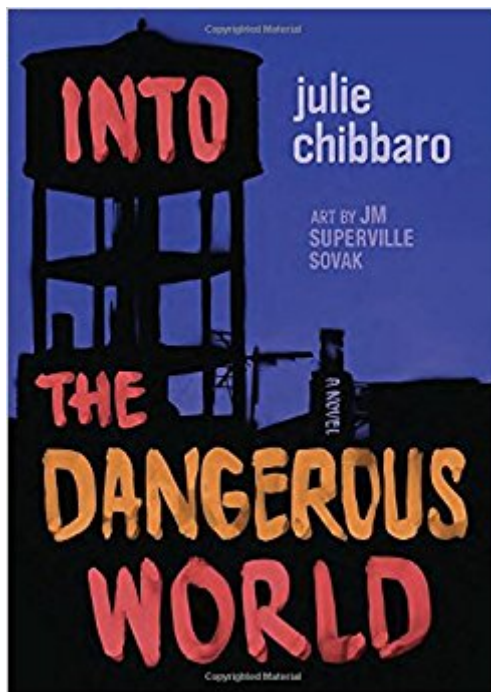


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# Into The Dangerous World



## Synopsis

At a family meeting, Ror declares her purpose: She is an artist. But she doesn't really know what that means. Raised on a commune, she's 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 torches the commune and himself, Ror's life changes. She, her mother and sister end up in a homeless residence in Manhattan, where she runs into trouble and love with Trey, the leader of Noise Ink, a graffiti crew. On the city's streets, and in its museums and galleries, Ror finds herself pulled in different directions. Her father wanted her to make classic art. Noise Ink insists she stay within their lines. Her art teacher urges her to go to college. What does she want? Ror's journey is a seamless blend of words and pictures, cinematic in its scope--a sharp-edged, indelible work of art that will live inside your head.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up Ror is an artist. Growing up on a commune on Staten Island during the 1970s and 1980s allowed her to explore this aspect of herself. Her father, also an artist, burns down their home while he is inside it. Now Ror, her mother, and her sister, must learn to live in Regan-era Brooklyn

with very limited resources. The teen has never been to high school but has learned much about art and literature from her father. The only course she cares about is her art class. There she meets Trey. He is a street artist, and Ror becomes fascinated with graffiti and is eager to join his crew. The protagonist learns to appreciate this new art form but is also scared of the risks associated with getting caught. Eventually, she recognizes that she needs to trust her own instincts, listen to mentors, and not rely entirely on her growing feelings for Trey to guide her art. Ror is a prickly but fully realized character to whom artistic teens will relate. Superville Sovak channels Ror and provides images that illustrate how the teen is experiencing and interpreting the new world around her. VERDICT Fans of Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor & Park* (St. Martins, 2013) and Cath Crowley's *Graffiti Moon* (Knopf, 2012) who are ready for something a bit grittier will find much to love here. — Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH

"A thought-provoking, beautiful exploration of the artistic process."--Kirkus Reviews "This bold book wakes us up to an urban tribe that operates in the margins. The powerful, primal art feels so organic to the next, it's hard to imagine one without the other." -- Nikki Grimes, award-winning author of *Bronix Masquerade* — "Shimmers with authenticity and the actual dynamics of what it's like to be a teenager facing both 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* "Chibbaro's gritty novel follows Ror as she figures out what type of artist she wants to become while using her drawing to channel her grief. Illustrator Sovak, Chibbaro's husband and collaborator on 2011's *Deadly*, skillfully conveys Ror's artistic talent in vibrant and emotionally resonant b&w sketches. ... Period references (Blondie, Keith Haring, the Reagan administration) provide context, yet the book feels modern and relevant as this striking combination of story and illustration creates a powerful portrait of a budding artist."--Publishers Weekly, starred review  
Junior Library Guild Selection

These days I always have a stack of started books waiting to be finished because life gets in the way and I forget them after a few chapters, but after a few paragraphs of *Into The Dangerous World* I was so enchanted with Ror that I needed to follow her on her journey of self discovery and see where she went. Beautifully written and illustrated, I was sucked right in. Then Trey was introduced, and I was fascinated. The characters were so fully fleshed out that I could feel the electricity between them jumping out at me from the pages. The book begins with Ror's life as she has always

known it crumbling down around her. With little support, she's left to pick up the remaining pieces and figure out what to do with them. Pulled in different directions and not knowing who to trust, including her own instincts and emotions, she struggles to find her place in the world. The honesty of the characters, each beautifully flawed in their own way, keeps you rooting for them to pull themselves out of the mess that has been created for them. The illustrations, particularly the visuals of the artwork described in the novel, were beautiful and intricate and helps the reader feel like part of the story. I was unable to put this book down and finished it quickly, and was sad to say goodbye to the characters when it was over. Highly recommend.

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. Plus 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 .

Seventeen-year-old Ror is forced to move from her commune to a residence for the homeless in Manhattan when her father burns down their house and perishes in the blaze. In shock from the loss of both home and father, Ror then faces the usual challenges of going to a new school that many other teens undergo as well. She gravitates to the artistic peer group in the art room and is attracted to Trey, the charismatic leader of a graffiti crew. Desperate to belong, Ror pushes to join the crew and passes gang-like initiation rites before she steps into the dangerous world of graffiti art. Julie Chibbaro's newest book is a suspenseful, romantic, and poignant coming of age story that is told through her riveting gritty prose and the striking illustrations of JM Superville Sovak. Together they create a vivid depiction of a budding artist finding her way through the labyrinth of identity development. The contrasting pressures from Ror's family, school, graffiti crew, and art mentors compel her to confront the meaning of being true to herself. It is a journey that will resonate with most teenagers, even though it unfolds in the unusual and refreshing context of underground art. The novel also skillfully depicts Ror's passage through the stages of grief over the loss of her father. Her dreams about and conversations with her father's specter are as moving and evocative as they are original. Through the novel, Ror searches for a balance between his legacy and anarchic worldview and her emerging values and vision. In the end, she comes to peace with his death when she finds an authentic path for her own life.

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.\*MY

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