A review of
Shattering Glass
Written by Gail Giles
Reviewed by D.W

Title
Shattering Glass

Genre
Realistic fiction, tragedy and novel

Author information
Gail Giles is the author of four young adult novels and the mother of one child that has become her all time hero, and is happily married to the love of her life, Jim Giles. After living in Chicago, Illinois for three years in 2004 she decided to move her loving family back to Texas where she was born and raised. Gail Giles was inspired to write Shattering Glass due to situations she observed as a teacher, it was then that she started thinking of what the different outcomes could be.

Book cover
After reading Shattering Glass I believe the cover explains how Simon Glasses life slowly cracks into pieces until he reaches his breaking point. To most people Simon seemed like a social reject and a nerd but Simon didn’t turn out to be what everybody thought he was. It wasn’t until after the “popular” kids tried to transform him into someone he wasn’t when he soon found himself spiraling into a bad situation.

Characters
Gail Giles does a fantastic job of creating realistic characters that you could imagine seeing at any school that obtains major cliques, they range from the powerful ring leader to the school nerd.
Simon Glass- Class geek
Rob Haynes- leader of the senior class
Jeff Cooper- school jock
Lance Ansley-bully
Young Steward- one of Robs groupies
Bob DeMarco- the handsome one

Themes
Trust, suspense, and friendship

Summary
When reading Shattering Glass I found myself being pulled in by the characters, while completely unaware of the horrifying end. This book describes how Simon Glasses life gets turned upside down, and he goes
from class geek to class favorite with the help of Rob Haynes, who thinks
of it as more of a cruel game. Robs buddies go along with the idea, but
only because it means so much to Rob, they look up to Rob as more of a
father than they do a friend. Simon and many others soon discover Robs
childhood secret something he had been living with for several years.

**Favorite quotes**

“But once I knew Rob’s secret and I knew, knew what it does to a
person-then I needed to patch a hole in him like he’d done for
me.”

-Young Steward

This quote means that Young would be their for him through the tough
times just like Rob did for him, and help him get through this.

“Those boys looked at Simon Glass and each saw a reflection of what he
hated most about himself”

-Alice Danvers

This quote explains how insecure Simon was when he was the class geek
and how he felt about his image.

**Evaluation/opinion**

Shattering Glass teaches one to look at situations from a different
prospective. In my opinion that is one of my favorite aspects about this
particular book, not only do I get to read about what happens but also
how others feel about what occurs. The author does a great job of making
the reader fall in love with Rob and how he seems so perfect, but towards
the end of this suspense filled book I began to despise him more and
more.

**Recommendations**

Every 8th grader should read this amazing novel, because of it’s
realistic situations. I think people who are dealing with school cliques
should definitely read this book so it could show you how ones ability
to control others could lead you into regret. Shattering Glass is a
great book if you enjoy a great story with a hint of tragedy and humor.

**Publisher/price:**
Published by Roaring Brook Press
Published 2002
$15.95

**Favorite characters**

This book is filled with many characters, but my favorite ones are Coop
and Ronna. Most of the people in the book referred to Coop as a big
dummy, but even though he’s not the smartest tool in the shed, he still
obtains great potential and has a huge heart. Ronna is a loving person
and definitely knows what she’s doing, she would be the type of person I
would befriend. Towards the end of this book I was starting to really
feel sorry for Coop since he wasn’t able to fulfill his dreams and go to college. I thought Ronna made a gigantic mistake by dating Young, because they just didn’t seem right for each other, Ronna’s too good for him.