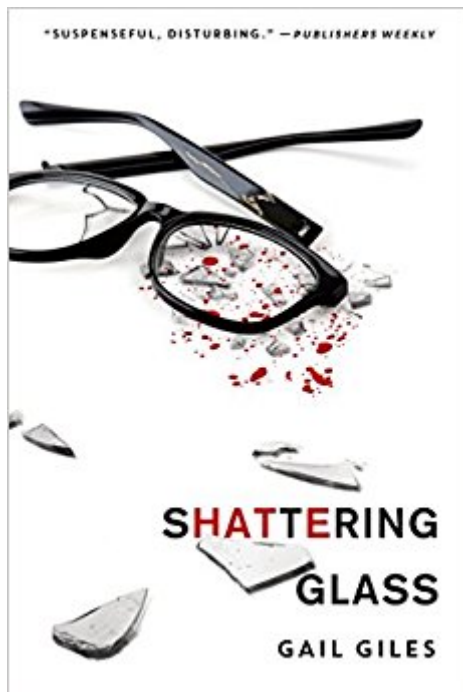


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Shattering Glass



Synopsis

"Simon Glass was easy to hate. . . . I guess, really we each hated him for a different reason, but we didn't realize it until the day we killed him." Fat, clumsy Simon Glass is a nerd, a loser who occupies the lowest rung on the high school social ladder. Everyone picks on him—until Rob Haynes shows up. Rob, a transfer student with charisma to spare, immediately becomes the undisputed leader of the senior class. And he has plans for Simon. Rob enlists the help of his crew—wealthy, intellectual Young, ladies' man Bob, and sweet, athletic Coop—in a mission: turn sniveling Simon from total freak to would-be prom king. But as Simon rises to the top of the social ranks, he shows a new confidence and a devious side that power-hungry Rob did not anticipate. And when Simon uncovers a dangerous secret, events darken. The result is disquieting, bone-chilling . . . and brutal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fat, clumsy Simon Glass is a textbook geek, and all three of Rob's posse hates him, each for his own reasons. But Rob is driven by the need to prove his power, and so he decrees that they will take on the seemingly impossible task of making Simon popular. They take him shopping for a better look, get his hair styled, teach him how to behave. Rob extracts painful sacrifices and uneasy moral compromises to achieve the goal, but each of his followers has a hidden empty place and a related secret that holds them in bondage to his manipulations. Soon Simon is on his reluctant way to becoming Class Favorite, but then he begins to show a dark, cruel side, and an ability to do what

the others can't--defy Rob. The complex interlocking motivations of these five move the story inexorably to a startling bloody catharsis. In an enthralling first novel that evokes William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* and Robert Cormier's *The Chocolate War*, Gail Giles's *Shattering Glass* employs a brilliantly original structure to layer present and future in an exploration of the consequences of following a charismatic but amoral leader. (Ages 12 and older) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this suspenseful, disturbing debut novel, a high school clique's plans to make over a social outcast go tragically awry. Quotes at the opening of each chapter foretell the disaster to come. Thaddeus R. Steward IV, nicknamed "Young," who is an aspiring writer, narrates the tale. As it opens, Rob Haynes, an out-of-state transfer student with good looks and seemingly unshakable confidence, quickly ascends to alpha male, ousting reigning king of popularity, Lance Ansley. But, as Lance puts it, "[Rob] wasn't happy to have it all, he had to make sure I didn't have anything." By contrast, Rob wants to position Simon Glass, a "textbook geek," so that his peers will vote Simon "Class Favorite." Simon appears to go along with the new clothes and haircut, but he has some ideas of his own. When Simon and Young discover a secret about Rob's past, one of them seeks to use it, the other to protect it. Unfortunately, the novel follows so many characters that readers do not get to know any one of them well. Ronna, Young's girlfriend, provides the most insightful commentary; speaking of Rob's plan to transform Simon, she says, "Instead of making Rob more, doesn't it just make all of us... less?" Such probing questions are overshadowed by the novel's larger events and the sheer number of characters. Still, the thriller plot and breakneck pacing will keep readers hooked and on the lookout for this author's next book. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a high school teacher, I read YA books so that I have titles to recommend to my students. I read this book because it seemed like a good recommendation for male high school students, who are often the most reluctant readers. I am definitely adding this book to my list of recommendations for them. Negatives first: This is a YA book, so it didn't have all the twists and turns of a fully-developed adult novel. It took me a while to "get" the main character. At first the protagonist's voice sounded generic. It wasn't until I learned a about his troubled past that he became more than just a stereotype. Still, I teach high school, and I could see lots of my students enjoying this book. The plot was not cliché--there were too many twists for that, but it was easy enough to follow. Now, the

positives: It was a compelling read. What I enjoyed most the structure of the novel. Each chapter begins with a quote from various minor characters in the novel. These quotes allude to the novel's ending. At first the quotes don't make much sense. As the story progresses, however, the reader begins to put the quotes together, and the story just gets darker and darker, compelling the reader to turn the next page. Because of this extensive foreshadowing, the novel takes on a dark aura, and the denouement has already been provided by the time we get to the last scene--I found this effective . The chapters are short, and each opening quote gives readers just enough clues to convince them to keep reading. I finished the book in two sittings. I will definitely recommend the book to my high school students.

Purchased this book because I was going to teach it to my freshmen and *I* got hooked!! It is a really good book with an amazing ending. There is definitely some language in the novel, however, so be aware of that. Overall, I would definitely recommend!

I found myself a little annoyed while reading SHATTERING GLASS.. I had higher hopes for this book, then that which was the reality of it. The concept it self, not exactly original.. cool kids make over the geek to the height of popularity. It was unique in that Giles has the cool guys making over another guy. Usually we see the loser being made over by the opposite sex. This twist is what had peeked my interest in the first place. The writing is easy to read, the story being clear and pretty straight forward to follow and the characters are all well developed.. so far so good, right? Therein lies the rub and the major flaw that had me so annoyed while reading this book. Our narrator Young Steward, who was believable in character as a whole; a well off, nice looking, cool, popular, and an all around good guy, not to mention really smart.. oh wait except he didn't see the real Simon Glass coming. All the signs of what was going on with Glass were there throughout the story, Young even says several times that something was off, but he was never able to figure it out. He doesn't even try. I don't know, it just wasn't believable to me. Giles wrote Young too intelligent not to get it.. add in that he couldn't stand the guy, the motivation was there for him to work it out. Instead he hands over everything he cares about to Glass in order to hold on to the approval of the mysterious Rob, mr. popular and the controlling leader of their crew... weak. If Young had figure it out and tried to warn Rob and the other guys and they just didn't believe him... the story would have worked better for me. It was all just a bit too convenient for me and the stuff that went down with Ronna, that was just way over the top and completely preposterous. Although Gail Giles didn't completely win me over with SHATTERING GLASS, it was a decent read and with strong pacing. I thought the little snip-its

of interviews at the beginning of each chapter, giving the reader a little foreshadowing of how things play out, was a nice touch.. although the ending it's self felt a bit unfinished.

This is truly a great piece of adolescent literature about a group of high school boys who foolishly follow their conspicuous leader, Rob, as he carries out what seems to be a typical "geek to glamour" plot on a young boy named Simon Glass. Being an adolescent novel, this book is a quick read, and the vocabulary isn't difficult, however not over-simplistic either. I'd recommend this book to anyone who is interested in a semi-grim, mysterious thriller surrounding a very ordinary, and yet extraordinary, group of teenage boys in the mists of the high school environment. Even if you're looking for something else, just give it a shot and you might be surprised!

great

Great Book

"Shattering Glass" is a powerful examination of what it takes to become popular, and what happens when the power structure of a society/school is dramatically shifted. The narrator's best friend decides to give the school "loser" a makeover in order for him to become popular and eventually be voted Class Favorite for the seniors. His three pals warm to the task, but the narrator is repelled by the outcast, especially after he senses that the boy is more manipulative and rebellious than he lets on. The boy also has an uncanny ability to ferret out secrets and weaknesses that others would prefer to keep hidden. When he uses this power against this group of friends, tragedy ensues, in a very Y2K way. Unlike one reviewer, I did not find the profanity gratuitous but used for effect in very specific scenes. However, I did feel the author at times was trying too hard to be colorful, coining the kinds of phrases that are used in movies like "Clueless" but not (often) by real life teens.

I wanted to buy this book, because I remember liking it when I read it during highschool. After reading it again I wish there was more.

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