



The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister

By Kami Kinard

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For anyone who's ever felt that boys were a different species....

Wildly creative seventh grader Kara McAllister just had her best idea yet. She's going to take notes on all of the boys in her grade (and a few elsewhere) in order to answer a seemingly simple question: How can she get a boyfriend?

But Kara's project turns out to be a lot more complicated than she imagined. Soon there are secrets, lies, and an embarrassing incident in the boy's bathroom. Plus, Kara has to deal with mean girls, her slightly spacey BFF, and some surprising uses for duct tape. Still, if Kara's research leads her to the right boy, everything may just be worth it. . . .

Full of charts and graphs, heart and humor, this hilarious debut will resonate with tweens everywhere.

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Editorial Review

Review

Looking for a boyfriend takes on a whole new meaning when 14-year-old Kara starts her research project.

Kara, a self-proclaimed geek, decides to find a boyfriend using the scientific method. This initially involves covert observation of her subject: boys. She keeps detailed index cards, and the novel is decorated with her charts, graphs and lists. The project eventually becomes a science-fair project that also utilizes Facebook for a love survey. When her best friend Tabbi gets a boyfriend first, unfortunately with Karau2019s crush, it takes Kara some time to remember that she needs her best friend more than a she needs a boyfriend. This middle-school drama is hip to the moment, with break-up texting, kissing and popularity tug of wars. The boy obsession becomes tiresome, but Karau2019s irrepressible spirit, clever wit and introspection save this story from vapidly Karau2019s hilarious observations, as when she compares feigning happiness to the difficulty of fastening the, like, 15 hooks of her 87-year-old grandma2019s bra, keep it buoyant. As she becomes increasingly discerning, Kara realizes that being true to oneself is the coolest asset.

Karau2019s boy-crazy experiment lends refreshing perspective on teen relationships, and the results point to self-enlightenment. (Fiction. 10-13)

-Kirkus Reviews - October 15, 2011

Kinard2019s first novel reads a bit like Field Notes of a Romantically Frustrated Kid. Her sympathetic, entertaining heroine, Kara McAllister, dismayed at not having been kissed by age 13, is determined to use the scientific method to get a boyfriend: u201cIu2019ll be the eighth-grade version of Jane Goodall, except Iu2019ll be observing boys instead of chimps. Not that thereu2019s a huge difference.u201d Her goal is twofold: win the science fair with this project and achieve her other objective—unlimited texting, promised by her parents in return for an A in science. Unobtrusive observations, note taking, charts, graphs, and questionnaires (incorporated throughout) are all part of her plan, which has humorous and unexpected side effects as her views of, and feelings for, her subjects shift during the course of her research. Kinard creates a highly credible middle-school universe of popular girls, dorky boys, unpredictable teachers, and volatile loyalties; she hits all the right notes as Kara learns that first opinions are rarely accurate and that the scientific method does not always apply to human beings. Ages 9–12. Agent: Stimola Literary Studio. (Jan.)

-Publisher's Weekly, December 5, 2011

About the Author

Kami Kinard enjoys writing about the boyfriend quest more than she enjoyed experiencing it. A teaching artist on the SC Arts Commission's Roster of Approved Artists, she writes from Beaufort, South Carolina where she lives with her husband and two children. Please visit her online at: www.kamikinard.com.

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I, Kara McAllister, will change my image before the end of the school year. By “change my image” I mean “get a boyfriend.” And I know exactly how I’m going to do it. I’ll apply both my brains and the scientific method to the project. Hey, if the scientific method helped real scientists figure out the structure of an atom, surely it can help me figure out how to find a boyfriend!

This pack of index cards will be perfect for inconspicuously taking notes on my subjects (boys) in their natural setting (school). The scientific term for this is “unobtrusive observation.” What method of research could possibly be easier? All you have to do is be a little sly while looking around.

I’ll be the seventh grade version of Jane Goodall, except I’ll be observing boys, instead of chimps. Not that there’s a huge difference.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jon Cerrone:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world may share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some research before they write with their book. One of them is this The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister.

William Medellin:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

Carrie Hanks:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind expertise or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book than can satisfy your limited time to read it because this time you only find e-book that need more time to be study. The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister can be your answer since it can be read by an individual who have those short free time problems.

Allen Grimm:

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