariel's harrowing wartime horrors juxtaposed against his hilarious six weeks at an American summer camp with maladjusted teenage boys. The teen protagonist is the lens through which readers see how society exerts its control over teenage boys' thoughts and actions. And Camp Merrie-Seymour is the satirical showcase for how often these boys are expected to deal with the harsh world on their own without any real guidance from adults. Smith's writing seems to ebb from an honest place, not one of nostalgia, but of the discomfort and agony of adolescence. Smith follows up his enthralling, boundary-pushing Grasshopper Jungle (Dutton, 2014) with this more cohesive and brilliant work. VERDICT A must-have for all YA collections.—Kimberly Garnick Giarratano, Rockaway Township Public Library, NJ

Review

2015 New York Public Library Best Books for Teens
2015 *Boston Globe* Best Books, Young Adult
2015 Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best
2016 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults List

"Therein lies the brilliance of Andrew Smith. He somehow always finds a way to turn the reader inside out, by grounding the farcical or turning mad science and vomit into art." —***New York Times Book Review***

"The weirdness shakes out ridiculously well in this often humorous and touching sci-fi tome." —***USA Today***

"Magnificently bizarre, irreverent and bitingly witty" —***Kirkus,*** **starred review**

"Smith is a spiritual heir to Kurt Vonnegut" —***Booklist,*** **starred review**

“Fans of Smith’s raunchy, profane, and provocative work will find this funny but morally serious tale deeply appealing.” —***Publishers Weekly,*** **starred review**

"A smartly cohesive exploration of survival and extinction, and the control humans have (or shouldn’t have) over such matters." —***Horn Book,*** **starred review**

"Smith takes [readers] to a place where humanity is imbued with the potential to render people inhuman…and reminding us that being human, all too human, is far better than any conceivable alternative.” —***BCCB Reviews,*** **starred review**

“Andrew Smith is unequivocally one of the reigning kings of YA.” —**Bustle.com**

“In a market oversaturated by trends . . . [Smith’s] novels are fresh and exciting.” —**VICE.com**

Praise for *Grasshopper Jungle*:

“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***

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

“A **bizarrely fascinating** premise that Smith pulls off with panache. . . . Like an absurdist *Middlesex*. **A-**” —***Entertainment Weekly***

“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. **It’s a masterpiece**.” —**A. S. King**, Printz Honor–winning author of *Ask the Passengers* and *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*

“*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.” —**Jake Shears**, Scissor Sisters

“This book is **nothing short of a brilliant, hilarious thrill-ride** that is instantly infectious. The deft hand by which Smith explores teenage love and sexuality . . . 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*

“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

“*Grasshopper Jungle*, in many ways, is a book about how there might be **a manual for defeating monsters** that have invaded town, but there’s not going to be an easy manual for everything else that weighs on the mind.” —**A.V. Club**

“You, too, will love Smith’s **bold, bizarre, and beautiful** novel.”—***The Boston Globe***

“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." —***PW,* starred review**

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

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author
Andrew Smith knew ever since his days as editor of his high school newspaper that he wanted to be a writer. His books include *Grasshopper Jungle* and *Winger*. Smith prefers the seclusion of his rural Southern California setting, where he lives with his family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Lyon:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called The Alex Crow? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have additional opinion?

Kevin Lemon:

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