



House of Glass

Sophie Littlefield

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Bestselling author Sophie Littlefield delivers a riveting, ripped-from-the-headlines story about a family put to the ultimate test when two men take them hostage inside their home. Jen Glass has worked hard to achieve the ideal life: a successful career, a beautiful home in an affluent suburb of Minneapolis, a seemingly perfect family. But inside the Glass house, everything is spinning out of Jen's control. Her marriage to her husband, Ted, is on the brink of collapse; her fifteen-year-old daughter grows more distant each day; and her five-year-old son barely speaks a word. Jen is on the verge of breaking, but nothing could have prepared her for what is to come. On an evening that was supposed to be like any other, two men force their way into the Glasses' home, but what begins as a common robbery takes an even more terrifying turn. Held hostage in the basement for more than forty-eight hours, Jen and Ted must put aside their differences if they have any hope of survival. They will stop at nothing to keep their family safe; even if it means risking their own lives. A taut and emotional tale of a family brought together by extraordinary forces, House of Glass is a harrowing exploration of the lengths a mother will go to protect her children, and the power of tragedy to teach us what truly matters. Sophie Littlefield shows considerable skills for delving into the depths of her characters and complex plotting. South Florida Sun-Sentinel

House of Glass Details

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From Reader Review House of Glass for online ebook

Sammi says

don't really know what to say about this one, I didnt love it and I didnt hate it. quite an easy read but just felt it didnt go anywhere.

Ashleigh says

Well, that was disappointing. First book I've read in months due to university commitments, and it had to be this one.

In my eyes, this had the potential to be a 5-star book, but it was let down by a very mismatched story line. I feel like the author was trying to falsify a sense of connection with the characters by adding little clips about the characters. Seriously, what is the relevance of the flash-backs Jen experiences about her father?

I also feel like the author was so quick to finish the book, that she never really answered the question that she posed to the readers: why choose the Glass's for a home invasion? Every character had a theory, and although one made more sense than the others - it didn't really piece together at the end. Perhaps I missed it; I was fairly eager to finish. Though, you'd think if you made the connection such a vital part of the story, you'd spell it out a bit more obviously.

I could express my disappointment in many more words, but really, I need to start searching for a book that makes up for months of not reading.

Jill Madsen says

A little disappointed in this book... It felt like there was such possibility for the plot, the events for the daughter or the drama the dad got himself into, but neither was fully developed and at the end I still didn't really know what caused the sequence of events.

Gloria says

The plot was predictable.

The characters were not moving. I really disliked Jen. All that money but how did they get it, with a single income family. It was overdone but at the same time not interesting. The author really failed to write a story that all ties together. It is blah, blah, blah... boring.

The writing lacked originality. It almost read like a young adult book in its simple writing style.

It is a fast read.

Mary Reed says

OMG! What a great book. I couldn't put it down. This is the kind of book I love to read. One that grabs my attention from the beginning and holds it to the end. At first I thought Ted hired the guys to rob them, but I was wrong.

Going to read Sophie Littlefield's other book Garden of Stones next.

Dev says

Bogus! I didn't even donate this book to charity because I did not want someone else to be bored to death! Awful!!!!

Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

A fast paced, gripping novel, House of Glass is the story of a family taken hostage in their own home. Locked in the basement by two gun wielding thugs, Jen Glass, her husband, Ted, teenage daughter, Livvy, and young son, Teddy, can only hope the men will take the money they want and leave but when things begin to go wrong for the hostage takers, the terrifying situation begins to spiral out of control.

Despite outward appearances the Glass family is already a fractured reflection of perfection. Ted is unemployed and Jen suspects him of indulging in an affair, Livvy has become a surly teenager and five year old Teddy is a selective mute, refusing to speak to anyone outside of the immediate family. These stressors, added to the recent death of her estranged father, has Jen feeling particularly vulnerable at the moment when 'Dan' and 'Ryan' storm into their home. She can't help but wonder exactly why, and how, these strange men came to target her family and are privy to personal details. Though determined to keep her family safe, she feels powerless as the crisis worsens and she has to consider they may not survive.

The pace is compelling and the tension is high from the first moment the men appear in the doorway of Jen and Ted's bedroom. It continues to increase as things begin to go wrong and the Glass's grow ever more desperate to escape the clutches of their hostage-takers. While I admired the intensity of the story I didn't feel that the characters were developed as they could have been. The family dynamics were a little superficial and in particular I felt I didn't know Jen well enough to understand her thoughts and actions, aside from her base motivation to protect her family.

House of Glass is a story of betrayal, of desperation and ultimately of survival. Inspired by a reported home invasion that took place in Connecticut in 2007, Littlefield dramatises a horrifying event that every family fears, creating a page turning thriller.

Isabelle says

Really emphasizes the importance of home security and "stranger danger." As an older sister myself, I can totally understand Livvy telling Teddy to run even though as a reader I think it's an unnecessarily risky move considering how vulnerable he is. And wasn't it just *great* that it all resulted from Dad's thoughtless complaints to a stranger?

Dawn says

When I read the synopsis for this book, I made the mistake of forming an idea about what this story would be about. Unfortunately, for me, the actual story was totally different than my imagined one.

For that reason, it isn't entirely the fault of the author that I found this to be rather lackluster.

My idea was just better ;-)

This is the what-could-have-been harrowing story of a family, The Glasses, that is held hostage in their own house for a few days by a couple of thugs intent on getting their hands on as much of the money in the Glass's considerable savings as they can. While they pursue this criminal goal, they make many rookie mistakes and manage to become at odds with each other over how to treat and hold their hostages. Kid gets lost, shots are fired, desperation ensues on both sides and tragedy is inevitable.

Of course, there is a back story, though I was never really satisfied that the explanation for who these random thugs were was made clear.

Quick read but can't say I was ever invested.

Donna says

This is a fast paced story about a family that gets abducted in their own home. While the husband and wife are on shaky ground, you see them come together for their kids. While it is sad, it's also slow and melancholy at places. Especially when the mother has a flashback to her youth. That part was unnecessary. Overall an ok book.

Connie says

This book was ok, I read a lot of her books and enjoyed all of them especially the Stella Hardesty book series but this is definitely not one of my favorites.

Elaine says

This is a very dark, sinister story about what can happen when evil enters your home – the one place where you are supposed to be safe. Jen Glass and her family, at the beginning of the book, seem to be pulling in different directions. Husband Ted is definitely hiding something from her, daughter Livvy is behaving like a

typical sullen teenager and young son Teddy has problems with his speech. When their house is suddenly invaded and they are held prisoner in their own basement, they are going to need to pull together if they are to survive.

It is a very gripping story, one which kept me turning the pages and one of the biggest questions I had was “Why did they get targeted?” . When I did finally learn how it happened it sent quite a chill down my spine, as it all seemed so plausible and normal.

I was disappointed though with some of the inconsistencies in the book, particularly those to do with events surrounding Jen’s father Sid. There is a back story which goes back to when Jen and her sister Tanya were young. We are told most of it fairly near the start of the book and then return to it at the end, but there are too many inconsistencies, as if the author forgot what she had written earlier, and this really brought the book down a notch or two. Apart from that, I really enjoyed the read.

Baleigh Menuey says

House of Glass is about a family with two kids that get their house broken into. The four of them are held hostage in their basement. After the first day the 15 year old daughter manages to get her 5 year old brother out of the house and he runs. There are two men who broke into the house, the younger one shot the father after the kid ran away. After a long time the dad ends up dead. The brave 15 year old also manages to find a way to call her aunts son and tell him to have his mom call the police. He does but his mom doesn't listen and she just comes to the house. She is then also held hostage with them. The two men come downstairs and the trip them and somehow get one of the guns. The mom shoots the younger man and the aunt stabs the older one. The younger man dies right away and the older man is just injured. After awhile the mom takes the knife and stabs the older man, and he dies. The three of them escape and policeman found the little boy and came to the house. They 4 of them lived happy and safe after that. I loved this book, certainly a book I could get myself into. I would highly recommend this book.

Laurel-Rain says

Jen Glass keeps control of her world with lists written in neat handwriting in pretty notebooks. Her sister Tanya makes fun of her obsession, but Jen knows that her list making is a way of organizing her thoughts, so when the time comes to act, you don't waste precious moments on false starts and dead ends. She fears a loss of control, and would do anything to avoid it.

Now Jen and Tanya are in Murdoch, clearing out their deceased father's apartment. Jen is appalled by the detritus of their father's life. He had left them years ago, and their mother had died shortly afterwards. There are no sentimental memories for Jen.

Her own life, back in Calumet, is arranged the way she likes, with a beautiful home, handsome husband Ted, and two beautiful children, Livvy, a teenager, and Teddy, a preschooler.

But there are niggling doubts about how perfect her life really is. Ted has lost his job, Livvy has become more and more belligerent, and Teddy has stopped speaking.

So when Jen returns home, after dealing with her father's things, she is hoping to start putting her world right again. Suddenly, out of the blue, Jen and Ted's world crashes down around them when intruders break into their home and hold them captive. For 48 hours, nothing at all is under their control, and the author shows in excruciating detail how wrong their world has become. Frightening and heart-pounding, *House of Glass* reveals the inner thoughts of the characters as they suffer through the horrendous experiences.

But then, from some hidden place inside, where memories of the past were locked, Jen found the strength to take action.

How did their world turn upside down? Who or what brought the evil into their home? How did the events of those two days bring the past back into Jen's memory, helping her reconcile the past with the present? And how would she begin again? The characters were flawed, but relatable, except for the perpetrators, who were pure evil. I would definitely recommend the book for those who love thrillers, and I enjoyed how the past informed the present. 4.0 stars.

Kathy Cunningham says

Sophie Littlefield's *HOUSE OF GLASS* is a readable but predictable thriller about a home invasion in suburban Calumet Minnesota. All of the usual characters are present – Jen Glass and husband Ted are happily married, but he's been out of work for a while and keeping secrets; teenage daughter Livvy has been hanging around with an unsavory boyfriend; and four-year-old Teddy suffers from "selective mutism," meaning he can't speak to anyone but his immediate family. When two armed strangers walk into their home on an otherwise ordinary Thursday, the Glass family is forced to confront not only the horrors of the home invasion, but also their own demons. Why did the intruders target the Glass family in the first place – could it have anything to do with Livvy's boyfriend? Or is Ted to blame for decisions he made which have come back to haunt her? Or does it have something to do with buried secrets in Jen's past, secrets that won't stay buried for long?

Much of this novel seemed very familiar – there have been a number of TV movies over the years about home invasions, including a few that followed this same formula. The bad guys keep the family imprisoned in their home while they force Jen to go to the bank and withdraw funds from her money market account. You can pretty much guess that things don't go as planned. You can also guess that the younger of the two intruders will have the hots for teenage Livvy, that Ted will be unable to stop himself from fighting back against the gunman who's threatening his daughter, and that little Teddy's inability to speak will come into play big time. And as expected, Jen will rise to the occasion and prove that she's stronger than she ever thought she was (think Jodie Foster in "Panic Room").

While there's nothing new here, it's not a bad read. Jen is a likable heroine, and her own family background – her abusive and destructive father, who she hasn't seen in 30 years, has just died, and she's been having trouble re-connecting with her sister – forms an interesting counterpoint to the immediacy of the home invasion. Livvy is a strong character, too, willing to risk everything to help her little brother. But I honestly anticipated just about every plot development before it happened, and I found myself flashing back to any number of Lifetime movies as I was reading.

I was also a bit bothered by the suggestion here that someone (other than the gunmen) was to blame for what happens to the Glass family. For much of the book, Livvy, Ted, and Jen all worry that something they did may have brought these men to their home. By the final pages, it becomes clear that one of them is to blame,

even if not intentionally. And that seems unfair. The only ones to blame for the horror that descends on the Glass family are the two men who kidnap them at gunpoint.

If you like Lifetime thrillers with predictable characters, HOUSE OF GLASS will not disappoint. There's plenty of action, and the good guys win out in the end. But don't expect anything original, different, or challenging in either the story or the characters. This is a predictable thriller that will seem comfortably familiar.

[Please note: I was provided a copy of this book for review; the opinions expressed here are my own.]
