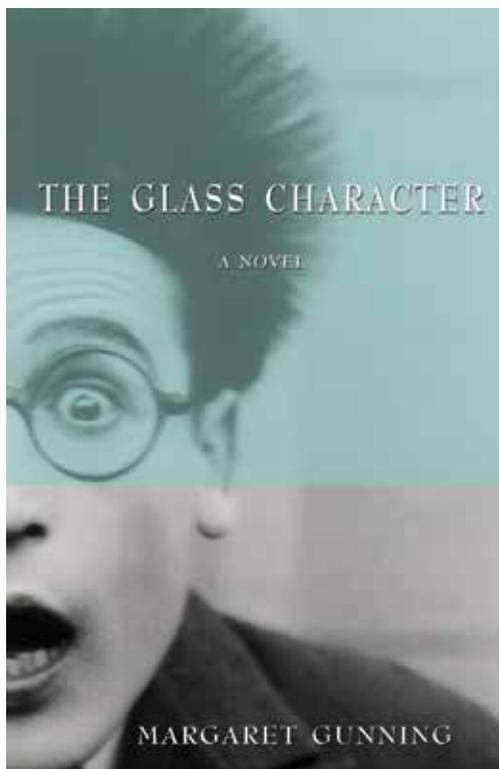


The Glass Character

Margaret Gunning



NOVEL

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The Glass Character is a tale of obsessive love and ruthless ambition set in the heady days of the Jazz Age in the 1920s. It was a time when people went to the movies almost every day, living vicariously through their heroes: Valentino, Garbo, Fairbanks, and Pickford. But comedians were the biggest draw, and broad slapstick the order of the day with one very significant exception. Standing beside Keaton and Chaplin in popularity and prowess was a slight, diffident man named Harold Lloyd: the silent era's most influential comedian.

For sixteen-year-old Jane, he was a living god — not one of his many female followers could adore him more than she did, and no one would be willing to sacrifice more to be part of his life. Jane's naïveté parallels her wide-eyed innocence, and through her eyes reveals much about the politics of the major studios, the power plays of the directors and producers, and the prima donna and egotistical Hollywood stars who ruled the movies. Her story also reveals much about the human heart and our desire to love against impossible odds.

Margaret Gunning has weaved a genuine account that is equal parts love story, historical fiction, and a study of Hollywood entertainment and its impact on fans of all kinds.



Margaret Gunning's experience in print journalism includes many columns and book reviews in such publications as the *Globe & Mail*, *Vancouver Sun*, the *Victoria Times-Colonist*, and the *Montreal Gazette*. Her poems have appeared in *Prism International*, *Room of One's Own*, *Capilano Review*, and many others. Gunning's first novel, *Better than Life* (NeWest

Press, 2003), celebrates the joy and anguish of family in small-town Ontario, and was described by the *Edmonton Journal* as "fiction at its finest". Her second novel, *Mallory* (Turnstone Press, 2005), explores issues of bullying and social ostracism. She lives in Port Coquitlam, BC.

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