



## Into the Dangerous World

*Julie Chibbaro , Jean-Marc Superville Sovak (Illustrations)*

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\*"This striking combination of story and illustration creates a powerful portrait of a budding artist."

Publishers Weekly starred review

Raised on a Staten Island commune in the 1980s, Aurora has never attended a day of school, and has seen little of the outside world. What she knows best is drawing. To her, it's like breathing; it's how she makes sense of the world. When her father burns down the commune, killing himself in the process, Ror's life changes. She ends up in Manhattan, where she discovers that the walls, the subways, the bridges are covered with art. Before long, she runs into trouble with Trey, the ultimate bad boy and president of Noise Ink, a graffiti crew she desperately wants to join.

When Ror falls in love with Trey, she realizes she'll do just about anything to get up in the scene. She has some decisions to make: she wants to be a street artist but she doesn't want get shot by the cops; she wants her art in the museum but she doesn't want to die waiting to become famous; she wants to makes money selling her work in a gallery but she doesn't want to be a puppet at the mercy of a dealer. The book follows her descent into a dangerous world, where her drawings are her only salvation.

"I think I've found my new favorite author! This story of a young artist's struggle to find her voice against all odds shimmers with authenticity. Julie Chibbaro understands the actual dynamics of being a high school student and struggling with the volatile world of street art and the insular nature of high art. Every character feels like someone I've known, debating how art fits into their life." --Ron English, acclaimed street artist, culture jammer, and designer of Popaganda.

"Rebellion, peer pressure, the desperation to belong—who can't relate? But there's more here. Chibbaro's wholly original outsider character, Ror, takes us into the world of graffiti artists. Written with a wild abandon matched only by a haunted and unapologetic main character, this bold book wakes us up to an urban tribe who operate in the margins. Then there's the powerful, primal art by JM Superville Sovak. The art feels so organic to the text, it's hard to imagine one without the other. Yes, this is a dangerous world, but all the world is dangerous until, like Ror, you learn to listen to your own voice, and determine to be the architect of your own dreams. A little rough around the edges where it needs to be (I can hear some parents and teachers groaning about the language), *Into the Dangerous World* is a journey worth taking. This is one author I'll definitely be watching." --Nikki Grimes, award-winning author of *Bronx Masquerade*

## Into the Dangerous World Details

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Author : Julie Chibbaro , Jean-Marc Superville Sovak (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Into the Dangerous World for online ebook

### **Emily says**

So, this book. This. Book.

There have been plenty books in recent years that are so called “hybrids” - part graphic novel, part traditional, written book.

But, to be honest, Into the Dangerous World not only fits this category the best, but also is the most hard hitting and the best written.

Ror doesn't have an easy life, and never has. Her father has raised her with warped views of the world, some good, some bad, and some blatantly wrong. She's grown up learning to distrust the government in a homeschooled and socially tolerable existence, and then suddenly, she's thrust into New York under government assistance.

This book is more about identity than anything else. Ror has to figure out who she is. Who she is as a daughter, a sister, a friend, a person. And, of most importance to her, an artist.

I have almost no complaints in this book. There are one or two sentences that stuck in my head and made me cringe, because they were jarring and obviously the author's words, not Ror's (“She said it like they had had a baby.”), but overall my only issue is that the book wasn't longer, or doesn't have a sequel in the works. Ror's story isn't over, and I want to see it to the end.

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### **ristubasan says**

I have mixed feelings about this book - but then I'm not the target audience for it. I liked the artwork interspersed with the text, but inevitably they didn't always mesh, and I felt the artwork sometimes did a better job of exploring the protagonist's contradictions and the troubled influence of her father on her thinking. As a coming of age story there were moments when it really worked, and moments when it set itself back - maybe that's the style, I don't typically read this particular genre. I'm more used to books that attempt a wider character development, whereas this was told entirely from the perspective of one teenager as she develops a sense of herself. I felt the backstory the author gave her (raised on a commune with adults generally beating their own path) meant she started with more of a sense of self than most teenagers have, and the author could have explored that more had she also developed the other characters who came from the commune, or possibly just by occasionally describing the protagonist from the perspective of the other characters. Good; thought-provoking; yes. Yes, I'd recommend it, cautiously.

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### **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

First off I have to say that I love Graffiti. I mean it takes balls of steal to draw something in your heart somewhere you know you're not supposed to. I live in Boston and I swear I could spend all day looking at all the great graffiti we have here. So when I saw this book was about graffiti and one girl's journey I knew I had

to read it. The only thing I wanted more of from this book is what happened to my girl Aurora AKA Ror.

Ror loves art and drawing. She spends her days and nights drawing things and painting things. She has no idea what the real world holds because she lives on a commune with her parents and sister. Her father is the leader of the commune and tells Ror to always remember her gift and keep on painting and drawing. Then one day something tragic happens and Ror and her mother and sister leave the commune and flee to Manhattan.

When they arrive in Manhattan they go to a shelter to stay until they can get an apartment. Ror definitely is out of her element as she has never been in the real world. It is here she will have to go to school and see graffiti every where. She loves it because the museums and art galleries show her so much more than she could have ever imagined. It was funny reading about her first day at school and what she thought of the other kids and how she felt being somewhere new.

Then she meets a bad boy you know the one your mother told you to stay away from well this is Trey. Lord he is such a bad boy plus he is the leader of Noise Ink a graffiti crew. She starts to graffiti with them and she soon finds herself in trouble. She is now faced with many options. She could follow her teachers advice and go to college or she could continue on her destructive path with Trey and the crew or she could listen to her father and follow the classics who are in the art museum.

What will my girl Aurora do?

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### **Seth says**

I'm not entirely sure what to call *Into the Dangerous World*, by Julie Chibbaro. It's not a graphic novel, but the art by JM Superville Sovak is integral to the reading experience, so I guess I'll call it an illustrated novel. Sovak creates the illustrations of the protagonist, Ror. They range from graffiti to sketches, and they help the reader to become immersed in Ror's world. There is also plenty to like in Chibbaro's writing.

From the very first sentence the reader is drawn into the story. It helps that it starts with a reference to Ror's father burning their house down. But Ror's past would be interesting without the fire. She lived with her paranoid father, mother, and sister on a commune with several others who wanted to live off the land. Dado, her father, was heavily influenced by the works of William Blake, he despised pop culture and was terrified of Reagan. But after Dado burns the house down and kills himself in the process, the family is forced to move to New York City.

The commune and the fire are really just part of the exposition, and the plot takes off as Ror tries to find herself while finding her way in a strange new place. She also discovers the world of graffiti crews. She's quickly hooked as she meets Trey, a love interest and inspiration for her new passion.

The story is excellent and contains authentic details, Chibbaro clearly did her research, that help the novel to stand out. Her descriptions of New York through Ror's eyes are vivid, particularly when she is consuming some form of art. She also nails the dialog of the teenagers in the novel, which is a huge challenge for young adult writers. Overall this is an ambitious and unique effort that is realized through the talent of Chibbaro and Sovak.

Teacher's note: This is mainly for high school readers due to the language. There are also references to sex, drugs, and alcohol, but not enough to warrant concern for younger readers. The language is the reason I

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won't recommend it to middle schoolers.

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### **Heather Hollister says**

Ror is a great person. She has been through the fire taking the house that her and Dado built. She had never been to school or out in the real world. After her tragedy of losing Dado and having to find a new place to live she is also made to go to a real school. Ror is a great character. She has a love for drawing. I am glad she met Trey and her other friends. The Dangerous World taught Ror a lot of new things. This book is well written. Give it a try.

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### **? Kim ? says**

Into the Dangerous World quickly drew me in and kept my interest to the end. It is slightly juvenile, but it is targeted at 14 years old and up. I enjoyed the pace and the idea of reading a book from a teenage perspective. In the end, I ended up loving this book and wanted to know what happened next. ...next week, next month, next year.

I am very pleased to have won this book in a first reads giveaway – Thanks Goodreads!

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### **Laura says**

As a teen visiting NYC in the 70s and then as a young adult living there in the 80s, I remember the graffiti covered trains and stations (and the movie Turk 187 - anyone else remember that?). While some was really beautiful, most of it was just tags defacing others property. The author here has tried to explain the why of how teens get into tagging, in some ways glorifying it; using a very naive character, Ror, as our entry into this world was a good choice. However, Staten Island is not the boonies (sorry, Manhattanites, but it isn't!) and the trauma of being ripped from her life on the commune to life in NYC isn't explored as deeply as it should have been. I also didn't see why it was set in 1984, when tagging and graffiti is still going strong (Banksy, anyone?). Maybe because there was no other way to give Ror the commune background?

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### **Whitney Atkinson says**

DNF at 148 pages.

This book's idea was solid, but I hate the way it was done.

It's set in the 80s about an artistic girl who lived estranged from the world on her family's small farm, but then moves to NYC when they become homeless. There were just several things in this book that I could not be on the same level with.

1. The main character was so estranged from the world that her whole mentality is that "everything is dumb!"

i hate people! the "normals" are so dumb, the cops are pigs, i hate organized society," etc. etc. etc.

2. The slang of NYC in the 80s is something that I find so lame, it was grating to read. The dialogue on every single page, to no fail, makes me cringe.

3. The girl is interested in doing graffiti, which is really really uninteresting to me. I kinda expected better from her.

4. The pictures in this book are not nearly as pretty and artistic as I thought they would be. They're very cryptic and confusing, and don't add anything to the story.

So yeah, i'm not a fan of this book. I was gonna push myself to finish it but I honestly can't. The main character is a downer, I think the time period is annoying, and tbh i'm not intent on finishing a book that I know I would not enjoy, at all, no matter how it ends.

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## **Christine says**

### **Oh my god the art the story**

The art in this book is awesome I grew up in st.Louis mo. So graffiti was around a lot there so I know the look of it. But this story was so great this is such a great read. Worth the money. Pluses if I could I'd give this a 10. Thank you for letting me read in arc .I loved it so much I even bought .

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## **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

[www.melissa413readsalot.blogspot.com](http://www.melissa413readsalot.blogspot.com)

I thought the book was pretty good. My star rating is actually 3.5.

Aurora (Ror), her mom, her sister Marilyn and her dad all live in a commune, squatting on land that they don't own and making a home selling things they make and from animal produce. Their dad brings in a few more people into the commune. But their dad isn't all together there and soon everyone leaves but Ror's family. Their dad does something drastic and Ror, Marilyn and her mom are left on their own.

They end up staying at a shelter for a little bit until they can get some kind of housing. Ror didn't like the shelter, she wanted to just go outside and stay somewhere.

\*Excerpt\*

**The place stank of anonymous farts, pit funk, dollar store perfume.**

\*End Excerpt\*

They end up in this community motel place, which just seems like an old apartment building to me, but anyway, they have a room, a tv, a hot plate and a couple of other things. They have to use a communal bathroom.

Marilyn and her mother want Ror to wear a wig so she doesn't have to wear hats all of the time. The back of her head got burned so she was a bit of a skin head back there. This is Ror's interpretation of what she thought!

\*Excerpt\*

**I looked in the mirror. I looked like I belonged in that movie Hair. Like some tv hippie. I pulled the headband thing down around my neck, flipped the wig sideways, and bared my teeth. Now I looked like I was in a band with Sid Vicious**

\*End Excerpt\*

Needless to say, Ror didn't wear the wig.

Ror is a really great artist. Even the local man in the paint, etc store thinks she should show her work to galleries. He's nice and I liked his character, his name was Jonathan.

But Ror ends up in a graffiti crew. She drew some really awesome things with this group. I was afraid she would end up doing this and blow her whole supposed future away when she started skipping some school.

It all worked out okay in the end. I'm not sure whatever happened to Ror, but I would like to know if she went on and became something.

There is also some really nice graphics throughout the book.

\*I would like to thank Penguin Books and Julie Chibbaro for giving me the opportunity to read this book for my honest review.\*

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### **Samantha says**

Into the Dangerous World by Julie Chibbaro is an interesting book that shows the world through a day of a budding artist. As Aurora moves to a new place, she has to get used to being in a high school, as well as getting used to a new society and life. This book is alright, though it strays from a girl and her new experience to a romance story, which is a large downside from what I was expecting. As a realistic fiction novel for young adults, it was easy to follow and despite the stray from the original point, it was a nice story that had a lackluster ending. If it stayed on track with what it was trying to end up being, then I would have enjoyed it much more. The moral of this story is to be yourself and do what you're passionate in despite other people, which is a good message for young viewers. I would recommend this to anyone who doesn't mind a story straying a bit or something that is like Fault In Our Stars which kind of has the same basic premise.

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### **Becky says**

This book was seriously putting me to sleep. It focuses almost entirely on the main character's relationship with art, and her relationships with other people were developed only as much as they were about art. When it comes down to it, I read for relationships, so I'm sure that's why I thought it was boring. If you're super into the graffiti scene in NYC in the early 80s, this book is for you.

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## Malissa says

This is a rather difficult book for me to review because it is so far out of my realm of expectancy and has such an amazingly personal feel to it that I almost feel like reviewing this book is the equivalent of telling another person how I feel about all their life choices as a teenager.

One thing I did not realize going into this book is the era in which it covers. This is the era of my childhood (although, and I have to admit this to make myself feel better, I was not quite a teenager during this time), this was a time that our society found itself in a bit of an upheaval. The Vietnam War had only 'ended' ten years prior to the stories timeline, We were on the cusp of the Cold War, the idealism of the 60's and 70's had come seemingly to a screeching halt as people struggled to find a new identity in a post wartime world where government, inflation, conservatism, and materialism had begun to explode. This is a time where a generation of teens were lost in the fray, trying to find their own places as they began to mature and come into themselves, a time where a lost generation of children were trying to fight the changes around them and find their voices.

All that being said...Teens of today's world, do not set this book aside as the book of your parents generation. Do not think that this is a story that won't resonate with you because it came from a time before you were a blip in the atmosphere. Do not think that because this book is as much a history book as it is a fiction story that you won't find it interesting because in each of these things you would find yourself mistaken. This book is a book that can and will open your eyes to the world that was being shaped while your parents were your age now. This is a book about self discovery, about fears, and desires. A book about finding your place in this huge machine of a world, of standing your ground, taking chances, and becoming the person you are meant to be. This is a book that will surely grab your attention and get you asking questions of your teachers and parents. It will remind you that while in each generation we feel like we are the only ones, that no one could ever feel the way we do, or struggle the way you do, YOU are not alone. We may not all travel the same path but we have all been at the same point sometime in our lives...simply said, your parents understand you more than you may ever realize.

Aurora (Ror) is quite the conundrum for me, as much as I think she is for herself actually. She grew up in a faltering commune living by the ideals her father (Dado) set forth and attempted to foster. After tragedy strikes the family, Ror, her mother, and her older sister are forced to now rely on a system which they had shunned, a system which is fundamentally broken and leaves them struggling to survive in the harsh world of New York City's poverty. She is thrown in to the public school system as a sophomore who is artistically inclined, been burned badly enough that she feels the need to cover her head with knit caps, was raised and home schooled in a 'hippie' commune, and taught to fear 'the man'. This would be a Dangerous World to any teenager, a world in which they don't fit in, are labeled, and if not outright bullied then ignored, but this is the world she now has to find her own place in and she begins to do that through her art.

I really would have loved to have more of her story. I would not say that the book ended abruptly but to feel as though you have travelled this incredible journey of self discovery with Ror and never know what happens to her as she goes out 'Into the Dangerous World' was a bit of a downer. I know we should all take that moment to use our own imaginations and see her future through our own eyes, but man I would have liked to have heard it from the author, at least in a epilogue. I think the reasoning is because as I said in the beginning of this review, I felt like this was a truly personal story in many ways and I need to know how it ended from their eyes because I could simply not do it justice.

Readers will love the art in the book, it has a bit of a graphic novel vibe to it, which truly just enhances the story being told. It makes it so much easier to visualize everything Ror and the NoiseInk Crew do, especially for readers like myself who are not artistically inclined, ha. I have to admit to googling 'Fire Pop' and I am still not certain I know exactly what that artistic term means, although I am going with my best guess, haha. I am a HUGE fan of e-readers as many of you know and I did read this book as an e-copy but I think in this case this is a definite hard copy kind of book. I think having the ability to physically touch the pages, the art would make the connection to this story even more emotional.

This is a great read for young YA readers (14 and up) as well as adults. For me it was a bit of a look back into my history (although I grew up in a very different way) and made me want to search out information that I would not have had about our society when I was a teen. For teens, I think this is an important book of self discovery, of learning to trust yourself. I would love to see this book in high school/college English Lit classes being analyzed and discussed. I think it could truly open a whole new world for people.

\*\*This book does deal with the death of two parents and some of the harsh reality of living in poverty. Please for parents of younger YA readers especially, although I would suggest this to everyone, take the time to discuss this book with your reader!\*\*

~HAPPY READING~

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<http://www.readsallthebooks.com/2015/...>

### **Jody says**

This is a really original novel, told in both prose and artwork, and captures the feeling of 1980's New York City. Being a teenager is hard enough without your whole world falling apart. Raised on a commune, with no contact with the outside world, Ror must suddenly navigate homelessness, and school, in NYC when the only home she's ever known is burnt down by someone she loves. Ms. Chibbaro tells her story with emotional truth and fearlessness, enhanced by the drawings of Mr. Superville Sovak. Read this book.

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### **Crystal (that.ending.though) says**

I really wasn't sure what to expect from this one. It definitely isn't one I would have picked up for myself (the publisher sent me this one), so I was very hesitant to try it, but it was actually pretty good overall. I liked Ror and seeing how she grew throughout the story. I really like that the setting was in the 80s. The illustrations in the book are really great and added a lot to the story. I really didn't have any issues with the book, I think just since it's not really my type of book I didn't LOVE it. I do feel that others will, and this would be a really good fit for a high school library. It's a very good story about teens who have to struggle to get somewhere in life and not to give up hope no matter how tough things are.

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