

BIG GAME BY DAN SMITH

SYNOPSIS


On the eve of his thirteenth birthday, Oskari is sent into the wilderness on an ancient test of manhood. Armed only with a bow and arrow, Oskari must survive and bring back what the forest will see t to give him.


The test is an ancient ritual in the remote Finnish village Oskari has grown up in. Expectation weighs heavily upon him, as his father is one of the greatest hunters the village has ever known, having returned with the head of a fearsome bear following his night in the forest.

But Oskari is not his father. He is slight and small, and though he has 'the blood of hunters in his veins', he cannot even draw the traditional bow he must hunt with. So he heads into the forest with a heavy heart and hopes only of survival, and of bringing back some small token to avoid the shame of returning empty-handed.

But deep in the forest, Oskari's trial takes a sinister twist and he finds himself facing extreme danger, running from an armed group of men who have their sub-machine guns and rocket launchers trained on the sky above. An almighty explosion signals that they have brought something down, and Oskari hunkers down in an attempt to protect himself from the flaming pieces of shrapnel that fall around him. When he emerges from the devastation and finds the President of the United States of America in an escape pod from the doomed Air Force One, Oskari realizes that if the two of them are to stay alive he must overcome his fears and stretch to the limit his bravery, tenacity and ability to navigate the unforgiving terrain of the forest ... and the president must learn to trust in this small Finnish boy if he is to stay safe from the terrorists who are hunting him.

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Shortlisted for Hillingdon Book of the Year 2016

Shortlisted for the Worcestershire Teen Book Award 2016

Longlisted for Shrewsbury Bookfest 2016

Shortlisted for the Staffordshire Young Teen Fiction Award 2016

Longlisted for the Brilliant Book Award 2016



'Action-packed and furiously-paced, Big Game is such a page-turner, such a gripping, unforgettable story, that when you get to the final page you find yourself panting for breath.' JORDI MARTIN, BAMBÚ

'We love Big Game because it is fun and it is exciting ... the way it is written is straightforward, clever and professional. What's there not to like?' BALINT VARGA, AGAVE

'With a thirteen-year-old boy hero, Dan Smith's novelisation is likely to be a sure- re hit for Finnish boy readers, our hardest target group.' MIKAEL AHLSTROM, WSOY

'It's a great book for boys. It's action packed, and it's fast paced. I read lot of books that can be described that way - but Big Game is more than that, especially because of its strong characters.' JONAS HOLM HANSEN, ALVIDA

'Thrilling and entertaining, Big Game is an extraordinary story of survival and what it means to be a man.' ELSA LAFON, MICHEL LAFON

'... unique, thrilling, heartwarming and gripping ... an action-adventure about a normal boy who rises above himself with grit, bravery and humour.' ANJA KEMMERZEL, CHICKEN HOUSE DEUTSCHLAND

'... a gripping adventure with a wonderful setting, but also a coming of age story with engaging characters.' ALICE FORNASETTI, PIEMME

'Big Game is a beautiful story about "difference". Difference in costumes, difference in ways of seeing life; difference in front of the world. Above all, Big Game is a story about friendship and how to learn to trust.' LILA SCHWARCZ, COMPANHIA DAS LETRAS



'Wow ... I just finished Big Game; in our office building; all alone, it seems. It really kept me on the edge of my seat all the way through; I had to take some occasional breaks towards the end, that's how incredibly suspenseful it was. In other words – I found this novel absolutely stunning; and we want it! I think Big Game would be a wonderful addition to our list ...' INGRID GREAGER MYHREN, GYLDENDAL

'This fast-paced page-turner will appeal to fans of action-packed plots and is recommended for reluctant readers.' SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (USA)

'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 ... I loved reading this book because it is action packed and quick to get in to ... once I started it, I found it hard to put down!' KURT SIMPSON (AGE 10), FOR LOVEREADING4KIDS

'A thrilling mix between tradition and the modern world, this gripping book will keep adventure addicts glued to the page ... 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.' ISAAC (AGE 10), FOR LOVEREADING4KIDS

'A really gripping, action packed story which takes place over a period of just 24 exhilarating hours. Fantastic!' SAM HARPER (AGE 11), FOR LOVEREADING4KIDS

'An adventurous book, for adventurous people! ... I would definitely recommend this book.' OLLIE WRIGHT (AGE 8), FOR LOVEREADING4KIDS

'Dan Smith has amazing talent for creating a fascinating storyline, with twists and turns and new dangers around every corner ... The book has you hanging on to every word.' BOOK ANGEL BOOKTOPIA BLOG



'If you are looking for an adventure book, this is the book to get, Big Game is an amazingly written book ... I would recommend this to anyone and I would rate it 10/10.' ABRAHAM FISHER (AGE 12), LOVEREADING4KIDS

'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 think that this book is suitable for boys and girls who enjoy stories with lots of excitement and adventure ... I would rate this book 10/10.' ISABEL KARDOS-STOWE (AGE 10), LOVEREADING4KIDS

'The book is a great action-packed novel full of mystery and surprises ... the way the author tells you about what is happening is truly amazing.' OLIVER KNIGHT (AGE 10), LOVEREADING4KIDS

'Big Game could be added to the dictionary as the definition of 'edge of your seat thriller'. The short chapters and fast-paced and relentless action make it one of those books that is incredibly difficult to put down ... it is the perfect book for middle grade readers who love action and adventure stories, and Oskari is a brilliant character with whom many young readers will empathise.' BOOK ZONE 4 BOYS blog

'... the pace is fast, the action is constant, and the dialog has plenty of cool parting lines thrown over characters' shoulders as they exit a scene.' VOYA MAGAZINE (USA)

'Readers will appreciate the nonstop action as Oskari relies on all of his training to help the president evade the villains and their treasonous plans.' BOOKLIST (USA)

'This is an action packed story full of danger and explosive moments that will rock you all over the forest floor ... hunt a copy down. You won't be disappointed.' MR RIPLEY'S ENCHANTED BOOKS blog

'Wow – this book is so good ... it's really engaging.' KISS THE BOOK blog (USA)



'Everything about this book is excellent. The story is fast-paced, extremely well written and is packed with unrelenting action. Oskari is a fantastic protagonist, a young boy crippled with self-doubt and a sense of worthlessness who discovers exactly how incredible he is.' BOOKTRUST

'This is an intensely gripping story full of action and adventure with plenty of hair raising moments. There are times you are almost too worried to read on!' PRIMARY TIMES

'I enjoyed Big Game a lot and I definitely recommend it. Smith's writing is fantastic and enthralling, and he's channelled the personalities and emotions of the characters brilliantly. I felt really attached to Oskari by the end and found myself wanting to read some more about him.' THE BIBLIOMANIAC blog

'We absolutely ate this book up in one sitting. It is a page-turning tale of bravery, inner strength and survival.' GOBBLEFUNKED

'Dan Smith's new novel is an action-packed page-turner from start to finish. The book moves quickly and leaves the reader in awe at what they experience with the characters in the single day and night in which the story takes place ... Big Game is a story that any adventure-seeking reader will thoroughly enjoy.' COMPASS BOOK RATINGS (USA)

'This is a really great adventure that does not hold back in providing an adrenalin-fuelled storyline ... a really satisfying read that will not depend on the film for any continuing popularity.' ARMADILLO MAGAZINE

'The book has the feel of an action movie ... Big Game makes for an exciting read and the inclusion of Bear Grylls-style survival skills will increase its appeal.' INIS MAGAZINE

'Big Game is a perfect choice for fans of Alex Rider.' LUCIE HARRISON (AGE 12), LOVEREADING4KIDS

'[Oskari] is a charming character and we are caught up, willing him to triumph in the face of the seemingly impossible odds. The relentless threat from the villains, the growing determination and courage of young Oskari, and the fast moving action will captivate young readers.' SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

