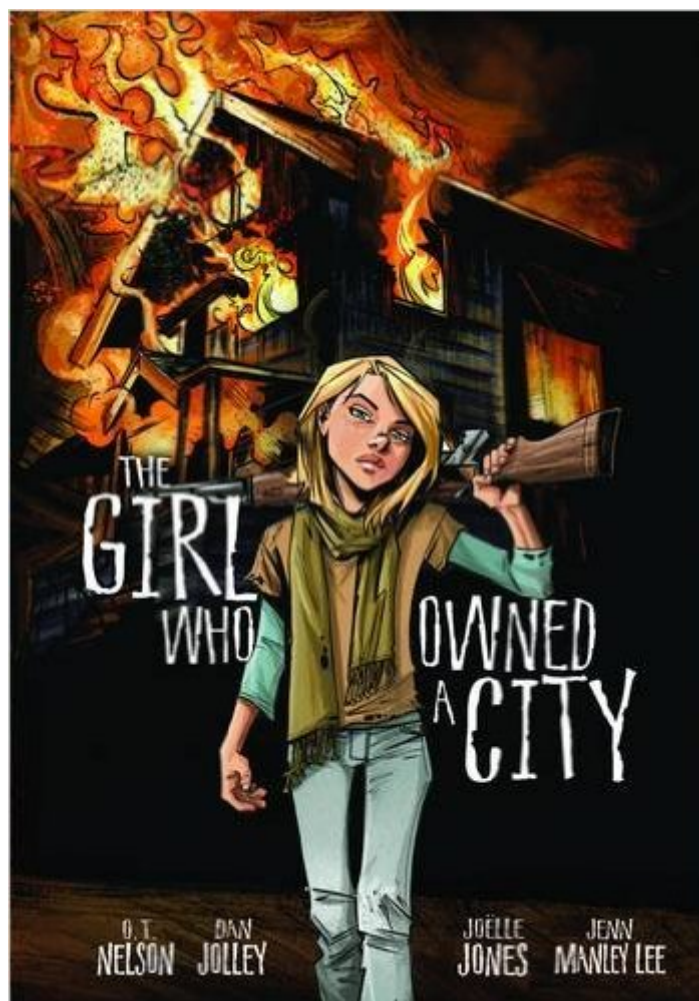


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# The Girl Who Owned A City: The Graphic Novel



## Synopsis

A deadly virus killed every adult on Earth, leaving only us kids behind. My parents are gone, so I'm responsible for my little brother, Todd. I have to make sure we stay alive. Many kids are sick or starving, and fierce gangs are stealing and destroying everything they find. Lots of people have given up, but here on Grand Avenue, some of us are surviving. Because of me. I figured out how to give the kids on Grand Avenue food, homes, and protection against the gangs. But Tom Logan and his army are determined to take away what we've built and rule the streets themselves. How long can we keep fighting them off? We need to find another place for us to live safely. A strong place. A secret place. In a world like this, someone has to take charge. But do I have the strength to take charge of a whole city?

## Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 9

## Customer Reviews

I got an eGalley of this graphic novel though NetGalley(dot)com. I have never read the original work by O.T. Nelson so I can't compare to that. This was a very entertaining read though; the art was well done and I really enjoyed it. Something horrible happened and everyone over the age of twelve died and turned into dust. Now the kids are left to survive on their own. Lisa decides to claim a building as her own and build a city for kids to come and shelter at. She organizes the city and gets it

running to provide food, protection, and shelter for all of the kids that dwell there. When an opposing faction from the city comes and tries to take over Lisa's city, Lisa and her kids find themselves in a lot of trouble. The art throughout this story is very well done. The art is easy to follow, done in beautiful full color and matches the tone of the story well. I thought the story itself was a bit un-realistic and unbelievable. Especially the way Lisa resolves the competition between her city and the opposing army; I thought this was anti-climatic and unrealistic. The idea of a world where only kids survive is an interesting one though and being that it is kids trying to deal with all of this some of the immature decisions the characters make ends up making more sense than you would think. Lisa is a complicated character; she does some good and some bad. She is trying hard to help the kids survive but the fact that she wants her city to be a sort of dictatorship really makes you stop and think. The side characters are all fairly interesting as well; I was surprised at the depth of the story and at how many different societal and survival issues it tackles. Overall this was a very entertaining reading.

Lisa's arm reached through the glass of a door she'd just broken through in an attempt to turn the doorknob. She stumbled across a lifeless body after trying to apologize for breaking and entering. She was hungry and was in search of food for herself and her young brother, Todd. There was nothing but dust, that body, and a letter sitting on a desk. Well, there were maggots in the wastebasket and a sour smell emanating from the fridge if you want to add that to the mix. The letter was curious, but really nothing to her. A Mr. John Williams had written to his son. He was describing the virus that has spread around the world claiming, "It's the worst in history" and that it was "not fatal to children under the age of about 12 years." Yes, but would it lay dormant until they got older? There was not time to think about the possibilities because Lisa Nelson was simply concerned about surviving. Her eyes lit up when she found a can opener. She hopped behind the wheel of a car, hoping she could remember how her Dad drove it and was off to find seven-year-old Todd. It was hard to find food and keeping it was dangerous with gang activity. The Chidester gang was a "bunch of hungry kids who think they can bully people." They were smart, but not as smart as Lisa. Even though she promised Todd he'd be fine, they'd attacked him and stole his food. Tom Logan was behind this mess and he was enlisting other kids to steal for him. It would have to stop! Lisa scoured the Grand Avenue finding the "same story all over the neighborhood." Logan and his gang were enlisting kids to steal for them, holding them hostage with little to eat until they did his bidding. She had to figure out how to take care of all the children, while learning how to protect them.

The Girl Who Owned a City is a graphic novel adaptation of O. T. Nelson's classic children's book from the 1970s by comic book veterans, Dan Jolley and JoAnn Jones. It is set in a post-apocalyptic world where everyone over the age of twelve has died of a mysterious virus. The children of the world - Chicago, specifically - are faced with anarchy, dwindling food, and finding resources for survival. The protagonist is ten year old Lisa Nelson, who is left with her little brother, Todd, in her care. She is a shrewd tween who is surviving better than most due to her quick thinking and obstinate character. Lisa rapidly learns that the only way she and her brother are going to continue to beat the odds is to make alliances and find a way to defend themselves against the gangs that are beginning to form. I do not usually read comic books or graphic novels unless there is something my five year old wants read to her. However, I thought this work was brilliant. I have not read the original book, but through the gorgeous illustrations, I do not feel as if I was missing anything. As a parent, I experienced a certain horror from reading and seeing how the children were expected to survive. Something that children probably will not notice, but resonated strongly with me, was the lack of babies in the illustrations. (I have no illusions as to what would happen to most infants if that particular doomsday did occur.) Lisa blew me away with her strength and determination to keep her kids and her city safe from the opposition. This little girl was an adept problem-solver and born leader, who was able to navigate through some very tricky situations.

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