

Cathy Glass

My Dad's a Policeman

A shocking story about one boy's desperate efforts to keep his family together



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Fast-paced and compelling, this short story from Cathy Glass follows the experiences of a Ryan, a small and lonely 12-year-old boy who struggles to fit in. In an attempt to make friends, and discourage the school bullies from picking on him, Ryan tells his peers that his dad is a policeman. When the police actually turn up on Ryan's doorstep, to take him away from his alcoholic mother and put him in care, his life crumbles. It's not long before Ryan has run away, taking a long bus ride back across the city, desperate to get back to the inner-city life he knows. Keeping a low profile, and sneaking in to his best friend's house late at night for shelter, he soon discovers that he's not the only one who appears to be stretching the truth about the happiness of his home life

My Dad's a Policeman Details

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Author : Cathy Glass

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From Reader Review My Dad's a Policeman for online ebook

Emmie Rijkens says

My least favorite book of Cathy Glass so far but still couldn't put it down.

Den says

A quick read read on the bus home. Ryan is only nine but has been taking care of his younger brother for quite a while as his mum is always too drunk to do so. He is constantly in trouble too and tells everyone his dad is a policeman. After failing to get sober, the boys are taken to separate foster carers. Ryan doesn't give it a chance and as soon as he thinks his foster carer is asleep he slips out of the house and returns to his mum. The police soon turn up and she hands him back over saying it is for the best. He manages to dodge them and after spending a restless night with his friend, he goes to try and rescue his younger brother. He didn't think for one moment that his brother didn't want to be rescued, that his brother was glad of a lovely warm bed and hot never ending food. He ended up going back to his mum, who told him that she was worried sick about him and was going to try really hard to beat the drink and she had employed a solicitor etc. Life was looking up. He did go back to his foster carer and discovered that his foster dad was actually a policeman and that if the judge allowed his brother could move in with them. Although we never know if he does finally return to his mum, we do know he is happy with his carers.

Nicole says

This was a very good book, however I wish the ending finished better. I mean it was a good story but there is some more questions I would like answered.

Theresa says

I was a little confused when I first started the book because I thought it was going to be told by Cathy Glass- about one of her own foster kids. Not to say that I didn't feel for Ryan & Tommy & Wayne but I think I would have liked the book more if it was what I expected. I also enjoy longer books and this one is a quick story.

Melissa Walford says

Really enjoyed this quick read. This time written as Ryan's life story rather than Cathy Glass.

Brittany Rice says

I really enjoy Cathy Glass, however this was not my favorite of her work. If this happens to be your first experience if Ms. Glass, I strongly urge you to read another before moving on.

Six-Fingered Nigel says

I thought it was really amazing. It really gave you insight into what some kids go through and how tough it is, and it makes you realize that you'll never fully understand what they live through and how it makes them feel.

connie says

I really enjoyed reading this book. It is quite different from other books Cathy has written, in the fact that it is from the child's point of view. To step back and see foster care through the eyes of the one going through it, is actually a different perspective. Ryan didn't wish to leave his mother and brother as they were the only family he knew. He fantasized about his father because he never knew him and that gave him the courage to live as they did. As you go through the book and find out how he makes his choices you wonder yourself if you would have done the same given you had been in his shoes. There are so many children in our cities here and abroad who live just like Ryan daily and yet they seem invisible to most of us. It is time more people became aware of these children before it is too late.

Meital Ben-Daniel says

A young adult novel, based on a true story of Ryan who is placed in foster care, as his mother is an alcoholic and can no longer take care of them. Ryan fights to come to terms with the circumstances of his life, being separated from his brother Tommy, from his Mom and from his friend Wayne.

A quick read !

Ellen Isabella says

I chose this book because the number of the pages is quite small so to finish it before year 2011. It's a true story about a boy named Ryan who had to live with a foster carer since his mother failed to take care of him and his brother.

It was such a heartbreak story, but for me it was not strong enough. The story was supposed to be Ryan's experience and it was told from the first person perspective. But then the story-teller was actually not Ryan himself but Cathy who might only know the story from Ryan. It maybe affects the content of the story. A true story usually has very strong emotional waves and this book didn't describe that aspect so much.

For me, the title also doesn't tell so much about the story despite that Ryan thought that his father, whom he never knew, was a policeman. Aside from that, it doesn't connect so much with the story.

But overall it was an okay story to read. At least it opened our eyes that many things like what was told in this book is happening in our society and we shall help those children like Ryan to have a better living in this world.

Lance Greenfield says

Cathy Glass is a foster parent, so she writes this story based on experience.

Ryan never knew his Dad, but he has to tell people something, and that something is in the title. It transpires that his mother may not even know who his Dad was, as he and his much-loved brother, Tommy, were both conceived during drunken one-night stands. His mother is almost ALWAYS drunk.

Ryan is taken into care, and is separated from his brother. He makes plans and runs away. His best friend takes a risk to harbour him.

The pace is fast, and it is easy to read the whole story in one sitting.

I liked this even more as there were reflections of my own childhood. No, my mother was not forever drunk, and I was not taken into care. But my parents split up when I was very young, and I was forever running away. I like to think that those experiences enhanced my education.

This is a good story, and it could easily have been extended to show what happened to the various characters in the following years. Perhaps Cathy Glass will write that story some day.

Roz Thompson-Van Eeden says

wonderful story and well worth the hour it took me to read.

Jo Daniels says

A good story well worth reading.

Sara says

A very different Cathy Glass book, but I enjoyed it very much :)

Dave Chapais says

Just a 'good' quick read. Expected a little bit more....
