



## **The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister**

*Kami Kinard*

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## **The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister** Kami Kinard

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.

## **The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister Details**

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Author : Kami Kinard

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## From Reader Review The Boy Project: Notes and Observations of Kara McAllister for online ebook

### Abby says

The Boy Project is a cute, fun read that most middle school girls will devour. Kara is an eighth grader who uses the scientific method to pass science with an A in order to get unlimited texting from her parents, but more importantly, she uses it to find her perfect "soul mate." Told through journal entry style and 21st century lingo similar to The Princess Diaries and Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Kara's story focuses on the experiences that every teenage girl will relate to. (I also really like how the author drops other great book titles into her characters' conversations.)

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### Delaney says

I really liked it. Kami Kinard really got my attention. I probably wouldn't have gone to the boys bathroom though. That is were I would have stopped and said "Is this really worth it?". Apparently Kara McAllister would.

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### Jo says

So yesterday I finished my book HOURS before I would get home and didn't have anything else with me to read. Luckily, I was at work, where the lounge has a book exchange-swap-type shelf. On said shelf was *The Boy Project*, along with several (okay, well, load of) other books that I passed up because I got all excited about the use of science (or at least the scientific method) to influence one's social situation. Being a nerd with social difficulties, I thought *The Boy Project* would be kind of fun.

I was wrong; it kind of stunk. Kara, the main character, was disturbingly boy-obsessed. But not so much 'cause she was into boys as much as it was because all the other girls were into boys. She was all, "Every other girl in the 8th grade has had a boyfriend; I must have a boyfriend, or I shall die of shame!" Really? Really? So when you boyfriend tells you all the other girls in the 8th grade have had sex with their boyfriends, are you going to have sex with him? 'Cause that's where I see this headed, and I don't like it.

Now, to give the author some modicum of credit, I will acknowledge that Kara grew into a better person by the end of the book. Kind of. She still gave me the impression that she thought having a boyfriend was more important than everything else. Which is ridiculous. Having a special someone to spend time with, talk to, etc., etc., is important, yes. But it is not the singularly most important thing in the universe. But at least she learned that ever corny-but-true lesson about being true to oneself and realized that people can be more complex than they seem. (Though I'm not sure this one has really settled in and made a home in her brain; more like thrown a large sheet of canvas over a tree branch until it decides whether it wants to stay or not.)

However, despite this growth and self-acceptance and yadda-yadda, the middle half (between the first quarter and the last quarter) of this book made me alternately cringe and seethe at the awfulness of this girl's ideas. I wanted to smack her upside the head and tell her to grow up. Which she did do before the last page (though not as much as I would have liked). But worse than her belief that boyfriends are the end-all, be-all

of life, I worry that girls between the ages of 10 and 13 will think she's right because she made a dress out of duct tape and she usually gets straight As. I just hope that, should there be any subsequent books, Kara continues to mature and remains open to proving herself wrong, thus encouraging similar growth in the youths who think she's cool.

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### **Shannon says**

I read an ARC (Advanced Reading Copy) of this book - it will not be released from the publisher until January 2012.

Every middle school girl will love this book. Funny and clever.

Kara will be a positive role model - a smart girl who learns to be self confident and love herself despite not being in the "in crowd."

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### **Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen says**

This was a book that both and I my daughters enjoyed. The girls liked it for the humor and how easily they connected with Kara. I liked it because it was refreshing to see a female character who was not only smart, but also not embarrassed by her brains and willing to use her intelligence to get what she wants. Bravo, Kara!

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### **123nosayaba says**

Kara McAllister:awkward, boy-crazy, and hilarious. Just my type of girl. Kara on her quest of boy "observations" (stalkings)has sent her far away and back. As she goes through this "scientific project" on her journey to find love, she ends up in sticky situations and finds the most abnormal ways to get out of them. One of her adventures even leads her to the boys bathroom. As rumors spread and couples break up, Kara observes all of these characteristics and makes charts,surveys, and other ways to express her data. On this crazy quirky way to find love, kara should be nicknamed as #1 Boy Expert cause she knows evvvverrrrryyyyything. This book was actually exciting to read. I found myself rushing to my next class to hurry and finish the next few chapters. This book includes ordinary things you see everyday and you never knew the extent of these tiny details. Kara McAllister is the one for me.

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### **Amy (Books, College, and Other Random Things) says**

Kara McAllister is the only girl in her grade that's never had a boyfriend. She's smart and creative but has no idea in the matters of the heart. Since her parents tell her if she can get all A's they will give her unlimited texting, she decides to enter the science fair with a project that will help her get a boyfriend. She decides that she'll observe guys and take notes in her notebook and flash cards.

She likes on guy in her grade, Evan. She gets her friend to sit with him at lunch with her so she can talk to him. Well, her BFF, Tabi, talks to him more than she does, but she's happy just to be next to him... until she

finds out that Tabi and Evan are now boyfriend and girlfriend.

It wouldn't have happened if Kara hadn't tried to get back at Chip, a boy in her grade and class, for taking her name off the attendance list. Chip is the class clown and the boy her only shook her hand when he was the one who was supposed to kiss her from a game of spin the bottle. She can't stand him but she finds herself liking him a little bit more when she gets to know him when both have lunch detention. Will her project help her find a boyfriend?

I really liked this book. I always love books that have pictures and diagrams in it. The book had all of the flash cards that Kara made and even some graphs. I didn't like Kara's and Tabi's relationship a lot because it was more one-sided. Kara always listened to what was going on with Tabi but never voiced her own problems. This a cute book that young girls will love.

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### **Katy Griffey says**

It was enjoyable at first, It made me really mad when her best friend liked the guy that she liked and Kara DIDNT EVEN TELL HER! I mean how can you not tell your friend to back off. Then her friend would've probably HELPED them get together and her friend wouldn't of gotten hurt and also Kara would've gotten the guy she wanted. And then maybe Maybelline wouldn't bother her as much if she DID get a boyfriend. And I'm sorry but if a guy found me in the restroom and KISSED me. I would've dated him, even if he did date my best friend because Kara did like him first. And then the fact that she got with him made everything a lot more stupid.

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### **Krazybooklady says**

Kara is the only one of the girls in her grade who has never had a boyfriend, so she decides to take steps to change that. Kara starts taking notes on the boys in her class and sometimes even the cute guy at the mall. She also starts taking notes on the girls in her class, including "Maybelline" and "The Vine," who always seem to have guys interested in them. Kara's project doesn't quite go as she anticipated, and she ends up getting herself into some embarrassing situations because of it. But along the way, she learns a lot and makes some important realizations.

I found The Boy Project to be hilarious. Several times I would read something funny out loud to my teenage daughter, who then grabbed the book to read as soon as I was done with it. It was truly like taking a trip back to junior high school. I think we all knew a "Maybelline" (the girl who always wore way too much makeup) and "The Vine" (the one who was always hanging all over the guys). Kami Kinard has written characters that are easy to relate to and has really captured the awkwardness of middle school/junior high. The charts and graphs were cute and funny and really enhanced the book. Usually the use of multiple exclamation marks bothers me, but it works here. This is an excellent book. I would recommend it for tweens, teens and adults who enjoy MG fiction (and maybe want to reminisce a little).

*Reprinted from my blog Krazy Book Lady.*

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### **Hana says**

Wow, this book is amazing!! Starts off with Kara ( the main character) She did this project about how she can get a boyfriend. Her first person that thinks that could be a her soul mate is Evan, but turns out Tabs liked Evan so they started going out. Then Coleen the mean girl, took Evan away from Tabs, which really made Kara upset. Tabs quickly gets a new boyfriend. I think that Tabs wasn't really being a really good friend, because she keeps rubbing to Kara's face that she has a boyfriend. One day Kara was trying to listen to other people so she went to the janitors closet. Evan opened the door, and he kissed Kara. WHAT!?! After all Kara's research she ends up with the person you wouldn't imagine. Chip Tyler! In the beginning of the book Kara said "Ooh I'll never go out with Chip Tyler" At the end they end up liking each other, and Chip takes Kara and kissed her.

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### **Mary says**

It's a cute book for early middle school girls but I will admit that it is very creepy how obsessed Kara is with boys. I'm not saying there's anything wrong with being boy crazy in middle school but when one hands out quizzes to boys and girls in her grade to use the results to see what boy would be her best match, then one shouldn't be surprised if her methods are questioned and then called crazy.

\*I will admit that it has been a while since I read this book so some things in this review may not be entirely correct but I tried to stick with what I could remember.

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### **Jess says**

This story is told from the point of view of a 7th grader where relationships last 1-7 days, and navigating middle school is difficult. Kara decides to embark on a study of her classmates to find her soul mate and get into a relationship as soon as possible. Endeavors that include a trip to the boys room, the principals office and finding surprising insight from her older sister are just a few of the mishaps that befall Kara as she tries to discreetly observe the boys and finds some facts along the way. A cute look at how to wiggle through life as a pre - teenager and its social challenges.

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### **Stephanie Redwine says**

This is a cute book for younger teens. By the time you reach 7th grade, everyone has had a boyfriend! Or so Kara McAllister thinks. She is so upset because she is the only person who hasn't had a boyfriend, or even her first kiss! Even her best friend got her first kiss during spin the bottle! All Kara got was a lousy handshake. This is what gives Kara a great idea. She has to turn in her science fair project in a few weeks, and what would be better than to do a project on what makes a good soul mate (or boyfriend). She uses the scientific method and different charts, graphs, and surveys to create her data on her project. This witty book takes you places that no 7th grade girl should have to go, including the boys' bathroom! Kara has to go through the ins and outs of middle school drama: including liking her best friend's boyfriend, being teased by the "popular girls", and having to deal with "unfair teachers". I feel like this book is something that any girl, 4th through 8th grade, could really identify with. Kara feels like she is the only girl without a boyfriend and she learns throughout the book that it is okay to not have a boyfriend, and she is able to really discover that

she is special in her own way. By being true to herself she is able to gain a lot of new friends, respect, and maybe even a boyfriend....

I loved the fact that the author was able to integrate the scientific method, bar graphs, circle graphs, line plots, and surveys into a cute book that any girl would love to read. In order to gather data for her project, she goes through some interesting situations. She even ends up in the boys' bathroom! It is easy to imagine this story as having actually happened. The situations that Kara gets put in are laughable and you are able to feel sorry for her as she is trying to maneuver her way through middle school. This is a quick read and a great book to help lift up your spirits! It is not a book that I would usually read, and it is certainly geared towards younger, female readers, but it was still enjoyable to me!

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### **Laura Renegar says**

I loved reading the ARC of THE BOY PROJECT. Kami captured the voice of a middle schooler and whisked me back in time to the awkwardness and joys of those years. I laughed and cringed as Kara used the scientific method to try to figure out boys. My 9-year-old loved DIARY OF A WIMPY KID, and this was the same sort of fun with a smart, artsy girl as a main character. You can read her review at [http://laurarenegar.blogspot.com/2011... .](http://laurarenegar.blogspot.com/2011...)

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### **Karissa says**

The Boy Project  
by: Karissa

Title: The Boy Project

Author: Kami Kinard

"Unfortunately, when you're twelve, being small is a consolation for being the ONLY girl in your class who has NEVER had a boyfriend."

The Boy Project is about this girl named Kara who has NEVER had a boyfriend and all the girls in her class have had one. So Kara starts this survey on all the guys in her grade to see what they want in a girl. She starts liking this guy named Even but she finds out how much of a jerk he is for dumping her best friend. So she ends up liking this guy named "Chip Tyler" a total geek! After she finally gets advice from her sister.

I like the Boy Project because it leaves you in suspense at some parts. I also like it because it makes you want/have to read the rest. It actually turns out to be a happy ending. Makes you want to read the rest right!?

I recommend this book to people who like love kind of stories. I also recommend it to people who like having a social life. This book is great for girls who have never had a boyfriend!!(;

love, Karissa

P.S. Once you start reading the book you won't want to stop!!

