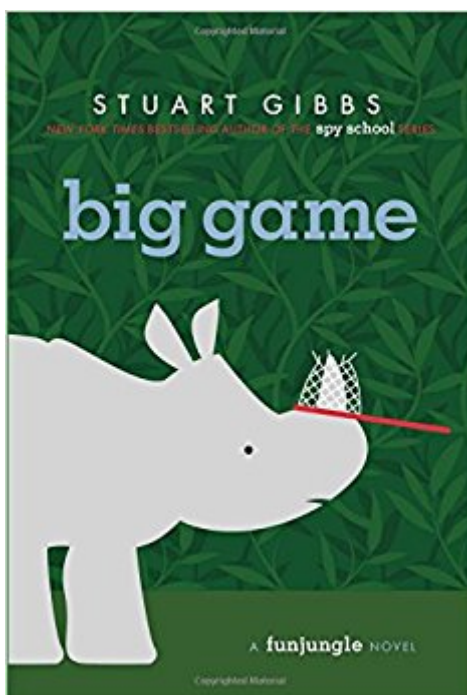


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# Big Game (FunJungle)



## Synopsis

Teddy Fitzroy returns as FunJungle's resident zoo sleuth when a rhinoceros is at risk in *Big Game*, a follow-up to *Belly Up* and *Poached*—which Kirkus Reviews called a “thrill-ride of a mystery.” When someone takes aim at Rhonda Rhino, FunJungle's pregnant (and endangered) Asian greater one-horned rhinoceros, the zoo steps up security measures in order to protect this rare animal and her baby. But the extra security isn't enough—someone is still getting too close for comfort. Teddy and company start to suspect that whoever is after Rhonda is really after her horn, which is worth a lot of money on the black market. For the first time ever, the head of the zoo enlists Teddy for help—for once, he doesn't have to sneak around in order to investigate—and the results are even more wacky, and even more dangerous, than ever before.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Series: FunJungle

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 11, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481423347

ISBN-13: 978-1481423342

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,703 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books

> Animals > Zoos #76 in Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives #520

in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

**PRAISE FOR BELLY UP** "Great fun. . . .In his authorial debut, screenwriter Gibbs combines details of the inner workings of zoos with some over-the-top action for an entertaining read." (Kirkus Reviews)

**PRAISE FOR POACHED** "This thrill-ride of a mystery is chock-full of hijinks for middle-grade sleuths and budding zoologists alike." (Kirkus Reviews)"[A] genuinely engaging

mystery set in a zoo. . . . Poached is so strong that it is surprisingly second in a series, following 2010's *Belly Up*, with only a few lines that refer to past adventures and, better yet, do not give spoilers for an audience that is sure to want to read more. . . . This will appeal to animal and mystery lovers alike." (VOYA)"[W]hopper of a whodunit that delivers plenty of suspects, action, slapstick, gross bodily functions, red herrings, and animal trivia. This sequel stands alone nicely, and while the mystery is solved at the end, new occurrences promise to make Teddy's life much more interesting in a possible third book." (School Library Journal)

Stuart Gibbs is the author of the FunJungle series, as well as the New York Times bestselling *Spy School* and *Moon Base Alpha* series. He has written the screenplays for movies like *See Spot Run* and *Repli-Kate*, worked on a whole bunch of animated films, developed TV shows for Nickelodeon, Disney Channel, ABC, and Fox. Stuart lives with his wife and children in Los Angeles. You can learn more about what he's up to at [StuartGibbs.com](http://StuartGibbs.com).

Thoughts: I have been reading Stuart Gibbs' *Spy School* series for quite a while now, but only recently heard of the FunJungle series. Since Stuart Gibbs is one of my favorite authors, I decided it would be a crime to not read his other books. I picked up this book, firstly because it was a FunJungle book, and secondly because it's Stuart Gibbs' latest book (Oscar and I always read and review our interviewed authors' latest books). I immediately was thrust into Teddy's world, and I couldn't turn my eyes away. I always love mysteries, as long as they're the type that are action-packed, mind-boggling, and suspenseful. *Big Game* is definitely those three things, and so much more. I loved every one of the characters in this book. They were all developed, and at times so ridiculously silly that I honestly couldn't take them seriously (Marge.) But that's what I love about this book - it's like a weird mix of some wacky Roald Dahl characters, *Percy Jackson*, and mystery. The writing was enjoyable, suspenseful, and (of course) hilarious. There was an amazing twist at the end, and the story kept the reader on their toes the whole times. Overall, probably one of my favorite mysteries I've ever read.

This is another gem in the Funjungle series. Someone is after Rhonda the Rhino! She has been shot at from a distance and everyone at Funjungle wants to find the perpetrator and ensure the safety of the rhinos (who are very endangered due to some mumbo jumbo about their horns being medicinal, which is blatantly false). Teddy Fitzroy, the hero of our Funjungle series is put on the case by the owner, JJ McCracken, to help find this terrible person and bring them to justice. Meanwhile,

someone is throwing garbage cans through shop windows after hours and making off with baked goods, ice cream and 25 pounds of candy. Teddy is now also investigating this crime to clear his name for Large Marge, who works security in the park and is determined to get Teddy for his vagrant behavior because he is such a bad apple (also bogus). Teddy and his friend Summer, JJ's daughter, find evidence that the shooter is someone inside Funjungle and they must find out who it is before the rhino's horns are removed in an attempt to "save them" from this nefarious person. I do enjoy a good mystery and one set inside a zoo is even better. What made this book such fun is the interactions Teddy and his parents (a primatologist and wildlife photographer both employed by the zoo) have with all the creatures. The included information the author has at the end of the novel about the devastation of the rhino population is also interesting and very sad at the same time. This is another great book from the Funjungle series and I eagerly await new releases. I must also mention this is great as a stand alone (you don't have to read the other two to enjoy this book) but I am sure you will want to seek the other two, Poached and Belly Up, if you read this one. While there is implied violence with the shooting, there is nothing here that would scare younger readers and is definitely a suitable chapter book for bedtime reading.

Daughter loved it, second in a series which we are working through! She is also finishing up the Spy School series! We love Stuart Gibbs!

my 11 yr old son loved it!

My students are obsessed with this author and series.

Gripping book Makes me feel like my dad's purchase was 101% worth it. Every time I read Big Game, I can't stop reading. I recommend this book to kids 8 years and up. I am sure they'll love it.

My kids love this series! Especially my boy. It's hard to find books with a young boy as the main character and that seems relatable to pre-teen boys.

My son loves this series. He is one that has struggled finding books that he likes and can stick with so this was a wonderful find and he is excited for the next book in the series when this one is done!

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