

WHAT MUST ASH MCCARTHY DO TO SURVIVE?



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 Dan Smith Author

 @DanSmithAuthor

 dansmithauthor

## BOY X BY DAN SMITH

### SYNOPSIS

*Boy X is a fast-paced jungle adventure featuring a reluctant hero and an intelligent and capable heroine. During their adventure, they form a strong friendship and are forced to make some life-changing decisions.*

Kidnapped and drugged, Ash McCarthy wakes up to find himself in what appears to be an empty research facility. In bare feet and a pair of pyjamas, he sets out to search for his mum but when he reaches the exit, he discovers that he is far from home. Ash meets Isabel who explains that they are on Isla Negra - a jungle island off the coast of Costa Rica. Together, they head back into the building only to discover that Ash's mum and Isabel's dad - both genetic scientists - have been imprisoned in a lab and infected with a deadly virus known as Kronos. In twenty-four hours, it will be too late to save them, and they will die. Their only hope is the anti-virus, Zeus, but the people who locked them in the lab have stolen Zeus, and are escaping across the island, taking with them a key card which is the only way to unlock the lab.

Ash and Isabel set out to cross the jungle and find the men responsible. They have twenty-four hours to catch up with them, find the keycard, and find Zeus. Fortunately, Isabel knows how to survive in the jungle, and she can help Ash overcome the wilderness, but this is no ordinary jungle. For years, Isla Negra has been used for unchecked genetic experimentation, and everything on the island is strange. The animals are bigger and more dangerous than usual. The trees and plants are like nothing Ash has ever seen. And the longer he spends on the island, the more Ash begins to notice that he feels different. His sense are heightened and he feels fitter and stronger than before. And there's something else . . . why are the animals watching him? Why are the howler monkeys gathering in the trees above him? And why does he feel like he's been to this island before?

As Ash crosses the island, the mystery begins to unravel, and he learns the truth about who he is, and who has imprisoned his mum.



**Winner of the Essex Book Award 2017**

**Winner of the Coventry Inspiration Book Award 2017**

**Winner of the Phoenix Book Award 2017**

**Shortlisted for the RED Book Award 2018**



*'This is a highly enjoyable read with a twisting plot line and effective use of the island setting in terms of creating atmosphere and thrills as the chase gathers towards a satisfying conclusion.'* SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

*'... a good book with lots of exciting bits in it ... I would recommend this book to my friends'* SAMUEL SHAUGHNESSY, TEEN TITLES

*'This fast-paced adventure features both a reluctant hero and an intelligent and capable heroine ... there are few lulls in this high-stakes race. Intense, captivating, and distinctive.'* KIRKUS (USA)

*'... an action-packed jungle thriller ... Suspense fans will be captivated by the twisting, turning plot of this thriller.'* SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (USA)

*'Smith's novel opens with a bang and keeps up the breathless pace until the very end. Readers looking for an action-packed adventure with some mad science thrown in will enjoy Ash's story.'* BOOKLIST (USA)

*'I read this book in one sitting. I just had to find out what would happen to Ash before I put it down.'* READING ZONE

*'Boy X was consistently thrilling, I never knew what to expect, it was blood tingling, hair raisingly good.'* ARCHIE, BEYOND THE BOOKSHELF

*'This is a ferociously fast-paced story, with classic sci- and techno-thriller influences, like John Wyndham and Michael Crichton, worn lightly ... A must for James Dashner fans – or anyone who likes nail-biting tales of action and courage.'* MIDDLE GRADE STRIKES BACK

*'Fast-paced and packed with drama, Boy X is ideal reading for all young adventurers.'* LANGASHIRE EVENING POST



*'I was not let down in any way, as it had everything that I wanted in a story and more. This is another classic read that will stop time as you hurtle through the pages ... This is a great adventure with a race against time that boys and girls will equally love.'* MR RIPLEY'S ENCHANTED BOOKS

*'Boy X is an exciting adventure ... Fast, treacherous, and action-packed.'* KATE ORMAND, AUTHOR OF *DARK DAYS*

*'Boy X is a breathless adventure where nothing and no-one is expected. Dan Smith's pacy prose gallops along, capturing the reader and entangling us in the puzzle plot.'* THE SCOTSMAN

*'If you love adventure, a spot of mystery, and fast-moving plots – and enjoy authors such as Anthony Horowitz – then this is a great book to get your teeth into. Smith is a superb writer whose descriptive powers bring the pages alive and the characters are superbly written.'* PRESS ASSOCIATION

*'If you have a hunger for fast-paced action stories then this is a meal that will both satisfy your appetite and leave you wanting more. Dan Smith is also a master at keeping his readers gripped by drip-feeding essential information about the plot and the characters' back-stories.'* BOOK ZONE FOR BOYS

