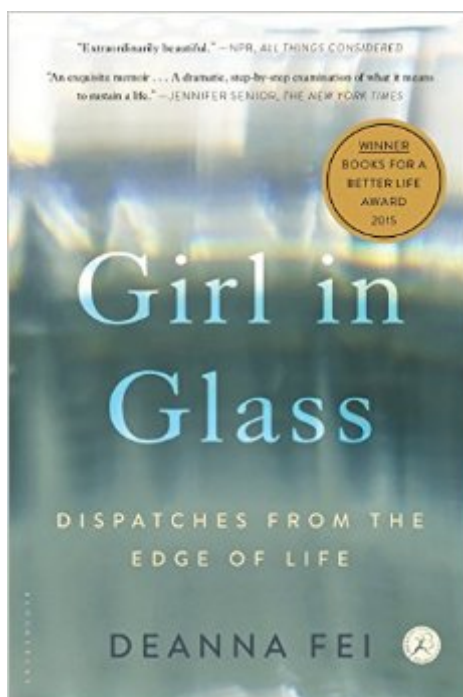


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Girl In Glass: Dispatches From The Edge Of Life



Synopsis

Winner of 2016 Books for a Better Life Award
A Washington Post Book Club Selection
A Public Books Favorite Book of 2015
When her daughter was born nearly four months premature, Deanna Fei confronted a shattering question: Had she delivered a child or lost one? Over months in the hospital, as she held the hand of a tiny baby fighting for her life inside a glass box, she came to grips with parenthood at its most elemental. Then, a year after she brought her daughter home, the CEO of her husband's company publicly blamed the medical bills of the beautiful, now-thriving little girl for a cut in employee benefits and attached a price tag to her life, setting off a national firestorm. *Girl in Glass* is the riveting story of one child's harrowing journey and a mother's impassioned defense of human worth against corporate disregard. With luminous prose and an unflinching eye, Fei explores what it means to save a life: from the front lines of a neonatal intensive care unit to the perils of the American health-care system; from decades of medical innovation to the question of how we care for our most vulnerable; and finally, to the potent force of a child's will to live. Above all, *Girl in Glass* is a testament to how love takes hold when a new life defies all expectations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a devoted reader of memoirs by preemie parents. As a neonatologist, I am interested to always learn more about parents' emotional responses to the NICU experience as I think it helps me provide better support to parents struggling with the shock and fear surrounding their baby's early birth. I loved reading *Girl in Glass*, by Deanna Fei, both because of her startling honesty in baring her emotions and struggles, but also because I think the discussion in the latter part of the

book about how we as a society do or do not value the lives of our most vulnerable citizens is a valuable contribution to the discourse on this topic. Fei owns up to many emotions that lurk in the deep recesses of many preemie parentsâ€™ hearts: guilt, fear, and shame. In addressing these emotions so directly, Fei normalizes them. Indeed, they are virtually universal among preemie parents. The important messages for parents are: you are not alone, you are not the first person to feel like this, itâ€™s toughâ€”even excruciatingly painfulâ€”to struggle with the uncertainty facing you and your baby, but hopefully you will get through it. I particularly enjoyed the way the narrative bounced back and forth between Feiâ€™s experiences with her toddler son and her newborn; the contrasts between her experiences with the two children was huge, and watching her struggle to give each their due in the span of a day/week/month certainly highlighted what â€œreal lifeâ€• is like for many preemie parents.

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