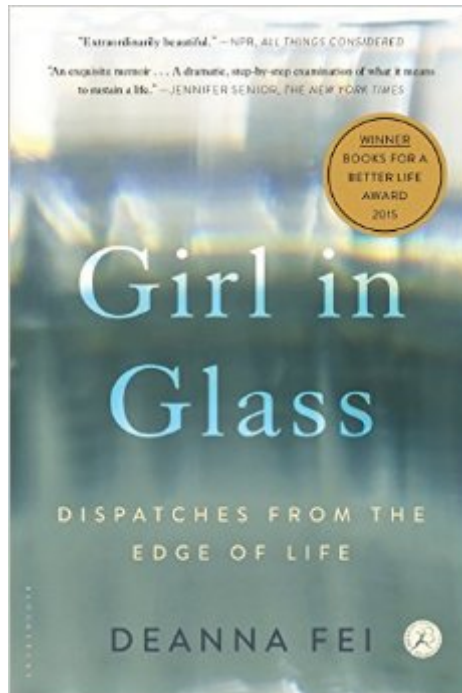


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# Girl In Glass: Dispatches From The Edge Of Life



## 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 premie 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 parents' 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, it's tough "even excruciatingly painful" 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 Fei'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 "real life" is like for many preemie parents.

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