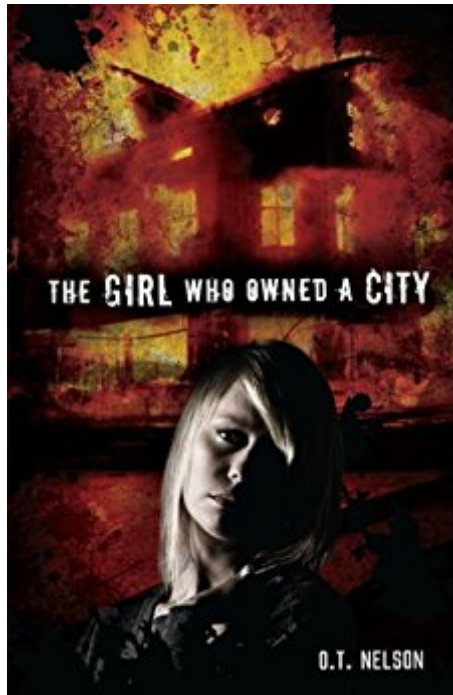


The book was found

The Girl Who Owned A City (Fiction - Young Adult)



Synopsis

A deadly plague has devastated Earth, killing all the adults. Lisa and her younger brother Todd are struggling to stay alive in a world where no one is safe. Other children along Grand Avenue need help as well. They band together to find food, shelter, and protection from dangerous gangs invading their neighborhood. When Tom Logan and his army start making threats, Lisa comes up with a plan and leads her group to a safer place. But how far is she willing to go to protect what's hers?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Read this as a child. My grandmother had it in her home library. Left a lasting impression on me so I ordered it for my son when he was still a teen. This is the updated version which was a little disappointing for me as a purist in that instead of a wagon for example the kids used rollerblades. But would recommend to readers both young and old.

While we may think the post-apocalyptic and dystopic trends in YA literature are relatively new, we seem to forget those gems like *The Giver*, *White Mountains*, and others. There might be a lot of YA out there these days, but there were some good ones out there before "the big YA boom"! O.T. Nelson's *The Girl Who Owned a City* looks at a world without adults where kids have to grow up quickly... or not grow up at all. When the adults all die of a flu that doesn't affect children under the age of 12, the children are left to fend for themselves. They can't drive, no one is making or delivering food anymore, and there is no electricity. Many kids are starving, but Lisa has to take care of her brother. She is very crafty and won't let her age keep her from keeping what's left of her family alive. First she starts out by raiding nearby farms, but she quickly realizes that won't last forever. When she finds a grocery warehouse, she knows they can make it through the winter. What she doesn't expect is just how far hungry kids will go to get some food. After her brother is attacked, Lisa organizes the other kids on the block, promising food if they all work together to protect their street. This lasts for a short while until the gangs burn her house to the ground as a warning to join them or suffer the consequences. Lisa won't be bullied, and with a few other trusted kids, she schemes to take over the one defensible castle she knows- the school. They secretly move to the school after reinforcing it to be a fortress, and create a community complete with a secret tunnel. But the gangs won't give up until they have what Lisa has created, at any cost. This book was written in the mid-1970's, and you can certainly tell that as you read it. I remember reading young adult stories when I was young, and with the exception of a select few, they were never really as exciting or polished as YA books these days. This book felt a little clunky and childish at times, and I think it might be too "40 years ago" for our skeptical students. Personally, I have no problem with the "outdated" nature of older books, but my students tend to be a bit more jaded when it comes to older stories. As a post-apocalyptic novel, it was really interesting how some kids gave up and others persevered. It also really explored the good and bad morals between working for what you have (although got a little preachy at times) and stealing from other people. I think the reading level for this is certainly middle school, but I probably wouldn't give this dated story to a kid unless they had rampaged through my PA and dystopias already. Maybe for a little context of how far the genre has come in 40 years with a strong reader? But if you are a fan of dystopias and post-apocalyptic stories, give this one a try!

I loved this book. I liked having a girl hero. I liked that she was strong, tough, smart. I read and re-read this often as a child. The story is of children left behind after a virus had taken the lives of

anyone over the age of about 12. Most children found themselves hiding out alone, had run out of food, and were afraid of the small bands of gangs who were looting the neighborhoods for more to eat. One 12 year old girl took others under her wing, supported them and bravely found a way for a large group of children to move into a safe place that became like a safe fortress. I bought it for my children years later and was surprised at how much more I understood as an adult, but still enjoyed it very much.

GREAT BOOK

I fell in love with this book when I read it in Jr high and was so excited when I found it on here. This story is one every person should read

Ever since I read this book in middle school I was fascinated with it! When I graduated I never found it again, but now I bought it as an eBook and it still continues to fascinate me! I recommend this book it's a very good read.

This is the book that got me into that whole post-apocalyptic type storyline. It is a great story with a girl heroin who you can't help but root for. Great for a middle schooler or the adult that enjoys these types of stories (Hunger games, divergent, etc)

This story is actually a really good story and makes for a really good plot line. The title didn't attract me at first, but I looked at the other reviews (not just on). When I got it, I realized that it was a great story about survival and knowledge. I would definitely recommend it if you like action.

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