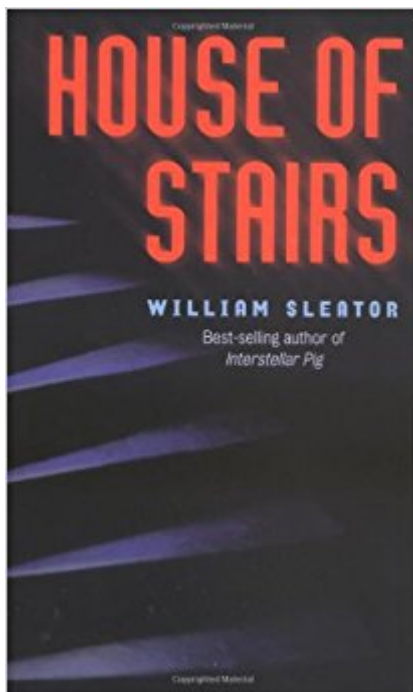


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# House Of Stairs



## Synopsis

This chilling, suspenseful indictment of mind control is a classic of science fiction and will haunt readers long after the last page is turned. One by one, five sixteen-year-old orphans are brought to a strange building. It is not a prison, not a hospital; it has no walls, no ceiling, no floor. Nothing but endless flights of stairs leading nowhere--except back to a strange red machine. The five must learn to love the machine and let it rule their lives. But will they let it kill their souls? "An intensely suspenseful page-turner." --School Library Journal "A riveting suspense novel with an anti-behaviorist message that works . . . because it emerges only slowly from the chilling events." --Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reissue edition (April 1, 1991)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 116 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,440 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure #88 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men #679 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction

## Customer Reviews

"When people talk about classic dystopian novels for young readers, the same titles come up again and again: The Giver. City of Ember. A few others. But one classic book in that subgenre deserves a lot more love: House of Stairs by William Sleator." --io9.com

William Sleator (1945-2011) is the author of numerous science fiction books for children and young adults, including *Interstellar Pig*, *House of Stairs*, and *Blackbriar*.

In the future 5 orphaned 16-year-olds find themselves stranded in a nightmarish building. It consists of nothing but stairs and more stairs. There's no way out. Then they come across a machine. The

machine gives them food when they dance for it. Not all the time, but since it's their only source of food they dance whenever it flashes. Then the dance stops working. Now the machine turns them against one another. How far are they willing to go? This is a very exciting idea and a book I very appreciated. The ending was chilling. The only thing I missed was a bit more depth to the characters. We didn't get to know anything really about three of them (Oliver, Lola and Abigail). And Peter's relationship with Jasper could have been explored in greater depth as well. It seemed odd how he was mentioned yet so little was told about him. The reason for Blossom's hostility and antisocial behavior could also be explained more. Did she have APD? Other than feeling there was still more I wanted to know about them, I really enjoyed this one.

I read this as an actual child and could not remember the title for decades. I thought incorrectly that it was called House of Glass. It is a thing-in-itself work of art. It seems to be a demonstration of Skinner behaviourism, but it is also about character, and tendency and what it means to be human. I've never forgotten this book, and it was as good as I had remembered. I would recommend it for any thoughtful child or any adult. I think I read it when I was about ten. Great stuff! Indispensable!

I read this book in 7th grade (28 years ago) and, although I couldn't remember the name or author, I had always remembered it. Once I was able to find it, I bought it for my son, now in 5th grade, and he LOVED it too. He even lent it to his buddy at school. I told him that I better get it back so that I can read it too :) This book was definitely ahead of its time and still relevant.

I read this book to my kids when they were preteen. It is a very interesting, unique story that shares a fantastic moral that we are better off NOT jumping off a cliff just because someone else does it. My kids still remark about it today, more than 10 years after I read it to them. It helped them understand what is more important. I've purchased 3 copies of this book in the last 15 years and my daughter purchased a copy a year ago or so. She even used it as a topic of a literacy speech she gave for her college course this year. It's a great book, deep subject in a unique situation.

An amazingly complex story for the young adult audience that stands up to a re-read as an adult. I picked up so much more on the second time around. It is truly a must-read for lovers of science/speculative fiction and good writing in general.

If you are a parent looking for something both thought provoking and entertaining for your upper

middle schooler or young highschooler to read - and know that dystopia is in fashion but so much of it is trite - pick up a copy of this now classic from the 1970s. I ordered two copies so I could reread it while my middle schooler is also doing so. She is loving it. Its got teenage angst around social acceptance, but develops broad themes around authority, control, and freedom that are timeless. Here's the book they should read before 1984, Brave New World, or Never Let Me Go, and after they've gotten bored with the Hunger Games trilogy.

Amazing book, honestly one of the better things I've read recently. It throws you right into the action with no boring chapters of character introduction before hand, parts of it had me on the verge of tears, others in a blind rage against certain characters. Really great, extremely captivating.

I absolutely LOVE this book. I read it as a young teenager years ago, and I ordered a copy to give to my 13 year old. Upon re-reading it, it was just as incredible as I remembered.

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