



# Eighth Grade Bites #1: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod Graphic Novel

*Heather Brewer (Creator), Tony Lee (Adaptor), Julia Laud (Artist)*

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Heather Brewer's The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod series finally makes the move to graphic novels!

Thirteen-year-old Vladimir Tod really hates junior high. Bullies harass him, the principal is dogging him, and the girl he likes prefers his best friend. Oh, and Vlad has a secret: His mother was human, but his father was a vampire. With no idea of the extent of his powers, Vlad struggles daily with his blood cravings and his enlarged fangs. When a substitute teacher begins to question him a little too closely, Vlad worries that his cover is about to be blown. But then he faces a much bigger problem: He's being hunted by a vampire killer.

## **Eighth Grade Bites #1: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod Graphic Novel Details**

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ISBN : 9780803738119

Author : Heather Brewer (Creator) , Tony Lee (Adaptor) , Julia Laud (Artist)

Format : Paperback 144 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Paranormal, Vampires, Fantasy, Young Adult, Manga, Supernatural



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## **From Reader Review Eighth Grade Bites #1: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod Graphic Novel for online ebook**

### **priya says**

I like this book it's a very fun read, and doesn't take very long to finish.

Though I can't get over the sexism (read progress) and the abrupt convo and scene changes.

The book doesn't have a good flow either the pacing is very random in a terrible way, especially near the end it felt like things were being rushed, and I don't feel like I was getting the full enjoyment that I could've gotten

Solid 3 stars

I recommend this to anyone who is not looking for anything serious, and just a fun light read

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### **Peacegal says**

I didn't really care for this graphic novel. It felt like a quickie cashin to me.

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### **Arnela says**

When I saw how thin the comic was I was already worried.

The art isn't bad, the anatomy is mostly good, there's an angle here or there that's slightly awkward, the coloring is well done. This part I'm ok with.

It follows the plot of the first Vladimir Tod novel so there's not much change there.

My biggest issue with this, which brought the star rating so far down, is it feels like we rushed through the whole book. It just seems like they're not pacing it at all, there's no buildup to the conflict it just sort of happens, like we're going along and figuring things out and then boom bad guy, boom resolution, flip to the end cover. It's disappointing to see that done to a story that could have been a great comic. Like this is the type of story that was born to be told through comic format, it might have even been better than the novel IF WE PACED THE SCENES OUT RIGHT.

I'm just so disappointed in how this was handled.

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### **Joella [www.cinjoella.com](http://www.cinjoella.com) says**

This is the first book in “The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod” series—but in graphic novel format. The story is

still the same great story of Vlad, the only known teenager that also happens to be a vampire. His parents died in a mysterious fire and he is being raised by his mom's best friend (who knows he is a vampire). But things are hard. He has a lot of secrets to keep...not to mention a lot of sunscreen he has to keep putting on. Thankfully Nelly works at a hospital and can get blood that is almost expired for Vlad to drink and infuse into his food. When Vlad's teacher goes missing, a strange new one takes his place—one that wants Vlad to admit that he is a vampire. But how does he know? And will Vlad be safe if he shows Mr. Otis who he truly is? Since this is the beginning of the series, there is a lot of set up and quite a few unanswered questions left hanging at the end of the book. However, the illustrations are great—showcasing a gothic teenage vampire in an almost normal world. And the pacing is pretty good, with quite a bit of variation in the size of the panels. Although unlike many graphic novels the panels in this book never turn out to be one whole page for exceptionally important moments.

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### **Hillary says**

Considering the source, this adaptation really fell flat. Good fluff for boys is hard to come by so I was happy when I heard about this GN adaptation, but I honestly cannot recommend this especially to readers of the original series.

The writing was not engaging at all. I thought the first half dragged so the second half was rushed. The story from panel to panel did not flow nicely: word bubbles were not always placed in a "good" order, some action was sudden and seemed "out of the blue," and unfortunately the characters all seem boring which they're not. My biggest complaint: best friend Henry is supposed to be cool and good-looking and here he's just normal.

The art was also disappointing. To me having a semi-manga style was not the way to go. Julia Land made everyone a bit too feminine and all the adults look like they're 18-years-old. Aunt Nelly is mostly in a bun but that still doesn't "age" her enough. All I can say is I'm sure Land did exactly what Tony Lee wrote because the layout, design (characters and backgrounds), and content is boring too.

Not a waste of time, but seriously, read the original series and forget about this GN book.

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### **Van says**

This adaptation could have been made better. Less sudden cuts between scenes and add more detailed parts so that the story doesn't feel as rushed as it did. The animation and facial expressions of the characters could also have been drawn with more variations and details. The dialogues/writing also needs to be reworded because it made the story feel rushed and a bit dull, in my opinion, like the artwork did. Overall I quite enjoy reading a graphic novel version of my favorite vampire series and even though the adaptation was a bit disappointing, the minor mistakes are something that could be fixed and made better with a bit more of hardworking and determination.

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## **Tana Wakanda Jackson says**

Artwork: 4/10

For the technical aspects of the art, it seemed like a rookie's work. Like the first graphic novel done by an artist or publishing house.

The artwork seemed rushed, and outsourced. I looked in to the artist who pencilled this and she's from Indonesia. I'm familiar enough with the comics industry to know that a lot of outsourcing occurs in indie publishing, and Indonesia is a hotbed for getting cheaper work.

Not that it isn't possible to get good work from Indonesia, but when publishing in English this often results in things being lost in translation. I imagine this language barrier contributed to how the speech bubbles often switched from being read left-to-right to right-to-left. Very confusing.

The anatomy was fine enough, I've definitely seen worse in YA graphic novel adaptations (looking at you Vampire Academy), but the backgrounds were pretty bad. Probably the worst aspect of the illustrations.

It looked like things were traced over Google Sketchup by someone who didn't have a firm grasp of perspective, or color.

Apparently the colors were done by 3 people, and maybe that led to inconsistencies, because my God, it looks like it was colored last minute. I was begging for some color overlays to be included because some of the color palettes were just not harmonizing. Light sources were inconsistent, so scenes were a character's face was being lit from the top would switch to being lit from the side.

It would have been better off in black and white with how amateurish the colors were. Maybe that would have saved the Google Sketchup backgrounds.

There were even certain background shots where I could see tilting going on as if a wide angle lens was being used. It was jarring, and sometimes this field of view shift would occur from panel to panel.

As for the feel the artwork gave me, I didn't feel like much love was put in to this. It felt like this project was more of a job for the company that did the artwork.

Story: 3/10

I'm not going to judge the quality of the source material so much as the adaptation job. The original story has its flaws (full of plotholes, cliches, and lack of worldbuilding), but despite that has a tone that is charming. Taking it as a fun kids' book, it's enjoyable. Especially in audiobook format.

However, this adaptation did the story no favors. The speech bubbles were all over the place and I had to double-read many panels to get the flow right. Not to mention the pacing was bad. The setup was decent, but by the time Otis's nature is revealed and the final "battle" occurs, things wrap up and the entire story ends in like 5 pages. It's very underwhelming.

I think graphic novels by their very nature don't work well when adapting novels. There's a reason that the original story worked, and it's because of the dialogue, the main lead's introspection, and the slower build to the climax and ending. This doesn't have that, and I'm not sure if any graphic novel adaptation would have been able to capture that initial appeal.

Part of the failure comes back again to the artwork and how the style didn't really capture the tone of the story. The characters had no real expressions to their faces, and I didn't feel like I was watching a real character feel real fear, for example. But adding poor pacing in addition to those artistic issues and we have a bad adaptation that could have been better, despite the limitations of the graphic novel format.

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### **Emily Green says**

In Eighth Grade Bites: The Chronicles of Vladimir Todd, we are introduced to Vlad, a shy eighth grader who is bullied, has a crush on a girl who does not know that he's alive, and lives with his non-blood relative aunt. Yes, Vlad is an orphaned half-vampire, son of a human woman and a vampire father.

Vlad, unlike all the other vampires, was born vampire, and fed on blood from birth. Nowadays, his aunt snags expired blood from the hospital where she works, and kindly freezes it until ready for use, at which time, she zaps it in the microwave.

The book is much more cute than gritty, and sets Vlad as the typical teen who can't seem to fit in. It is refreshing to see a good male friendship that does not revolve around saying nasty things about girls, but instead focuses on solving the mystery of Vlad's ancestral past and what exactly happened to his parents.

The book is foremost a mystery, and does unravel in an interesting manner, though it unravels a bit too fast at the end. Worth the read.

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### **Hunter H. says**

This book was awesome and I really want to read the next ones.

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### **April says**

I thought this was a great and very entertaining read! I have been wanting to read the novels for a while and after reading this graphic novel version I am even more anxious to read them!! Great story, excellent illustrations, engrossing and entertaining. I highly recommend!

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### **Ariadne says**

I'm a big fan of Brewer's Tod books, but this adaptation fell somewhat flat for me. The art was good, but the story didn't translate well to the graphic format. At least, it didn't flow well for me. Your mileage may vary.

## **Mark Walsh says**

I havent read any thing else in this series and rarely read graphic novels. However I really enjoyed this. My only complaint is that the writer explains whats going in a few pages in the middle. Otherwise 4 stars.

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## **Andrew says**

I have been waiting SO long for this to be released and now I finally got my hands on it. It doesn't matter that I read this in one sitting. This series has become one of my favourites and I shamelessly allow myself to delve into it. I mean, it's not like it's a golden calf or anything...

Reading this in graphic novel format was very fascinating. Having read the original version of this book several times already, I knew how it was going to end, but still wanted to read all the thought bubbles and everything the characters say. It was so worth buying this brand new. Gotta say, it's awesome that Brewer managed to release her first Vlad Tod book technically twice. Now, I'm just hoping there definitely will be graphic novels for the rest of the 5. And, if it's not pushing it too much because I realize she already has a LOT of work to do; but speaking just from the aspect of the Vlad Tod series, it would awesome if there were 5 graphic novels for the Chrons of Vlad Tod and eventually 5 for the slayer society books.

But I know that's asking for a bit much.

5 out of 5 stars.

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## **Leslie says**

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The book is foremost a mystery, and does unravel in an interesting manner, though it unravels a bit too fast at the end. Worth the read.

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## **S.E.Cooke says**

The art work was pretty good, but I think it would've been more enjoyable in black-and-white. I also should add that the story was pretty flat as it went along.

