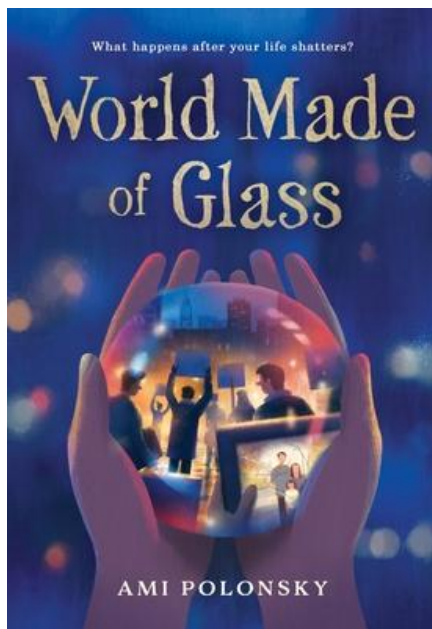


World Made of Glass

Ami Polonsky



The setting of the book *World Made of Glass* takes place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the 1980s. Although, they sometimes go to New York to protest or meet about the AIDS crisis. A group of people named ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) get together to protest about equality to people with AIDS. They try to get the FDA to release drugs/medicines to cure AIDS or ACT UP tries to get the government's attention to help. Like Iris Cohen's dad, who was a gay person who died of AIDS named Steve. Steve Cohen was a part of ACT UP. The setting helps create the city-like, frustrating mood and if the weather were any different they might not be able to protest. Sometimes Iris thinks back to when her dad was alive. When she does that, she

thinks about the times when she would go to Central Park or even the zoo with her dad. If the setting did not take place in New York, they would not be able to create those fond memories. During one of the protests, they start at a church. So, maybe if there was no church there they would have had to find a different place to protest. The setting really is an important part of *World Made of Glass* by Ami Polonski.

The main characters in *World Made of Glass* are Iris Cohen, Julian, J.R., and all of the friends at ACT UP protests. J.R. is a skeptical, city boy who is gay. Julian is a great listener from Indiana who is very empathetic. Iris Cohen is the daughter of Steve Cohen (who died of AIDS), she is a young and slightly unconfident girl who is loaded to the brim with feelings. All of the friends at ACT UP are all helpful, welcoming, sympathetic, and want more attention to the AIDS Crisis. The main character, Iris Cohen, is a dynamic character. She is a dynamic character because she finds a way to let out all of her feelings about her dad that she could not in the beginning of the book. That way is protesting with

ACT UP. Iris feels that when she protests, she lets out sadness and brings out anger. She feels that protesting shows her anger off, that helps her feel better.

The main problem in *World Made of Glass* is that Iris Cohen's dad, Steve Cohen, got really sick with AIDS and then died. Iris responded to the problem with a sad/mad attitude and determination to do something about it. It took time for Iris to 'do something' but in the end she was able to. Iris went to ACT UP meetings and protests, Iris also had her mom talk about AIDS to her school and she also helped change the viewpoint at which her friends saw AIDS. Iris generally just tried to make a change in the world, and she was successful.

The main themes in *World Made of Glass* are sadness, self confidence, anger, family, friendship, hope, bravery, overcoming obstacles, determination. I think that because Steve Cohen dies (sadness, family), Iris is speaking up about AIDS (self confidence, determination, hope), Iris is angry that AIDS does not have as much attention as it should (anger, bravery, overcoming obstacles), and Iris goes to act up meetings & protests and makes friends because of it (friendship).

My opinion about *World Made of Glass* is great, I liked *World Made of Glass* because the plot emitted different emotions such as determination, sadness, and more. It was a great read that felt so short and timeless due to the want to read it. The only part that I dislike about *World Made of Glass* is the entire part of the storyline with Mr. Inlash, in which he is afraid of AIDS. I think this book was believable because most of the facts (not characters and plot) were true. I like the ending of J.R. and Iris writing poems because it was sweet and it brought back memories of Steve Cohen. My favorite part was when J.R. and Iris went to the glass heart museum. The only connection that I made was to Covid-19 it was a little (not a lot) like the AIDS crisis. I give *World Made of Glass* 5 stars because of the storyline.