



The Glasswrights' Test

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Glass artisan Rani's loyalty to the Glasswright Fellowship is tested when she's asked to kill the Morenian Queen.

The Glasswrights' Test Details

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From Reader Review The Glasswrights' Test for online ebook

Liz says

I almost always finish a book once I've started it, but with this one, I could barely get through two pages before I found something better to do. Like watching paint dry. It was excruciatingly plodding and dull.

In the first book, I thought Rani's actions when her fellow Glasswrights were being mutilated daily were despicable, and that's why I couldn't get into this book. I sympathized with the Glasswrights guild. They, especially the thumbless journeymen, have every reason to loathe her and want revenge; I was with them one hundred percent. Rani barely seems to have a conscience most days, certainly she doesn't let murder or the fate of her former fellow apprentices bother her overly much, she just goes on her merry way, being everyone's puppet.

It's hard to get into a book when you're well on your way to despising the doormat of a main character. It really doesn't help that the other characters, her friends, are just as unsympathetic and in many cases, boring.

All that aside, the narration was so slowly paced and so tedious that I nearly fell asleep any time I tried to keep reading past a couple pages. It was a struggle that, in the end, wasn't worth it. I returned this one to the library unfinished, and was thrilled that I hadn't shelled out actual money for this waste of time.

Sarah says

This series keeps getting better and better - and darker. Read my full review at Dreamworld Book Reviews: <http://www.dreamworldbooks.com/2014/0...>

Summer Peterson says

I ended up skipping over the boring areas. I'm frustrated with Hal. Rani has given him everything and he still doubts her loyalty. Rani I felt was weak in this book. She knows what a journeyman's job is supposed to be but she let her guild use and abuse her.

Keri (JD) says

A book really can't be that good if you hated it enough to take over 2 years to read it...

Gretchen says

Somehow I skipped the third one...

Susan Tietjen says

Love Mindy Klasky. A unique writing voice and believable world. I feel for her characters and I fear her antagonists.

R. says

I made the age-old mistake of buying this at the same time as the book immediately prior not having suspected that said book, *The Glasswright's Journeyman*, would piss me off and offend me so much that I couldn't go on.

I believe I made it through one chapter, which was basically a refresher on everything that infuriated me about the last book, before the rage overtook me.

Donna says

Rani travels to yet another foreign land, where she's been asked to look after a princess making a pilgrimage. Instead she spends most of her time trying to be accepted by the remnants of the Glasswright guild, who still (irrationally) see her as a traitor who caused most of their problems.

I found myself losing patience with this book. The princess became a main focus of the story out of nowhere. Rani regressed as a character, repeating some of her mistakes of previous books. She made some terrible decisions, but the consequences mostly fell on others. The relationship drama also seemed overdone.

I still like the style of the writing, but can't say I'm happy about the direction the story is going.

Jacqueline says

I also have a signed ARC of this.

Jamie (Books and Ladders) says

The storyline for this novel did not seem to make sense to me. It was all over the place. At first I thought we got to see things from Berylina's point of view because she would be instrumental to *The Fellowship*, but then she died. And I thought maybe Crestman reappearing would mean that Rani and Hal would be able to bring the Little Army home, but nope he's gone rogue. It seemed like the characters were all very out of character throughout this whole novel. I feel like the author was like, hm there are too many options for Rani so let's make sure they all become her enemy and/or die.

The whole story of Rani going to Britani for this test when the glasswrights hate her was just ridiculous. It felt like such a waste of my time to read this, even moreso than the last novel. The whole thing felt static except for the last two chapters where the story FINALLY progressed. I think that part of the problem has been the jumping in years between novels in which we don't see progress of the characters but they still seem to be the same people just with different background relationships.

Overall: 2/5 stars. I'm glad this is over soon. It was a bit ridiculous if you ask me to have an entire novel based on this test and in the pov of two people who die. But what do I know.

Sarah says

It wasn't bad. To be fair, I haven't read the others in the series.

I liked that the representations of gods were different and unique (tastes, sounds, feelings, etc that didn't necessarily go with the concept, like a nightingale song for the god of water).

But I didn't have any particular investment in the characters while I was reading either.

Karen says

A little too predictable, and the most horrifying of the series, at least in my mind. A good warning against rampaging religion.

John says

Um...I'm farther behind in book updating than I thought...LOL This was a good 4th book but parts of it were a touch annoying.

Joshua Palmatier says

The Glasswrights' Test is the fourth book in the *Glasswrights* series by Mindy L. Klasky. I've been steadily working my way through the series these last few months, with my limited reading time. This series is set in a medieval fantasy world--so castles, kings, guilds, etc--but the main focus is on Ranita Glasswright, her quest to restore the Glasswrights' Guild after her actions in the first book caused it to be destroyed, and her own personal quest to become a master glasswright herself, since the guild was destroyed when she was a mere apprentice.

I thought the first book was good, the second book not as much, but the third book rocked. I liked the new land and culture that was visited in that book, and how the plot focused more on the relationships between Rani and those around her, in particular the King of Morenia, Hal. This book once again has Rani traveling to a new land, Brianta, which is full of religious fervor, and not a few fanatics. She is ostensibly there to escort Princess Berylina (introduced in the third book as one of Hal's potential brides)--who has somehow

been touched by the gods so that she can see, hear, smell, and taste them--but her own personal goal is to be tested as a master of the glasswright craft. When the guild was destroyed, those who managed to survive the purging fled to Brianta and set up a temporary guild in its holy city. The master of the new guild has invited Rani to come take the test. Unknown to Rani, the guild is being manipulated by the Fellowship, a secret society that Rani and Hal are both members of, but who have never really seen eye-to-eye with.

So, we once again have a new land to explore and unlike the second book, some good interpersonal relationships and personal problems to deal with. I liked how these played out while the group was in Brianta, with Rani coming face to face with a guild full of people who hate her and the stress that it places on her relationships with those around her. She is not only placed at odds with her lover, but also her friend, Mair. As the book progresses, these stresses are increased when the Fellowship begins making its moves on both her, Hal, and Mair. (I can't say anything more without spoiling things.) At the same time, Berylina faces the religious powers in the city, who don't view her special relationship to the gods with as much welcome as she would have thought.

All of this tension comes to a spectacular and satisfying head toward the end of the novel, and I was all ready to give the book a solid 4 and a better review than the third book . . . but then Rani returns to Morenia in the last few chapters, to finish off the last of the main plot. And this is where things go bad. The confrontation with Hal that she has upon her return is great at first, but during the entire fight I kept saying to myself (OK, I was really yelling at Rani through the book) to just tell him what was happening! She'd been put in this horrible position, but if she trusted him as much as she claims (and as much as we've seen throughout all of the books), then she should have just told him the situation and had him help her come up with a solution, especially since it involved him. Instead, she says nothing and tries to solve it on her own for no real reason. Decisions made by characters like this annoy me. It's the equivalent of the author gagging the character in order to create a false sense of tension. Something like this happens in the third book with Berylina, but in that book I could let it pass since it wasn't as significant to the main plot. Here, the entire end of the main plot depends on Rani and Hal's actions here, so this one little thing destroyed the ending of the book for me, because it made the ending feel contrived.

Don't get me wrong though. My only real issue with the entire book was this one thing that happens within the last 50 pages of the novel. I loved everything that happened before this, and liked where the book leaves Rani and Hal and the others. I would recommend this book to those that have read the first three, but you'll likely have to bite your tongue a little at the end. The contrivance is a little hard to get over.

I'll certainly go on and read the fifth book, because I want to know how Rani's story ends. In particular, I'd like to see what becomes of the Fellowship, since I've hated them for at least two books now, feeling that their manipulations have NOT been in the interests of all of their own members.
