



# The Glass Inferno

*Thomas N. Scortia , Frank M. Robinson*

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It burst into flame without warning, an incendiary death trap claiming victims as powerless against the blaze as the firefighters 66 stories below. Their emotions laid bare, hundreds cringed or found new courage—millionaires, criminals, lovers, children—in a reign of raw panic from which few—or none—would escape.

## The Glass Inferno Details

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Author : Thomas N. Scortia , Frank M. Robinson

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# From Reader Review The Glass Inferno for online ebook

## Jesse says

For a book written over 40 years ago, this stands the test of time perfectly. I was completely drawn in and enthralled by the events, and like any good story, it has some satisfying depth, too, on several levels.

Overall the characterization is excellent. Some of the characters themselves aren't quite so spotless--some racism and homophobia and most of all sexism are thrown about, but by the unsavory, unlikable characters. It was a bit more than you'd read in a politically correct 21st century book, but the protagonists themselves more than made up for that: there are African American and Puerto Rican characters as well as white; several women take part in the epic battle as well as men; and most surprisingly of all, one of the protagonists is gay, and treated with a dignity that must have been especially rare in 1974. Ian Douglas is far from being a stereotype, and it is a pleasure to behold. Following this middle-aged man, a strong and decent man, on both the physical and metaphorical journeys he goes through in the course of this story, was really pretty amazing, again especially for the time. Sixty-something Lisolette Müller was also a delight; in a time where most female characters were still relegated to the role of helpless bystander - to say nothing of *sixty-something* female characters - I loved Lisa and cheered for her all the way.

The Glass House itself, of course, is another character who can't escape mention. Here we have a state-of-the-art (for the time) highrise, replete with commercial floors, office floors, apartments, and an observation desk and restaurant at the top. *Tons* of places to explore, and we get to see them all throughout the course of the story. As someone who looks at a building and wonders at all the secrets it contains, this was a thrill.

The action and suspense are top-notch. Pacing was perfect for my tastes. It starts out slow, giving you time to get to know the characters and the scenario, but never feeling *too* slow...then the action starts to pick up, and pick up faster, ratcheting ever faster as things get going and so many things begin happening at the same time that you can read a handful of chapters all centered on the same moment, but from different points of view...really cool.

And then under the thriller/disaster aspect (which is an entertaining story in and of itself) as I mentioned earlier with Douglas, there is a personal journey that each of the characters embarks on, in parallel to the physical journey as they deal with the fire and its effects. That was *really* well done.

And yet another layer is that you can tell that the authors did their homework...apart from the story, this is something that you can read and know that, chillingly, it could happen...and *has* happened...again and again.

I really loved reading this and I know I will re-read it several times. What a great book.

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## Michelle says

I recently watched The Towering Inferno, for the first time. I was quite shocked to discover that this was based on not one, but two different books. This one and The Tower.

On the front cover of this particular edition, it states "The bestselling novel on which the film epic The Towering Inferno was largely based". And after reading this, I would agree. The majority of the film is lifted

from the book, making it a significantly better read than *The Tower*. This is much more character driven as well, which was an issue I had with *The Tower*, as I frequently got the characters muddled up.

I also really like the way this story was told. Once again, it's a slow build up, much like *The Tower*, but with the focus being heavily on the characters, you get more involved in the story. There are also chapters sprinkled throughout the book, purely told from the fire's point of view (there's a sentence I never thought I'd say). I also like the way that it begins, alternating between different characters, with the next chapter's character focus being introduced in the previous chapter. You will also recognise quite a few characters from the film itself.

This book does have its issues - with a lot of the book being character driven, it is a fair chunk longer than *The Tower*, but there are times when the author gets stuck on meandering plots, which do very little to drive the story forward. But the majority of chapters are quite short, sometimes as short as two pages, which do help progress the story if you are finding a particular plot slow going.

I would highly recommend reading this book, over *The Tower*, as it's much better, and yes, it will take you a wee while to read, but it won't seem as much of a chore as it did with *The Tower*.

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### **Jeff Mayo says**

One of the two books that the movie *The Towering Inferno* was based on. This one is good, goes into details about the poor construction quality that leads to the fire, and has the ending the movie used. It is overly long, with the first half dragging on before the action takes place.

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### **Toni says**

I was first fascinated with the movie 'The Towering Inferno' and this was one of two books the movie was based on. The book was really good too, a good story line and the authors describe the characters so well - such tragic outcomes, so very sad too.

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### **Dee ~ Funny Cat Reading says**

Good read and a pageturner, I was inspired to pick it up while looking for a good thriller. I saw the movie 'The Towering Inferno' aged 14, which I know was inspired by both 'The Glass Inferno' and 'The Tower' by Richard Martin Stern, both fire disaster novels. I read a little of 'The Tower', not so long ago, but I didn't find it as exciting and dramatic as 'The Glass Inferno'. The movie leans a lot more on this book, than the Tower.

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### **Chester Wallace says**

One of two books that is the basis of the 1974 disaster film *The Towering Inferno*. Good book but it takes about halfway through the book for the fire to actually get going and the action to begin. The first half is slow moving but the last half is well worth the first half.

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## **Chuck Mull says**

### **Poor editing**

I read this book when it first came out and enjoyed it very much. I couldn't wait for the movie and was thrilled with it. The 3 stars is for the kindle editing of the book. This was the very worst I've seen in a kindle book; random commas and dashes, words split or numbers inserted, misspelled words almost made it unreadable but I struggled through it. Hopefully no other kindle book is this atrocious.

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## **Bonnie Morse says**

\*Tiny Spoilers\* I had to read this because I'm such a fan of the movie, The Towering Inferno. There are a lot of differences, as the movie incorporated another novel, and some of the things left out were surprisingly good. Not all of the "bad" guys were destroyed so righteously and fewer "good" guys were sacrificed. Even the tubby, middle-aged gay man had a happy ending, and they didn't even trade off the cat. Totally worth the read.

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## **Paul Dinger says**

This is a very entertaining book about a building burning to the ground that was the basis for the Towering Inferno along with another book titled the Tower. You can see what elements and characters they borrowed to make the movie and what scenes they stole, and they work better here than they do in the film. This is a real page turner.

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## **Scott Golden says**

Overly long, but interesting novel that was the basis of "The Towering Inferno" film.

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## **Robert says**

An entertaining disaster novel which provided half the basis for the the blockbuster 1974 movie The Towering Inferno (the other novel the movie was based upon was The Tower by Richard Martin Stern - the titles melded together quite well, didn't they). There are some genuinely harrowing sequences in this, plus more-than-decent decent characterizations - and it gets extra points for having a major character be a heroic 40 year-old gay guy (quite progressive for a piece of mainstream popular fiction from that era). This summer I am all about reading strictly-for-pleasure books (the Michael Ondaatjes and Victor LaValles of the world can wait until fall) and this did the trick. Makes me also want to watch The Towering Inferno again, which was always my favorite disaster movie from the hallowed disaster movie craze of the 70's. Three to three-and-a-half outta five.

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### **Jon says**

This and a similar book, *The Tower*, were being turned into competing film adaptations when Warner Bros. and 20th Century Fox decided to pool their resources and combine the stories into one epic film *The Towering Inferno*, with screenwriter Sterling Silliphant drawing @ 8 characters from each novel. The result was the #1 box office film of its year.

This book features many of the characters and aspects of the movie including the characters played by Fred Astaire, Jennifer Jones, OJ Simpson and ones very similar to those portrayed by Paul Newman, William Holden and Robert Wagner, with some differences. It also features other characters, some very compelling, who were left out, such as a heroic (gay) interior designer and a teenage delinquent, addicted to drugs, among others.

It's a gripping page-turner in which the fire is another character. It's also mostly realistic and delves into the characters a bit more than the film was able to. With the scenic elevator, Promenade Room, deaf tenants, water tanks, elevator shafts and other plot elements, this book is probably closest to the film versus *The Tower*, but there are enough differences to keep a reader entertained so that it isn't wholly predictable.

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### **Nancy Bandusky says**

An enjoyable "disaster" novel that starts out a bit slow, allowing the reader to engage with the multitude of characters. When the fire breaks out, the pacing moves a bit more rapidly - yet steady.

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### **Mom gasparrelli says**

FANTASTIC

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### **Alistair Young says**

Probably *the* classic disaster novel.

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