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# The Glassblower's Children

By Maria Gripe



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**The Glassblower's Children** By Maria Gripe

By the Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Children's Literature

Albert the Glassblower and Sofia are the loving parents of little Klas and Klara. Albert makes the most beautiful glass bowls and vases (unfortunately they are so impractical that no one will buy them), while Sofia supports the family by working in the fields. Every year Albert goes to the fair to try to sell his wares, and sometimes Sofia and the children go too. At the fair the family meets Flutter Mildweather, a weaver of magical rugs that foretell the future, and Klas and Klara come the attention of the splendid Lord and Lady of All Wishes Town, who have everything they want except for one thing: children.

Full of curious and vivid characters—like the one-eyed raven Wise Wit, who can only see the bright side of life, and the monstrous governess Nana, whose piercing song can shatter glass—*The Glassblower's Children* also ponders such serious matters as what it means to find meaningful work and the difference between what you want and what you need. In *The Glassblower's Children* Maria Gripe has drawn on fairy tales and Norse myths to tell a thrilling story with a very modern sensibility.



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## The Glassblower's Children By Maria Gripe Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

"Gripe polishes each separate scene to fine perfection." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"This is a book to be read and returned to: it touches one deeply before the full pattern of meaning becomes clear, but, when it does, every detail is seen to have its place." —Lesley Croome, *The Times Literary Supplement*

"Beautiful and terrifying by turns...*The Glassblower's Children* is a brave book." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Fifty years ago, Swedish storyteller Maria Gripe set down a curious and somewhat disconcerting fairy tale about a benevolent carpet-weaving witch named Flutter Mildweather; her one-eyed raven companion, who can see only the good in the world; and two small kidnapped children. Reprinted in an elegant edition with original white-on-black etched illustrations....*The Glassblower's Children* retains its mystical, allegorical power....Stirring and distinct, this fable by the 1974 winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award lends itself not just to bedtime reading but also to quiet reflection." —Meghan Cox Gurdon, *The Wall Street Journal*

"[Gripe's] stories were often deceptively plaintive. They hid a wealth of darker truths which brewed just beneath the crust of her mannered language....Gripe employs a striking dynamism that straddles a balance between grim realism and mystical fantasy. Very Swedish in its approach to analyzing human behaviour (think Ingmar Bergman writing children's stories), *The Glassblower's Children* delves deep to examine a kind of existential melancholy in young children." —Imran Khan, *Popmatters*

### About the Author

**Maria Gripe** (1923–2007) was born Maja Stina Walter in Sweden's Stockholm archipelago, the daughter of an army captain. She attended Stockholm University, where she studied philosophy and the history of religion, and in 1946 married the artist Harald Gripe. Though she wrote stories from the time she was a child, Gripe did not publish her first book until she was thirty-one. Her first notable success came in the 1960s with a trilogy of books about Hugo and Josephine, and in 1964 she published *Glasblåsarns barn*, translated into English as *The Glassblower's Children* in 1973. In 1974 she received Hans Christian Andersen Award, the most prestigious prize given to a writer of children's literature. She adapted many of her books for radio, television, and film; in 1998 a movie adaptation of *The Glassblower's Children*, starring Stellan Skarsgård, was released. Among Gripe's books translated into English are *The Night Daddy*, *Elvis and His Secret*, and *Agnes Cecilia*.

**Harald Gripe** (1921–1992) was born and raised in Stockholm. Early in his career he worked as a set designer but later focused on painting and the illustrations he drew for his wife's many books, working frequently in the style of white line etched into a dark background. His large collection of toy theaters is displayed at Gripe Model Theater Museum in Nyköping, Sweden, where he and Maria lived for most of their married life.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Olga Noone:**

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children till adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for all of us. The book The Glassblower's Children was making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The e-book The Glassblower's Children is not only giving you far more new information but also being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship while using book The Glassblower's Children. You never feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

#### **Janet Huynh:**

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to endure than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading any book, we give you this specific The Glassblower's Children book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

#### **Willie Wilson:**

The event that you get from The Glassblower's Children may be the more deep you rooting the information that hide within the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but The Glassblower's Children giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this particular The Glassblower's Children instantly.

#### **Sharon Brogdon:**

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