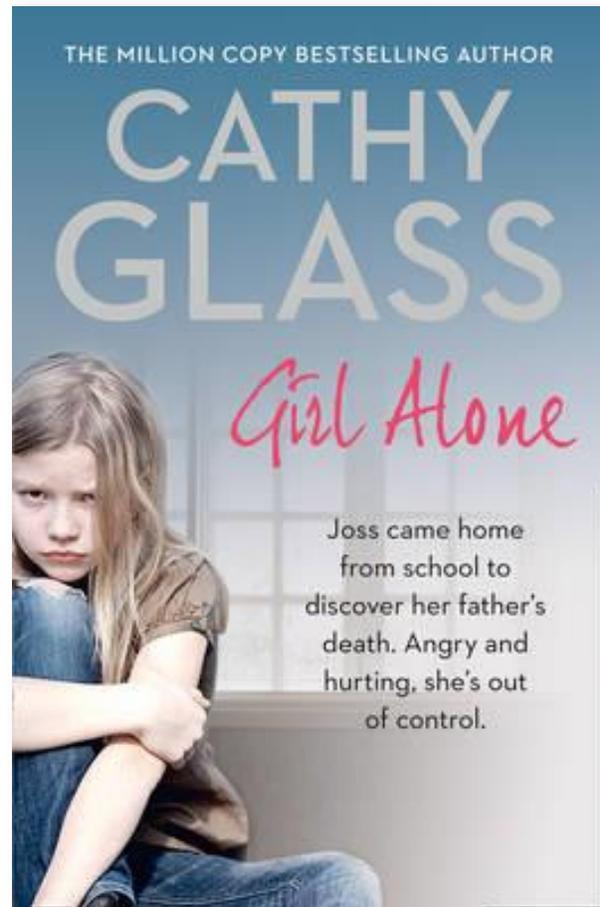


Lovereading Reader reviews of Girl Alone, by Cathy Glass

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.

Hannah Ward

*I was lucky enough to get an advanced copy of this book and I would like to say thank you to Lovereading for sending it to me. This is the second book I have read of Cathy Glass's and I can't believe some of the stories I have read so far. The poor children that have to go through these awful things at such a young age. It makes me feel sick. **These books are so heart touching that I really do admire Cathy and the work that she does, she makes the child feel safe, and that they have a sense of belonging. These books also give you a good insight about what it is like to be a foster carer. Another fantastic read.***



<http://echoesinanemptyroom.com/2015/09/30/girl-alone-by-cathy-glass/>

Angie Rhodes

This is a heart-breaking tale, of Joss, who as a nine year old, finds her beloved dad, hanging in the garage. This and her mother's re marriage is enough to send her out of control. Moved from the family home, other relations and foster homes, her next port of call is to Cathy Glass.

What follows is a battle of wits, Joss's and Cathy's. Joss is determined to cause as much havoc as she can, from turning up late to school or not at all, staying

out later than her stated time for being in, stealing and hanging round with the wrong people. Joss believes nobody cares, but she has not bet on Cathy.

Cathy is one amazing lady, and to read her books, gives hope to all the children who come into contact with her.

Jennifer Merville

'Girl Alone' is the story of Joss - a girl who is put into foster care after her father dies and her mother subsequently remarries. Joss doesn't get on with her step-father and so agrees to go to live with a carer - leaving her younger brother behind.

Joss is angry at her father for leaving them - and angry at her mother for marrying "him".

Between all the lies and deceit, thieving, drinking alcohol, drug taking, sleeping with men (she is only 13), skipping school and everything else Joss gets up to her foster carer has a lot to put up with - especially since she already has a number of other children living with her.

As the story progresses you find out why Joss gets into trouble - but once she keeps away from her best friend and tells her story things quickly change and eventually things start to become normal in Joss's lifeat last.

Jane Macleod

*An emotional tale of a teenage girl in care, and how Cathy helps her to overcome her past. **The story is tragic from the start, but you do gain an insight in to how vulnerable children behave the way they do, and how foster carers are truly special people who give a part of themselves to all the children they take into their care.***

Another insightful book by Cathy Glass.

Edel Waugh

This is a non fiction account of what it is like to be a foster carer. The child specifically mentioned in this book is called Joss (not her real name), her father committed suicide and her mother is now in a different relationship and this young girl is struggling with life in every way.

Cathy talks about what it is like to foster while having other kids of her own to

look after and protect their wellbeing. As each child she looks after is different there is no set guidebook to helping a child but some guidelines and common sense as well as love and empathy are very useful life skills to have. I have heard it said that it takes a village to raise a child, but if that child is going through some rough home life problems the village can become the foster care system with foster homes, social workers and a team of people looking after each child's specific needs. **Heart-breaking and eye opening it can vividly make you see what goes on behind closed doors and the good people out there fighting against it.**

I would definitely read another book by Cathy after reading this.

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.co.uk/>

Janet Gilliard

This is really not a book I would normally read. I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed this book. The growth of trust between Cathy and Joss is heartening.

Celeste McCreesh

When Joss was only 9 years old, she came home from school to discover her father's suicide. Joss's Mum has also remarried and she is quite bitter about this and resents her stepfather as he's trying to be her father.

Now Joss is a thirteen year old out of control teenager when she arrives to her third foster carer, Cathy in as many months. Cathy is highly experienced in this field and been fostering for over 25 years. Joss's attitude towards Cathy and her 3 children is horrible. She won't let anyone get close to her, she believes that she can take care of herself, but places herself in great danger on numerous occasions. She drinks alcohol, smokes cannabis, steals, goes missing and gets into trouble with the police and at school. Time is running out for Joss as she will be placed in a secure unit. One night when you think things can't any worse for her, she arrives home very late sobbing and with bruises on her face...

I loved this book, it's based on true events also which I really liked. I read in about a day, I couldn't put it down, I really enjoyed Joss's journey from when she arrived with Cathy until the last page. I didn't like Joss at the start but I had so many emotions for her reading it, from annoyance, sadness, empathy, sorrow to happiness.

It was such a heart-warming and uplifting story. This story had it all from love, family to more sensitive and hard-hitting issues which were dealt with in a perfect manner. I found I had a little tear in my eye at the end along with shedding a few along the way, so grab this book, curl up on the couch and prepare to have a few lump in your throat moments too. I'm really looking forward to reading more from her and would highly recommend this book.

Cathy Small

A truly heart-breaking story as you see Joss a 13 year old taken into foster care making her life worse by getting into constant trouble and the fight that the foster carer has to bring out the truth.

Joss is a thirteen year old girl who cannot settle anywhere after she finds her father following his suicide four years ago. Her family can't handle her, 2 foster carers can't handle her and she is now at her last chance with Cathy. She doesn't use this to her advantage and gets deeper into trouble as she mixes with the wrong crowds. Nevertheless Cathy continues to be a strong foster carer and works with her until the truth is out and then the truth is worse than you would imagine. This story couldn't but touch your heart as you feel for Cathy as she tried to support and Joss as you realize what an awful life she has already experienced and the fight to bring back some normality.