



The Glass Demon

Helen Grant

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The Glass Demon is a thrilling young adult novel filled with mystery and the supernatural from Helen Grant, author of *The Vanishing of Katharina Linden*, in which Lin Fox is about to discover that not all fairytales are fiction. *The Glass Demon* bridges the world of the traditional Grimm fairytale with the darker world of Angela Carter's adult fairytales.

The first death

Seventeen-year-old Lin Fox finds a body in an orchard. As she backs away in horror, she steps on broken glass.

The second death

Then blood appears on her doorstep - blood, and broken glass.

The third death

Something terrible is found in the cemetery. Shards of broken glass lie by a grave.

Who will be next?

As the attacks become more sinister, Lin doesn't know who to trust. She's getting closer to the truth behind these chilling discoveries, but with each move the danger deepens.

Because someone wants Lin gone - and won't give up until he's got rid of her and her family. Forever.

Helen Grant's first teen novel *The Vanishing of Katharina Linden* was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal; her other darkly thrilling young adult novels, *The Vanishing of Katharina Linden* and *Wish Me Dead*, are also available from Penguin.

The Glass Demon Details

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From Reader Review The Glass Demon for online ebook

Hweeps says

It was a sort of love-hate relationship I had with *The Glass Demon*. The story is narrated in a retrospective style so at about the end of every other chapter Lin goes like, "I was not to know (blablabla) will be (insert some horror)". It's an intriguing storyline, I must say, and the balance between some paranormal cause and a criminal cause of the deaths must have been difficult to hold, but it was done pretty well. You have no idea whether it was the glass demon or some other townie not so keen on the family's presence. The characters are pretty well-developed and I liked that Lin's father isn't this perfect, good-looking and strong father and he had his own (somewhat major) flaws. I could identify with him, though, his strong desire to see the glass and inability to put aside the glass even after so many (one more significant than the rest) deaths. I also liked the mystery surrounding Michel and family (Can't remember how to spell his last name! -.-); the violent, scary father and the don't-let's-talk-about-him older brother. Oh and the dog too, how can I forget that? Scary monster, lol. And about Father Engle, the way Lin was describing him... I totally wished he were alive, lol.

Altogether a somewhat interesting book, but I'd say I wouldn't have minded not reading it, I would say. There's just nothing in it for me.

Tasula says

A 17 year old girl and her family are taken to Germany so her father can search for a set of stained glass windows that are reputed to be cursed and inhabited by a demon. As they travel to their temporary home in Germany, a series of deaths and attacks starts to plague them. The girl is eventually convinced that the glass demon is real and is killing people who are involved in some way with the stained glass windows. The heroine (Lin Fox) and a neighbor teen (Michel) are very likeable, with some demons of their own.

Denise says

Obsessed with finding the *Allerheiligen* glass, a grouping of medieval stained glass windows that have been missing for centuries, Lin's historian father moves the whole family to a small town in Germany for Lin's final year of school. What none of them know is that they're about to step straight into a nightmare, one that begins with a dead body mysteriously surrounded by broken glass that Lin finds in an orchard before they've even arrived at their destination and will bring death and destruction right into their home. Dark legends surround the *Allerheiligen* glass, and as the bodies pile up, they appear to be coming true - but whether a demon or a more mundane explanation is behind what is going on, one thing is very clear: Someone wants Lin's family gone, and they will stop at nothing to drive them away.

This is one of those books that slowly creeps up on you as the atmosphere gets ever more sinister and the suspense continues to mount. Having read a number of reviews before picking up the book, I knew not to expect the paranormal elements hinted at in the description to actually manifest and enjoy the book for what it was: A haunting, atmospheric murder mystery. The settings are well realized, as is the oppressive and threatening atmosphere, but I didn't particularly care for the characters and the pace was painfully slow at times.

Emma says

To begin with this book was rating at 1, 2 stars tops. The first 100 or so pages I just couldn't get into it. The characters didn't seem all that interesting. It didn't read like a book I thought I should enjoy. Not just that I felt that things were happening in a blink of an eye, no detail just boom, boom boom. I didn't see what else could happen. How it could develop, especially develop into a book worthy of 3/4 stars, one I would not regret buying.

BUT.....to my delight it achieved this. I would give it 3 or 3 1/2 but I rounded it up. The book - the content, the characters, relationships - got more intriguing, complex and exciting that I was desperate to turn the page. I felt, to begin with, a certain detachment towards the characters, but once the book got going, the characters seemed real, which is what I need in a book to fully enjoy them. For them to seem tangible, their feelings, their actions and Helen Grant achieved this once the story progressed. Lin and Michel were the most central characters, but with the help of her family and certain members of the town the plot became believable and strong.

I was glad this didn't turn out to be a paranormal romance, as they all end up merging into one after a while - too much is the same, no originality. This was original. Compared to what I have read in the past anyway. I loved the history. And the relevance to demons and faith as well as folklore. I thought it was a very interesting and engaging concept that keeps you hooked.

So all in all an enjoyable read IF you persist otherwise you will have the wrong idea of this book. It gives you a trial but if persevere you will be rewarded!

Natalie Cheetham says

Lin Fox is not happy to be spending her last year of high school in Germany, as her father searches for medieval stained glass. It's rumored that the glass is cursed, and when Lin and her family keep encountering death, and when someone/something begins threatening Lin's own family, she begins to believe the rumors. Can Lin and her new friend, Michel, find and fight the demon behind the glass before it's too late?

I really didn't get this book. A demon haunting medieval stained glass...not really my thing. A better book could have made me interested in the topic...but this novel just fell flat. The characters not only disinterested me, they confused me and annoyed me. Was Tuesday Lin's mother? How could Michel be "in love" with Lin when he barely knew her for an instant? What the heck was the point of Michel's brother? At 16-17 years old, isn't time Lin got over her name???? Worst of all was Polly. Not only did I find her spiral into anorexia unrealistic (please, she is practically dead after only a few weeks?) it was ridiculously unnecessary, in my eyes.

Cora Tea Party Princess says

5 Words: History, religion, secrets, family, tragedy.

Full review to come.

Charles says

My second Helen Grant novel and I thoroughly enjoyed it (as I did the first one - *The Vanishing of Katharina Linden*). Set, like the earlier novel, in Germany and drawing on local legends to great - and genuinely creepy - effect, the book also paints a convincing picture of adolescent discomfort, to put it mildly, loneliness and displacement, the stirrings of first love, and the sheer strangeness of being oneself and having no one to share this with. It's sharply characterised, gripping and cleverly plotted. It's also, both comically and horrifically, a manual in bad parenting techniques. Recommended.

Jonathan Oliver says

There's a great MR Jamesian premise at the heart of this book, and the setting of the rural Eifel with its gloomy pine forests and crumbling castles adds dollops of atmosphere. Grant's protagonists are believable and the writing is brisk but cunning enough to draw you in. I wasn't entirely convinced by the last act but that doesn't detract from a gripping YA title that never speaks down to its audience.

Kelly says

Spooky story of a girl, Lin, whose family moves from England to Germany so that Lin's professor father can study a set of stained glass windows. The windows are rumored to have been haunted by a demon, but are widely believed to no longer exist. But then Lin learns that someone--human or demon--is willing to kill to keep the windows hidden.

Things I loved: Terrific tension--*The Glass Demon* is really scary! Great writing. Realism of Lin's family: they're not absent, they loom large in the story and are dysfunctional in tragically realistic ways. Loved the shock of discovering the real history between Lin and Tuesday. Loved the way Grant let the reader realize the pattern of the crimes just a moment before Lin does; the reader gets to feel smart, but without then having to spend half the book wishing Lin would figure it out too. Also liked the more realistic, less insta-soul-mate relationship that develops between Lin and a neighbor boy. Oh, and this is one of the few books where a protagonist doesn't tell parents/police/whatever about what's going on *and I actually understood why*.

Things I didn't love: Too much foreshadowing. Also, despite Lin's concern about her sister's rapid weight loss, she sure has a snide mental comment for every large character who wanders through the story. It does make sense, given the messages she's grown up with, but dang did it irritate me sometimes.

Grant keeps us guessing until the end about whether this is a paranormal story or a "regular" murder mystery. (view spoiler)

Melanie says

The premise was interesting, and the suspense and pace were good enough to keep me reading, but in the end I was left disappointed. The conclusion was sort of anticlimactic in its normality, and none of the characters seemed to have any redeeming characteristics, other than perhaps Polly and Michel. But then again, their only positive traits tended to be their selflessness to the point of being doormats. I couldn't figure out why Michel loved Lin, unless it was just based on physical attraction and her being foreign. I also couldn't understand how Lin went from using Michel and not caring about him, to suddenly deciding she loved him. There was no epiphany, other than her suddenly realizing he was good looking after being humiliated by the priest she has a crush on, nor any sort of growth in her feelings for him.

Relationships between Lin's family members were also confusing. I was honestly shocked to discover near the end that Tuesday was her real mother, and Polly was actually her older sister, not her younger sister. There was something about the dynamics between them and how each of them acted that gave me the impression that Lin was older, and I don't recall anything in the text giving us their ages.

Because of the way Tuesday relates to the girls differently than she does to her infant son, I was under the impression for most of the book that Polly and Lin's birth mother had died when they were little, and Tuesday was her father's second wife, and Reuben was Tuesday and their father's son.

Lin tells us early on that she wants to be a scientist and be the only one in her family not interested in the arts. But as far as I can tell, only their father is interested in the arts, as a historian. Tuesday doesn't seem interested in much of anything other than fashion mags, Polly only seems interested in taking care of the baby, and there's no real indication that Lin is actually interested in science. Her whole "I'm going to be a scientist" routine only seems to come up when she's trying to rationalize her ill-fated crush on the handsome priest at her school. The fact that Lin can spontaneously draw the elaborate stained glass windows from memory in a matter of minutes was really hard to believe, particularly since Lin doesn't seem to spend any time during the rest of the book drawing or displaying any artistic talent at all, and she only has a few brief encounters with the windows in real life.

And for all of her apparent sympathy for Polly doing everything while Tuesday does nothing, Lin herself doesn't seem to actually pitch in to help out. Aside from going to school, and the few trips to the woods, I can't really figure out what Lin herself is spending her time on, and why she couldn't help her poor sister out. I also think considering how much misinformation is given about Michel's brother, it would've been more effective to have Lin actually meet him, rather than coming to the realization that he was harmless via Michel's words and her own analysis of an event she didn't actually witness (when Michel's father comes over to the castle to threaten Lin's family, and Jorg comes along).

All in all, it's an interesting premise, the suspense and tension are well done, but it was hard to care about what happened to any of the characters when I didn't really like any of them (other than perhaps Michel and Polly, the only two I found sympathetic), and the big reveal was sort of a let down.

Dionne says

Wow what a book! Fast-paced narrative with a character I liked. Helen Grant writes with a style I enjoy reading. Her sense of humour shines through, with the main character, Lin, snarky and with little patience for stupidity or arseholes. The characterization rang true for me—a teen who is not afraid to stand up for what she thinks is right, but second-guesses herself at times.

The main story was mystery and horror combined, underscored with the secondary plot of Lin's sister, Polly, having anorexia, and Lin's fear for her. This adds tension to the main narrative. It was all woven together

smoothly. Her similes were deftly drawn, one of my favourites being, “Reality seems to be unraveling as though it were a piece of knitting and someone had taken the end of the wool and pulled until the stiches slipped, one after another, dissolution running back and forth across the work, faster and faster...”.

The journey Lin undertakes reveals her strengths, while it exposes the weaknesses of those around her, including her father and mother. While I was not scared while reading this book, I did fear for the characters, although assumed Lin would come out of it alive since she was narrating. If you want a book that is within the thriller genre but has a literary slant, you should try this book. I couldn't put it down. I'm off to find Helen Grant's other books now. Bye.

Bianca says

De glasduivel is het 2e boek van Helen Grant, haar 1e boek is De verdwenen meisjes. In eerste instantie denk je dat je te maken hebt met een historisch boek maar niets is minder waar. Hier heb je toch wel met een ongelofelijk spannende thriller te maken met een vleugje geschiedenis en fantasie. Al zat ik overdag te lezen, sommige stukjes bezorgde me de rillingen op mijn ruggengraat. Spannend van begin tot eind, op het puntje van je stoel.

Lin Fox verhuist naar Duitsland vanwege haar vader, professor Fox. Professor Fox doet onderzoek naar de gebrandschilderde “Allerheiligenramen” en hoopt hiermee zijn carrière weer op de rit te krijgen. Lin wordt door haar vader betrokken in de zoektocht naar deze ramen omdat zij de Duitse taal beheerst, ook al wil ze dit eigenlijk niet. Al vanaf aankomst in Eifel is het duidelijk dat ze hier niet gewenst zijn, ze worden de schrik aangejaagd door lokale bewoners. Er vinden zich onder vreemde omstandigheden moorden plaats met glas bij de lijken, dat geeft hun een zeer ongemakkelijk gevoel, toch wil professor Fox door zoeken. Lin gaat op onderzoek uit naar deze ramen en treft hierbij haar buurjongen Michel. Tijdens dit onderzoek gebeuren er rare situaties binnen haar eigen familie wat de angst op het hart brengt, toch zet ze door. Op een bepaald moment zit Lin op school en krijgt een heel ongemakkelijk gevoel en dat wordt alleen maar versterkt na een telefoontje van haar vader. Ze gaat heel snel naar huis en treft ze daar haar zus Polly dood aan in vreemde omstandigheden. Nu nog meer gebrand om er achter te komen wie er achter de moorden zit en de betekenis van de “Allerheiligenramen” gaat ze op onderzoek bij de kerk in het bos. Ze komt erachter wie het heeft gedaan en raakt verwikkeld in een heftig gevecht met de nodige verwondingen.

Het einde is zo geschreven dat er nog wel eens een vervolg achteraan zou kunnen komen.

mandu says

Lin Fox and her family move to Germany for a year so her father can track down the fabled Allerheiligen stained glass and win himself a reputation. Yet the moment of their arrival, death seems to follow, leaving behind a track of broken glass; the sign of Bonschariant, the demon who haunts the glass.

Secretive townsfolk, open hostility, even unhelpful law enforcers seem to point to only one thing. No one wants the glass to be found. What they do want is the Foxes out of their town, or dead.

There is something eerie in the way the town and its inhabitants were portrayed, and it set a lovely backdrop for the story to unfold. The castle in the woods, an almost isolated feel in the atmosphere - it was a great

horror waiting to unravel.

Even the dysfunctionality that was the Fox family added to the overall suspense of the story. And at first glance it was lovely. Tuesday's somewhat immature, coquettish behaviour made me think of her more as an older sister than a mother. Polly's lie-low-and-let-everyone-tramp-all-over-her attitude reminded me a bit of Beth from *Little Women*. And although I couldn't relate to the doormat aspect of her personality, it was a relief to see her character develop - or change - spiralling into a darker side that we unfortunately never saw very much of.

As for the father. A work-driven, single-minded man, who could even momentarily forget the death of one of his own children for the sake of this hallowed glass (don't act like that's a spoiler because it isn't) - he frightened me the way a quietly unstable, charismatic villain would.

Then we have Lin. Lin and her foolishness. I didn't dislike her character, but I didn't like her either. For someone who seemed so determined to keep her family safe, I was astonished at some of the decisions she made. To me, she was imprudent,reckless, and her treatment of Michel was just plain selfish.

And I ADORED Michel. But then again, I ADORE German boys so that may be a little biased. I didn't understand why he loved Lin, though (and no, it's not jealousy speaking); it seemed a little too forced for me. It would've been just as well if they were made platonic friends and nothing more. The "love" aspect really grated on me a bit. The word being thrown out and about in the book also made me cringe one too many times.

Maybe it's just me, but when I was seventeen I sure as hell didn't just see some random hunkaspunk and decide I was in "love" with him just because I imagined having special conversations with him.

The plot itself was ... fast-moving? Deliberate? The downside is that we didn't get a complete feel of the town and its townsfolk (or is it village and villagers?); somewhat understandable since **Grant** would want to focus on the Allerheiligen glass and the search for it.

What was a pity for me is that what made the book scary was the underlying feel in its backdrop. The story itself was not frightening, nor was it even suspenseful.

Another nit I have to pick is how forced things seemed. And I'm not just talking about Michel's sudden love for Lin - I'm talking about the hostility and cold shoulder the townsfolk gave to the Foxes. Sure, it was all spooky-spooky and suspicious when you were reading the book, but once you've finished and you think back, you'd realize there really wasn't any reason for that cold treatment. And don't tell me it has anything to do with post-war enmity between Germany and England because I. Don't. Buy. It.

Yet I enjoyed *The Glass Demon*; I liked the character development, disregard whether or not I liked the characters themselves. **Grant** also has a way of building up emotion and setting up mood, nudging readers to read on. So this one earns much over three but still less than four stars from me.

Lara says

Helen Grant's books always seem to get such mixed reviews, but I really kind of love them. If you've read [The Vanishing of Katharina Linden](#), you'll notice some similarities here: the setting of a small German town, the main character's reluctant relationship with a neighborhood boy, some really crappy family dynamics, the possibility that supernatural elements are at work. And while sometimes similarities in books by the same author like this can really annoy me, I found that they didn't at all in [The Glass Demon](#), just because I so

enjoy the way that Grant writes. Both books are quiet, and sad, and creepy, and funny in parts, and for me, both main characters feel real in a way that few main characters do in books. Lin is self-centered and indecisive and angry and defensive, and does things she regrets, and deals with things in inappropriate ways at times--like many teenagers (and many adults) do. I found the story itself really interesting as well, and the history well researched and believable. It's not one of those books with *action, action, action!* though there is definitely a lot of tension and quite a climax towards the end. But for me, the thing I love is the slow building of suspense as Lin tries to figure out what's going on around her, and in the slow building and deteriorating of the bonds between Lin and the members of her family and between herself and Michel. There's just something deliciously dark and subtly hopeful about the stories Grant sets up, and I for one am most definitely looking forward to the next one she puts out!

Andrea Lee says

LOVED This book. The characters were fabulous - rich and interesting and deep with lots of empathy. The two main characters are teenagers, with another teen being a primary secondary character. Grant does a fabulous job of catching the teen voice - somewhat disgruntled, misunderstood, a little rebellious and a lot scared/cautious. She is able to give us a real mystery, with the added benefit of taking most of us - Americans anyway - out of our physical space comfort by placing the whole story in an area of Germany that is little visited and less often written about. The religious theme was not overdone, this from a non religious person, and I enjoyed the peep into the priests world. I would have liked him, the good looking priest, to make another appearance at the end, to explain himself more, but the ending worked well for me as it stands. I highly recommend this one! I gave it 4 stars only because I couldn't give it 4.5 stars.
