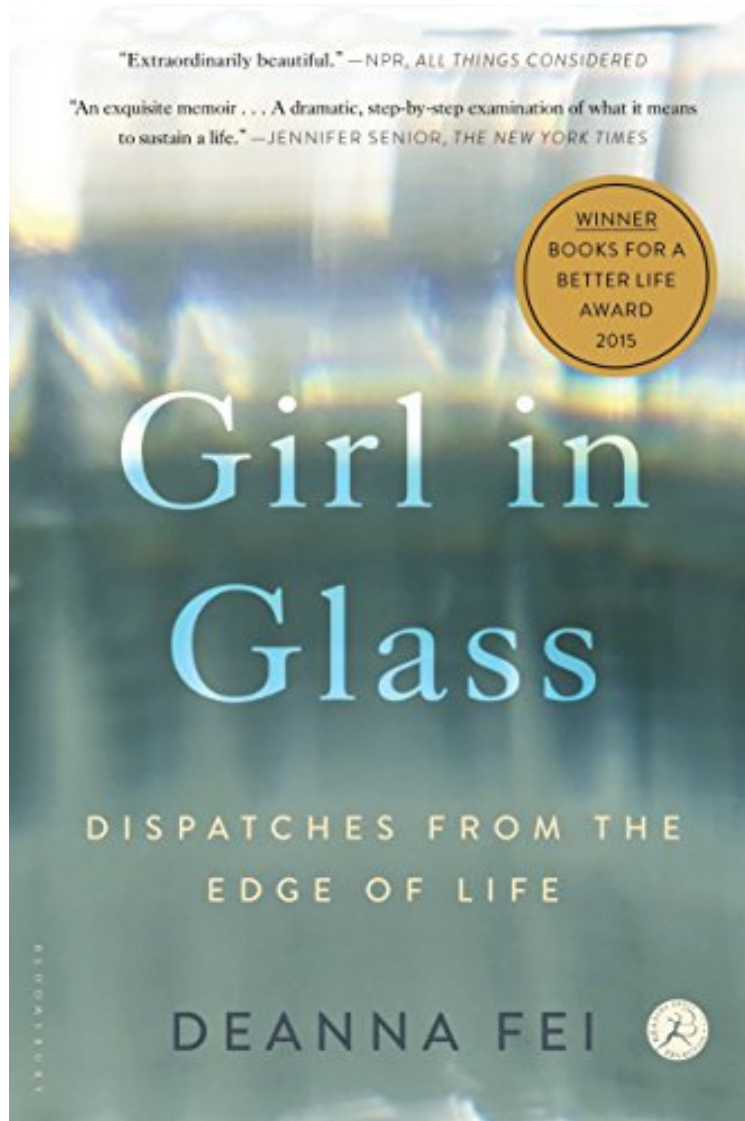


(Free read ebook) Girl in Glass: Dispatches from the Edge of Life

## Girl in Glass: Dispatches from the Edge of Life

Deanna Fei

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**Deanna Fei : Girl in Glass: Dispatches from the Edge of Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Girl in Glass: Dispatches from the Edge of Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating, Heart-Wrenching Memoir By Cathryn Conroy It made the news...for days, which is unusual for our frenetic news cycle. In February 2014 in an all-hands meeting in front of some 5,000 employees worldwide, AOL CEO Tim Armstrong announced that certain employee benefits associated with the 401(k) were being changed to save the company money. The reason? In 2012, two AOL employees had given birth to "distressed babies." \*This heart-wrenching book is written by the mother of one of those babies who found

herself first horrified and then later emboldened when the top executive of her husband's company publicly revealed their most private family anguish. With incredible honesty and insight, author Deanna Fei describes the journey she and her husband, Peter, began when their daughter, Mila, arrived at just 25 weeks gestation, weighing a mere one pound, nine ounces. This tiny fighter spent the next three months in the NICU of a New York City hospital. When Mila was born, she was not fully formed. Not only were her lungs underdeveloped, but also her ears weren't developed, her bloody and bruised skin was gelatinous, her legs were like twigs of bone and she had no nipples. Deanna Fei details the struggles she went through at this infant's mother: Would it be better to let her go or fight to keep her alive? Was this the right thing to do or was it almost cruel to Mila? They truly lived on an emotional roller coaster of life and death during the fall of 2012. Eventually, Deanna and Peter experienced what they thought would never be possible: Things were normal again. Mila was 18 months old and doing very well. And then she was publicly labeled a "distressed baby," and all hell broke loose. Deanna decided to cut through the noise of the ensuing media firestorm and stand up for her "distressed baby" and those everywhere--even though she was doing battle with her husband's very large, deep-pocketed employer. An employer on whom they depended as a family. Everything was at stake. But so was her baby. And she knew what she had to do. This book is the result, and it valiantly gives a brave, loving voice to those who are rarely heard. \*Note: Several days after Armstrong made this "distressed babies" gaffe, he apologized and reverted AOL employees' 401(k) benefits as they had been previously. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Powerful, important, and beautiful. By Lesley The author tells her heartbreaking story so beautifully and at the same time gives voice to such an important issue in America today. Too many people have, at their most vulnerable and desperate point, had their medical privacy violated, been targeted and shamed by their employer, and suffered lasting damage due to the tangle of corporate greed and healthcare. Anyone who reads this will find themselves cheering for a baby up against incredible odds, and a family up against more than they should have to endure. To NICU moms everywhere and employees who have felt vulnerable because of health issues, you may find that this book is the voice and village you have been searching for. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I primarily read memoirs and this one I highly recommend - in fact. By groupworker I primarily read memoirs and this one I highly recommend - in fact, one of my favorite reads of the past year. I literally could not stop reading once I started. Incredibly well written and the right balance of the personal journey, as well as understanding the political implications of health care and the demands of premature infants on the health care system. Fei is an outstanding writer with just the right amount of self reflection, vulnerability and details for a good memoir.

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.

"The author has spun a profound work of philosophy and sewn it into the shell of an exquisite memoir." Jennifer Senior, *The New York Times*  
"In this courageous and passionate book, Deanna Fei tells the story of delivering a medically fragile child at 25 weeks. Even those who know the outcome will be gripped by the novelistic depiction of oscillating hope and despair. But the real accomplishment of this book is that it takes memoir as a jumping-off point for pondering the obligations attached to scientific progress and collective wealth. In addressing the issue of how much a human life is ultimately worth, it becomes a deeply moving work of moral philosophy." Andrew Solomon, *NEW YORK TIMES* bestselling author of *FAR FROM THE TREE*  
"Deanna Fei has written three gripping tales in one--her transcendent journey as the mother of a child born way too soon; her plunge into the harsh realities of corporate greed and bumbling when a certain CEO publicly labeled her daughter a 'distressed baby'; and her hard-won understanding of what society owes its most fragile beings. Readers will fall in love with Fei's daughter, and come to see that she is all of our children." Lisa Belkin, author of *LIFE'S WORK* and former columnist for the *NEW YORK TIMES*'s *Motherlode* blog  
"Luminous . . . An unflinching testament to the improbable miraculousness of life. This is an astonishing book, full of dark beauty and grace and a hard-earned integrity, one that will haunt me for a long time." Thrity Umrigar, bestselling author of *THE SPACE BETWEEN US* and *THE STORY HOUR*  
"Fei grippingly details her dread, anxiety, and wonder with her second-trimester delivery . . . An urgent call for corporate compassion by a woman with a baby in peril." Kirkus  
"Extraordinarily beautiful." NPR, *All Things Considered*  
"Impassioned, important . . . effective, and affecting . . . [Fei] is an eloquent stylist

who writes with immediacy and honesty." The Washington Post "Raw, unflinching, and beautifully written." Good Housekeeping "A heartbreaking yet beautiful story of motherhood and love . . . Fei is a gifted writer with a courageous tale to share. This memorable book belongs on the shelf of every library." starred review, Library Journal "[Fei] writes with precision, grace, and a devastating honesty." The Boston Globe "This memoir is so starkly, poignantly written, so smart and wrenching, and I just had a truly visceral response to both the story and to Fei's fierce, plain mother love throughout." (Year in Reading 2015), The Millions "Everyone must read this book." Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC "Honest and clear-eyed . . . Mesmerizing." Yahoo! Parenting "Somehow finding immense bravery amid her turbulent experience, Fei has written a memoir, *Girl in Glass* . . . She's able to construct a scene with just a few details and go straight to its emotional heart. Her writing immerses readers through intimate vignettes: the first time she was able to embrace her daughter; the daughters' first feedings achieved painstakingly for months; her daughters' first unassisted breaths . . . It's amazing how she's able to ask so many of the hard questions . . . about the value of one fragile human life. Anyone who recognizes or questions the idea that human life has a price tag will want to read this book." Tamiko Nimura, *Hyphen Magazine* "Dramatic . . . Argue[s] eloquently against corporate greed and the bottom line of profit and loss." The Catholic Reporter "One of 2015's most moving and important books." *Largehearted Boy* About the Author Deanna Fei is the author of the award-winning novel *A Thread of Sky*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Fei has received a Fulbright Grant and a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship. Her essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Slate*, *Huffington Post*, and other publications. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.